

Elina Late  
University of Tampere  
Department of information studies

Nordic Workshop on Bibliometrics and Research Policy 11-12.9.2008

Abstract

### **Cultural shaping of scholarly communication in research institutes**

Scholarly communication has established to its modern form to contain for example journals, monographs, conferences, and reports. Communication practices vary between disciplines and even between neighbour fields. Different specialist fields have developed their own cultures with distinct ways to communicate. Studies about scholarly communication have usually focused on researchers who work at universities. However, there is some evidence that work organization, disciplinary cultures and funding patterns have impact on scholarly communication. For instance researchers working in research institutes read and publish less articles than researchers in universities. Research institutes conduct research differently and usually for different reasons from universities. Research is mostly applied and questions arise from common problems. Great part of the research is done for different companies who have made a contract with the research institute for conducting the study. In consequence funding may come from variety of sources. Especially in case of contract studies researchers don't always have the ability, motivation or time to write research articles in scientific journals. Sometimes the results of the studies are also confidential so writing an article is not even possible.

The aim of my research is to study scholarly communication in two major Finnish research institutes. Research questions concern cultural shaping of scholarly communication in research institutes. Both qualitative and quantitative methods will be exploited. Expected outcomes will offer formative aspects of scholarly communication in specialists fields in research institutes. Topic is interesting from universities point of view as well when universities dependence of the governments budget funds will to some extent decrease. Because of that research culture in universities is likely to become more similar with culture in research institutes (see Hakala & al. 2003).

Reference

Hakala, J., Kaukonen, E., Nieminen, M., Ylijoki, O-H. (2003). Yliopisto – Tieteen kehdestä projektimyllyksi? Helsinki: Gaudeamus.