

5 July 2021

## Nordic journal publishing landscape in a state of change

### Release: Study of the Nordic SSH Journal Publishing Landscape

The Nordic publications Committee for Humanities and Social Science Periodicals (NOP-HS) commissioned a study of the Nordic journal landscape in late 2020. The study was conducted in 2021. The study and report have been independently prepared by Mikael Laakso, an Associate Professor at Hanken School of Economics in Finland. Laakso has been researching the scholarly journal landscape for over 10 years.

The report provides a comprehensive overview of the landscape of Nordic scholarly journals in the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), where the focus is placed on journals that fulfill predefined distinct Nordic dimensions. Outside of the scope of this study were purely national or completely global journals. The data for this study was collected through a bibliometric study and a web survey, both conducted during the first half of 2021. The bibliometric study identified 353 Nordic journals that were identified based on data from national and international bibliometric databases, as well as journal website information. 72 of these journals provided responses through the web survey.

### Unique insight into the Nordic journal landscape

Overall the study demonstrates that the Nordic journal publishing space is very much in a state of change, driven both by the Nordic countries having national Open Access policies but also by factors that relate to consolidation that has been happening in the broader international journal publishing space as well as technology maturity of open source software to support modern journal functions. A large proportion of Nordic SSH journals are run with low direct monetary funding, relying heavily on volunteer effort and in-kind support from universities, making their operations sensitive to even small changes in editorial membership or organisational support.

Prior to this report there has been no dedicated investigation of specifically Nordic SSH journals. The overview provides unique insight into an important part of the journal landscape that intersections between the national, regional, and international in unique ways. Based on its findings the report provides many recommendations for various actors in the Nordic SSH journal landscape; both individually and related to factors that would benefit from collaboration across institutional and national borders.

NOS-HS website: [NOS-HS | Promoting Nordic research within the humanities and social sciences \(aka.fi\)](#)

Download the report: [Study of the Nordic SSH Journal Publishing Landscape \(pdf\)](#)

### Additional information

Author of the report: Associate Professor Mikael Laakso, [mikael.laakso@hanken.fi](mailto:mikael.laakso@hanken.fi)

NOP-HS Chair Professor Päivi Lappalainen, [paivi.lappalainen@utu.fi](mailto:paivi.lappalainen@utu.fi)

NOS-HS Secretariat/Senior Science Adviser Päivi Messo, [paivi.messo@aka.fi](mailto:paivi.messo@aka.fi)