Introduction

In Portugal, the first initiatives under the Open Access (OA) Movement go back to the year 2003 with the implementation of the first Institutional Repository (IR) – the RepositoriUJM (Institutional Repository of the Universidade do Minho).

On June 2008, there were nine IRs in Portugal (one still in a testing phase), among which was the IR of Universidade Nova de Lisboa – RUN.

On July 2008, began a project aimed to create a single portal for access to research output from the various Portuguese IRs. This portal was named Open Access Scientific Repository of Portugal (RCAAP). RCAAP is an initiative of the Knowledge Society Agency (LAMIC) realised by the Foundation for National Scientific Computing (FCCN) and Universidade do Minho.

In the course of the activities related to administration and dissemination of RUN, it was found the need to check the policies of Portuguese scientific publishers and journals in relation to self-archiving in IRs, since this information was not included in the SHERPA/RoMEO’s database.

It is in this context and RCAAP’s, that the Project Blimunda arises, commissioned by FCCN to the Library of FCT/UNL.

The project, that started in 2010, involved four elements of the Library and its main goals were to:

1. Determine the policies of Portuguese scientific publishers and journals in relation to self-archiving in IRs.
2. Include these policies in SHERPA/RoMEO’s database.
3. Evaluate the interest of publishers and journals in adhering to a potential hosting service to be provided by FCCN.

Methods

Project Blimunda was structured in three phases corresponding to three work packages (WP). These are briefly described in the figure below.

- **WP1 – Survey of Portuguese scientific publishers and journals**
  - Sources: 
    - Sócio-Portugal
    - Unicat's Periodicals Directory
    - Latindex
    - DOAJ
    - EBSCO
    - Report on OA in Portugal
  - Electronic form (Lim survey)
    - Group of questions:
      1. Identification and characterization of the journal
      2. Policy regarding self-archiving in IRs
      3. Copyright and interest in adhering to a potential hosting service
      4. Identification of the contact person

- **WP2 – Contact with Portuguese scientific publishers and journals**
  - Additional deliverables:
    - Website of Project Blimunda (Google sites)
    - Contact Kit (consisting of a supporting document for a better contextualization of Project Blimunda and awareness towards OA movement, and FAQs obtained during contact with publishers and journals)
    - Translation of the SHERPA/RoMEO’s website into Portuguese language (about 1800 phrases)
    - Sessions for presentation and dissemination of Project Blimunda and the Portuguese version of SHERPA/RoMEO’s website, namely during the Open Access Week

- **WP3 – Integration of the information in SHERPA/RoMEO**

Results

203 publishers and journals were identified and contacted.

123 publishers and journals replied to this challenge, setting out their policies regarding to self-archiving in IRs.

60 new titles were added, during this initiative, giving a total of 263 scientific journals in Portugal.

Conclusions

The Portuguese scientific publishers and journals revealed a great interest in adhering to this initiative, not only for the opportunity to define their policies, but also by the need for innovation and upgrading their publishing models.

Moreover, the fact that this project is integrated into an international initiative - the project SHERPA/RoMEO - has been seen in a very positive way since it contributes for an increase in visibility.

Beyond what was mentioned, Project Blimunda contributed to the “awakening” of Portuguese publishers and journals for OA and for a more and more present within the institutions - the IRs.

A reflection of this was the high percentage of permissive policies regarding self-archiving in IRs.

The Portuguese version of the SHERPA/RoMEO’s website, may represent an important contribution to the growth of this database with information from other Portuguese speaking countries.

Given its success, Project Blimunda will be continued in order to support policy-making, policies inclusion in SHERPA/RoMEO’s database and to disseminate OA in the Portuguese scientific publishers and journals community.

It is hoped that this work can serve as a stimulus and a basis for similar projects involving other countries.