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Releasing the Power of Research: PERii's work with Open Access

INASP's Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERii) takes an holistic approach to supporting research communication and uptake, and works with a diverse network of partners. These include the researchers, policy makers and practitioners who contribute and use scholarly knowledge and information and the librarians, ICT professionals, vice-chancellors, journal editors and publishers who enable research communication to function effectively.

An important aspect of the activities we do together is signposting and increasing awareness and use of the wealth of research resources that the Open Access (OA) movement makes available. The Budapest Open Access Initiative (www.soros.org/openaccess/) states:

“By ‘Open Access’ to this literature, we mean its free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as 

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About INASP

INASP works with partners to support global research communication through innovation, networking and capacity strengthening, focusing on the needs of developing and emerging countries.

We work with them to address their national priorities for:

- access to international information and knowledge
- use, creation, management and uptake of scholarly information and knowledge via appropriate ICTs
- national, regional and international cooperation, learning and knowledge exchange
- communication with national and international organisations through advising and advocating on the needs and role of communication, knowledge and networks in achieving development goals

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data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself.”

To maximise the uptake of these opportunities, INASP’s work includes:

- The Journals Online (JOL) projects. These offer a platform and training for editors in developing countries to publish their journals online. Over 80% of the content available on the JOLs is freely available in full-text.¹ Kevin Stranack’s piece in this newsletter provides information about the Public Knowledge Project which developed the ‘Open Journals System’ software (page 10).
- In addition to the resources available via PERii, we maintain and promote information about complementary programmes, OA initiatives, journals and institutional repositories.²

To enable maximum uptake of the options and opportunities available to them we also provide training, support and guidance for researchers, librarians and publishers:

- AuthorAID³ supports developing country researchers in publishing and communicating their work. There are currently over 200 freely available AuthorAID resources in seven languages.
- As institutional repositories are an important aspect of research communication, both institutionally and nationally, PERii offers training in creating OA institutional repositories using DSpace software. We also encourage registration of repositories in OpenDOAR (Directory of Open Access Repositories)⁴ and in ROAR (Registry of Open Access Repositories).⁵ (See the newsletter item on page 5 from Peter Burnett about the importance of registering your repository.)
- We must also help to ensure that libraries are equipped with the tools needed to manage and share information about the resources available. To enable this we provide training in Open Source library management systems, library resource portals and Web 2.0 tools. These are helping to build the infrastructure and necessary support for well-functioning libraries.

As well as working with partners, we make use of Open Source and OA protocols in our own work. One key example is the Digital Objects Repository (DOR) we are currently developing. We have used the DOR development as a way of piloting, learning and sharing best practice in this area, as well as a tool to freely share our publications⁶ and training materials.⁷ Through use of Creative Commons licenses, we encourage individuals and organisations to adapt and use the training resources as needed.

Together, this interdependent set of activities supports the increased inclusion and visibility of developing country research within the Open Access community. However, they are not the only activities required to support effective research communication and uptake. As snapshots from the Open Access Week celebrations show, there are still needs for additional capacity development, networking, resources and advocacy. Some of these include:

- Ensuring sustainable routes to access online resources and research materials are established – both those that are OA and subscription based
- Building capacities in areas such as information literacy, monitoring and evaluation of resource use, and effective resource promotion
- Research into the most effective ‘delivery’ of all resources (whether OA or paid access) within low-bandwidth environments



- Introduction, development and ongoing management of up-to-date digital library systems
- Strategies and policy development for overcoming connectivity issues in context-specific ways, including bandwidth management and optimisation
- Overcoming a fundamental lack of hardware and software for the growing researcher base
- Support for library leadership and staff development – including curriculum development in library schools to equip new librarians with the necessary skills
- Encouraging the development of strong national library consortia and supporting national library associations to own and drive activities
- Cooperation with national journal publishers to provide information and tools to evaluate the publishing options available – while ensuring that their journals can remain viable (see the report from Ethiopia on page 8 for a brief insight into this)
- Advocacy with policy makers about the importance of research for development and evidence-informed policy making

Thanks to strong partnerships between stakeholders worldwide, much has been achieved in these areas. Through our global network, INASP is able to link, advise and share best practice across groups and will continue to do so over the months and years to come. An opportunity, like Open Access Week, to bring these stakeholders together has enabled some very positive and productive exchanges to take place.

We hope that you enjoy this newsletter and it provides you with some food for thought in the new year.

References

1. www.inasp.info/jols.
2. www.inasp.info/list-of-resources.
3. www.authoraid.info.
4. www.opendoar.org.
5. <http://roar.eprints.org>.
6. www.inasp.info/our-publications.
7. www.inasp.info/training.

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Open Access Week 2010

The INASP network joins in the celebrations

By Lucy Browse

Open Access Week is a global event now entering its fourth year. It provides an opportunity for the academic and research community to learn more about the potential benefits of Open Access (OA), to share what they've learned with colleagues, and to help inspire wider participation in OA developments. Organised by SPARC (The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition),¹ this year saw the establishment of a dedicated website² set-up to help users share information about their events.

INASP were very pleased to be asked to become one of the


programme advisors and began thinking of innovative ways to celebrate the activities being undertaken within our partner and network countries. As equity across all countries is key to our approach, we decided upon a competition idea and had 11 prizes to award to successful entrants. The prizes were intended to support the activities that were being planned as we know that it can sometimes be a challenge to find funding for producing promotional materials and organising events.

By the closing date many strong applications across both our partner and network countries came through, so the evaluation committee had quite a hard task in front of them!

The main criteria we were looking for were:

- reach of activities across a variety of stakeholder groups
- diversity of activities
- a good split across the continents INASP works with

A full list of the winners can be found online.³

Running a competition in this way was a new activity for INASP and we have been very pleased with the results. The idea was to encourage our partner and network countries to use OA Week to showcase the activities that universities and research institutions are planning and doing. These activities included: 

1. <http://tinyurl.com/2f96u6s>

2. www.openaccessweek.org

3. www.inasp.info/oa-week-competition-winners

- creating greater understanding of OA
- increasing wider awareness and use of institutional repositories
- promoting and providing training in OA resources
- showcasing open source software being used
- using the opportunities provided by OA policies to create, share and improve access to information and electronic resources
- having fun with competitions or displays

The above were undertaken through library or faculty displays, training sessions, and producing materials and resources to share information about activities.

Challenges

As may be expected, OA Week was not without challenges for some of our partners. Power-outs and student unrest meant that activities had to be re-scheduled or re-jigged to accommodate what was available

4. <http://www.openaccessweek.org/photo/2009-oa-week-displays?context=latest>

and possible. But in these heartening stories we can see some fantastic activities which have really helped strengthen understanding and OA foundations in a number of areas.

Although the competition is now closed, it is not too late to find out what others have done both big and small.⁴ Many country groups have been set-up from Africa, Latin America and Asia and you may also wish to join some of these.

Over the next few pages we also share write-ups and photos from our winning entrants – and hope these will help you gain ideas and inspiration when planning future activities.

We hope that any events you planned or participated in were successful – it is wonderful to feel part of a global initiative such as OA Week.

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An Open Access Week Letter from SPARC

By Heather Joseph and Jennifer McLennan

The largest, most successful International Open Access Week yet has just come to a close. With just under 900 participants in 94 countries, this year's event was no less than three times larger than it was just a year ago. Hundreds of videos, photos, blog posts, and more were released to promote and highlight the benefits of Open Access (OA) to research and take the conversation even more deeply into the research community – and they absolutely did.

We could celebrate the week as a success in numbers like these alone, but the numbers really only tell part of the story.

The increase in diversity of participants is even more telling. Started as a student-driven event in 2007 with support from the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) and the library community, OA Day was at first a library-centric affair. Having grown in recognition and participation every year since, in 2010 we truly began to make deep inroads into the academy.

The student stake in the conversation on access continues to grow more firm, but this year participants from the academy – including humanists, climate change scientists, provosts, research funders, Nobelists, and lawyers – really took advantage of

Complete World Development Report Online

For more than three decades, the World Bank's annual World Development Report has provided an extraordinary window on development economics, with reports covering topics ranging from agriculture, the role of the state, and labour to infrastructure, health, the environment, and poverty.

Now the newly-launched Complete World Development Report Online allows users to access this indispensable resource any time, anywhere free of charge. The Complete World Development Report Online offers:

- Convenient **Search** options across all WDRs since 1978 plus related material
- Options to **Browse** reports by title and/or topic
- A convenient **Custom eBook** tool that allows you to create, download, save, and share your own custom ebook from selected chapters
- Access to the critical WDR **background papers** since 2005
- **Bookmarking** and **note-taking** capabilities
- Quick **links to World Bank databases**
- One-click option sharing content
- RSS feed and email content alerts
- COUNTER-compliant usage statistics
- Bonus content: *Development Economics through the Decades: A Critical Look at 30 Years of the World Development Report* by Shahid Yusuf

the occasion to share their insights on how OA has had an impact on their work and lives.

The stories that were shared are inspiring, but so was the creativity of the delivery.

All these contributions to the conversation – in writing, photo, and

video – are a fantastic resource that will help us all to continue the conversation over the course of the year and beyond, and are a sure sign of the growing momentum behind OA Week. Of course, the growing size and power of the global network also continues to impress.

We've made fantastic progress, with awareness-raising around OA Week and with advancing OA as a new norm in scholarship. Congratulations to every single person who worked so hard to ensure the success of the event – locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. And, thank you.

SPARC also extends special thanks to the members of the 2010 OA Week program advisers,¹ SPARC members,² and everyone we've had the pleasure in working with this year. Thank you.

Naturally, there's more to come. Watch for more OA Week round-up materials from SPARC, including more videos, throughout the week. And, course, there's OA Week 2011 to look forward to! We'll look

1. <http://www.openaccessweek.org/group/programadvisers>
2. <http://www.arl.org/sparc/member>

forward to seeing you at www.openaccessweek.org then.

Warm wishes,

Heather Joseph

Executive Director

Jennifer McLennan

Program Director for Open Access Week

On behalf of the 2010 Open Access Week Program Advisers

The Importance of Registering Your Institutional Repository

By Peter Burnett

The “mission of disseminating knowledge is only half complete if the information is not made widely and readily available to society” Berlin Declaration (2003).

As a means of achieving this goal institutions worldwide are implementing Open Access (OA) repositories and are encouraging researchers to deposit a copy of all their published articles. Some institutions and funding bodies have gone further by developing a policy which mandates OA deposit.

The growth in recent years of OA repositories (often referred to as ‘green OA’) has been significant. According to the Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpenDOAR) there are 1,794 repositories, while the Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR) lists 1,941. The number of individual accessible items now reaches nearly 9 million. Institutions should consider registering not only their repositories but also their repository-related policies so that other institutions can learn from them and follow their example. Registration helps to demonstrate the institution's commitment to implementing an

institutional self-archiving policy. In addition, the existence of a publicly stated policy on aspects such as permitted re-use of deposited items, submission of items, content policy, metadata issues, long-term preservation etc. is essential if the repository is to attract long-term support and development. There are several sites on which repositories can be registered.

1. ROAR¹

The aim of ROAR is to promote the development of OA by providing timely information about the growth and status of repositories throughout the world. Also part of ROAR is ROARMAP (Registry of Open Access Repository Material Archiving Policies).² The site currently lists/details 248 mandates.

2. OpenDOAR³

OpenDOAR is an authoritative directory of academic OA repositories. Each OpenDOAR repository has been visited by project staff to check the information that is

1. <http://roar.eprints.org/>
2. <http://www.eprints.org/openaccess/policy/signup/>

DOAJ — Directory of Open Access Journals www.doaj.org

This service covers free, full text, quality controlled scientific and scholarly journals. It aims to cover all subjects and languages. There are now over 5,500 journals in the directory. Over 2,350 journals are searchable at article level and over 460,650 articles are included in the DOAJ service.

recorded here. This in-depth approach does not rely on automated analysis and gives a quality-controlled list of repositories. Currently 1,704 repositories registered.

OpenDOAR offers a tool to help repository administrators formulate institutional policies.⁴

3. Who's Using DSpace

‘Who's Using DSpace’ is the most popular page on the DSpace website. The goal is to keep a comprehensive list of repository information to help facilitate connections between users and to foster collaborations in the future.

SPARC have recently produced an overview of the practical benefits of digital repositories – this may also be of interest to your work.⁵

3. <http://www.opendoar.org/>
4. <http://www.opendoar.org/tools/en/policies.php>
5. www.arl.org/sparc/greaterreach/practical_benefits/index.shtml

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Open Access Week Activities in Cuba

By Ricardo Casate Fernández

The 'Managing and Publishing Scholarly Journals with Open Journal Systems (OJS)' workshop in Cuba was one of the activities organised to celebrate Open Access Week. As such, the proposed workshop was entered into INASP's Open Access Week Competition and awarded one of 11 prizes.

This event was part of the development of a National Portal of Open Access Journals, based on the Open Archives Initiative (OAI). In order to develop this portal, it is necessary to familiarise editors and publishers with the online publishing tools available.

This workshop, developed at the National Information Center of Medical Sciences (Infomed), consisted of two four hour sessions led by specialists from the Institute of Scientific and Technological Information (IDICT). There were 25 editors of Cuban scientific magazines participating.

There were several key objectives for the workshop, all of which were accomplished, listed below:

- show the basic characteristics of the journal management and publishing system, Open Journal Systems (OJS)



- show the configuration process of an OJS journal, as well as the different roles in the editorial management and publication of a journal
- demonstrate the advantages of OJS in the peer-review and follow-up of the editorial process
- explain how the use of OJS could improve and standardise the editorial process, as well as to the increase of accessibility and visibility of journals

The feedback was positive and the content was considered to be very useful.

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Open Access Week Activities in Sri Lanka

By Harshani Dissanayake

The University of Peradeniya (UoP) was awarded one of 11 prizes in INASP's Open Access Competition following a proposal to conduct an awareness programme during the Open Access Week (18–24 October 2010). The activities included: display of awareness posters in all of the Faculty Libraries and several other key areas around the UoP; training programmes conducted for students and staff members; and a brochure showcasing the electronic resources offered by the library – giving prominence to Open Access (OA) journals. The posters were displayed from the beginning of OA Week and the event was advertised on the UoP's website.

Unfortunately student unrest was experienced from 11 October and, as a result, many students did not attend their lectures on a regular basis. The entire Engineering Faculty was closed on 15 October. Fortunately, the awareness programmes were still conducted in the other seven faculties. The events were held at different times for different faculties. The main library conducted the programme for the staff members of the Faculty of Arts; the Medical Dental, Veterinary Medicine and Animal

Science faculties conducted a joint programme; the training for the Science Faculty was held at the Post Graduate Institute of Science – where the library staff were also invited; the Faculty of Agriculture included the awareness programme in their normal library orientation; and the newly set-up Faculty of Allied Health Sciences programme just following OA week on 25 October.

The senior librarians of University of Peradeniya have now decided to introduce OA in their future orientation programmes too. Ms. Sriyani Perera, Ms. Ira Mudannayake, Ms. K.P.N. Damayanthi Peiris, Ms. Sriyani Ileperuma, Ms. Kamani Dambawinna and Ms. Harshani Dissanayake conducted the programmes in their respective faculties. Ms. Hema Wijetunga, the Acting Librarian of the Peradeniya University Library Network, coordinated the programme.

Harshani Dissanayake

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Open Access Week Activities in Kenya

By Jane Gikandi and Miriam Ndungu



The Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology (JKUAT) Open Access Week took place from the 15-22 October and was a huge success. By partnering with JKUAT students, who brought in the necessary energy and creativity, we successfully carried out all of the planned activities. A major contribution from the students came in making the site visible, as they designed promotional posters, invitation cards, bandanas, name tags and a banner that was mounted at the University's main gate.

Both staff and students wore badges donated by the Public Library of Science (PLOS), orange bandanas with Open Access (OA) messages and name tags that identified them as OA Ambassadors.

The library organised three workshops on plagiarism detection tools, referencing techniques and Web 2.0. The facilitators did a superb job and the workshops were very informative. They elicited interesting debates particularly around whether students are ready to run their work through the plagiarism detector software in preparation for inclusion in the proposed JKUAT institutional repository.

The exhibition had many visitors and the students showed real dedication, despite the event running alongside the Continuous Assessment Tests (popularly known as CATs). The students helped to run the exhibition spots and worked side-by-side with the JKUAT library staff. It was a joy to watch them pass the message of OA onto their lecturers.



Their enthusiasm was infectious. The week ended with a bang with a fashion show solely organised by the students. The outfits were so creative and the show very well organised and choreographed! One of the participants used OA bandanas to come up with an outfit. The students surpassed all our expectations especially given that they had such a short time to prepare. Most of the photos have been uploaded onto the OA Week website.¹ Kudos to our students and all the JKUAT library staff for making it such a success. We are pleased to have taken part in advocating for OA and creating awareness and sensitisation to the issues.

Summary of some of the week activities are:

1. Workshops on:
 - Plagiarism detector tools – 15 October 2010
 - Referencing Techniques – Use of Internet based software for creating bibliographies and references – 18 October 2010
 - Web 2.0 tools for learning and teaching – 21 October 2010
2. A retreat for 40 students (OA planning team) at Fourteen Falls
3. A fashion show held at the Graduation Pavilion. The participants wore orange sashes with OA messages and logos
4. Exhibition of OA promotional materials
5. Students from the JKUAT Mass Communication Department covered the week's event and are preparing a documentary
6. Training on OA resources
7. Exhibition of open source software
8. Competition on the most creative OA messages. Messages submitted included: Open Access for Dreamers, a poem entitled *Serenading Open Access* and a design by Jomo Kenyatta University Model United Nations (JKUMUN) student

On behalf of the Library we wish to thank all those who graced or participated in the inaugural OA Week activities and for helping to make it a great success. In a special way, we wish to thank the student OA ambassadors for their exceptional contribution, passion and enthusiasm that helped kick the entire events into high gear. Their creativity and resourcefulness was amazing. We believe the level of OA awareness has increased and we look forward to strengthening this collaboration.

Jane Gikandi and Miriam Ndungu

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1. www.openaccessweek.org

Open Access Week Activities in Ethiopia

By Nebyou Azanaw

The Addis Ababa University (AAU) Open Access Week, organised by the University Library, was celebrated on 21–22 October 2010, with a workshop entitled ‘Working Together to Improve the Visibility and Accessibility of AAU Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) through the use of an Open Access Institutional Repository’.

A series of presentations and discussions were held during the workshop targeting the AAU’s Graduate Program Associate Deans, the Vice-President for Academic Affairs, librarians, and ICT office, all of which are key stakeholders of ETD in the University. The workshop began with an introduction to current Open Access (OA) initiatives and scholarly communications, OA impacts on research (particularly on the AAU ETD OA Repository – OAR), followed by a brief presentation on the current status of AAU ETD, future plans, and a presentation on the need for collaboration among the key stakeholders for the success of an ETD on a University-wide level.

Following the presentations, intense discussions focused on developing OA institutional repositories, particularly on the AAU ETD. Participants stressed that such efforts should be based on sound institutional policies. Stakeholders also showed strong commitments to work together on OA and other issues requiring institutional collaborations. University officials also promised to support such initiatives financially.

Challenges were raised regarding moving from the existing journal publishing to an OA model. One of the board members of the *Bulletin of the Chemical Society of Ethiopia* was asked to share his experiences with the participants. He focused on the financial challenges the Chemical Society of Ethiopia has faced as a result of moving towards OA. A strong policy is necessary to encourage OA publishing and gain funding for journal



publishing costs. There are mixed feelings regarding OA in Africa and it was noted that librarians have to be careful in addressing OA issues to journal editors.

Another OA event, also held in October, involved ETD repository managers from different faculties/colleges of the University. This focused on managing the electronic version of theses and dissertations using DSpace software. The objective was to strengthen the ETD submission workflow and upgrade the managers’ technical skill. Before the OA event, more than 1,500 brochures were published and distributed to promote the AAU ETD OAR.¹ The brochures will help to create awareness among the AAU community and explain the benefits of having an ETD OAR for the research and teaching process of the University.

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1. Addis Ababa University Electronic Theses and Dissertations – <http://etd.aau.edu.et/dspace>

OASIS aims to provide an authoritative ‘sourcebook’ on Open Access (OA), covering the concept, principles, advantages, approaches and means to achieving it. The site highlights developments and initiatives from around the world, with links to diverse additional resources and case studies. Users are encouraged to share and download the resources provided, and to modify and customise them for local use. Resources available include briefing papers, guides and overviews, video, presentations and news from the community.

Objectives

The online content is intended to provide training and resources for anyone or institutions who wish to provide OA to their research publications. The objectives are:

- to increase the number of trainers and centres of expertise worldwide
- to expand the knowledge base of OA implementation
- to share resources and best practices
- to demonstrate and record successful outcomes of OA around the world

Target Audience

- Researchers • Librarians at research libraries
- Repository managers/ technical support staff (and would-be repository managers) • Administrators (and policymakers)
- Research funders • Students • General Public

<http://www.openoasis.org/>

Open Access Activities in Mongolia

By Mr. Gantulga Lkhagva and Dr. Bolortamir Tserendorj

In today's digital information age, the internet provides huge opportunities for researchers to improve their research experiences. The wide array of online services can help with finding the latest knowledge and information; using data exchange services; booking conferences; sharing experiences; and getting research method assistance just to name a few. However, these opportunities are creating a great inequality and digital divide in Mongolian scientific community.

Mongolian research institutes and higher education organisations operate using a library system that dates back to the socialist period. While this is still functioning, it offers basic services based on outdated printed books, a crumbling infrastructure, and very limited electronic database services. An updated system is sorely needed. However, there is inadequate funding in each institution. Hand-in-hand with the library system, researchers in Mongolia deal with many other barriers to access such as language, IT literacy and limited electronic subscriptions. For this reason, Open Access (OA) resources can have a tremendous impact. We are pleased to be recognised and awarded in INASP's Open Access Competition 2010 to organise researcher-oriented OA activities in Mongolia.

The Mongolian Academy of Sciences (MAS), the Mongolian Young Scientists Association (MYSA) together with Mongolian Libraries Consortium (MLC) organised the first event, titled 'Open Access Advocacy in Mongolia', for participants from different research institutions, universities and public libraries. The workshop, supported by INASP and the Mongolian Foundation for Science and Technology, took place on 19 October 2010. This event focused on important OA-related topics including advocacy, policy, copyright, OA journals, and institutional repositories.

Open source software for reference management and institutional repositories was also introduced, including Zotero, Mendeley, Dspace and Eprints.

The event featured the following presentations:

- Iryna Kuchma, L. Gantulga and D. Baljid, 'Open Access and Copyright issue'
- D. Khasbaatar, 'How to Write a Scientific Paper'
- Maurice C. H. Kwong, 'Are We Prepared for Open Access?'

The event opened Mongolian researcher's eyes to the benefits of working together. We would like to thank all our sponsors and presenters for their generous support: INASP, Mr. Maurice C.H. Kwong – Managing Director of the Springer Asia Limited and the Mongolian Foundation for Science and Technology.

MAS — Mongolian Academy of Sciences

<http://www.mas.ac.mn/en/>

The law 'on the Legal status of the MAS' ratified by the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia promulgated the Mongolian Academy of Sciences as the central scientific think-tank whose aim is to develop science and advanced technology in the country. The Mongolian Academy of Sciences is a civil self-governed non-commercial organisation.

MFST — Mongolian Foundation for Science and Technology

<http://www.stf.mn/>

The purpose of the MFST is to finance fundamental and applied research, to promote research output, and to foster the vision of science and technology for the nation's development and progress.

MYSA — Mongolian Young Scientist Association /NGO/

<http://www.mysa.mn>

The MYSA is non-profit that focuses on the needs of young researchers, shares information, develops knowledge and relationships.

MLC — Mongolian Libraries Consortium /NGO/

<http://www.mongolianlibraries.org.mn>

MLC was organised by some of the major universities and public libraries in the Mongolia area to share library collections and information technology in order to enhance the resources available to their patron.

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The Public Knowledge Project: Expanding the Scholarly Conversation Around the World

By Kevin Stranack

The sharing of ideas has always been at the heart of scholarship. New concepts, innovations, and inventions grow directly from the work previously carried out by others. If scholarly work is never communicated or otherwise shared, it is without value. As a result, the system of scholarly communication is essential to research, discovery, and knowledge creation. In the not so distant past, scholarly communication was facilitated primarily through the use of handwritten letters, conference proceedings and other printed publications, including the academic journal. Those without the resources to purchase these publications, or without access to a well-funded academic library, were essentially cut off from the critical research discussions of the day, and this was a common situation for many in the developing world. Today, the global expansion of the internet has had a significant effect on how this sharing is evolving, with the potential for much greater equity and inclusiveness. The OA movement is at the forefront of ensuring that this process continues, by researching and demonstrating alternatives to the traditional subscription-based publishing model, and by advocating for a place for all scholars, from all countries, at the table.

The Public Knowledge Project (PKP)¹ is one of many organisations helping to move these changes forward. PKP is a research and software development project of the University of British Columbia (Canada), Simon Fraser University (Canada), Stanford University (USA), and Arizona State University (USA). Founded in 1998 by Dr. John Willinsky, its mission is to improve the scholarly and public quality of research. By emphasizing the importance of making knowledge increasingly “public”, PKP has



Figure 1: African Journals Online

recognised the critical need to ensure that all researchers are able to participate in the scholarly conversation.

One of the most significant contributions made by PKP has been the development of its free, open source ‘Open Journal Systems’ (OJS) software.² OJS allows anyone with a minimum level of technical expertise and access to a basic web server to setup and run their own professional, peer-reviewed, online scholarly journal. OJS provides a journal with a web site (Figure 1), an online submission system for authors (see Figure 2), a double-blind peer-review process, and a full editorial and publishing workflow. Once a submission has been reviewed, accepted, and published, it is immediately available for a global audience (see Figure 3). Using OJS, scholars have access to professional publishing tools at no cost that allow them to make their voices heard in the scholarly conversation.

By building a number of efficiencies into the workflow, such as automated email replies to all submissions, OJS can help a journal publish with

minimal operating costs, and as a result, make its content available without any required subscription fees. The software also facilitates the collection of online donations, as well as various author fees, if required. As OA journals experiment with different methods for financially sustaining themselves, OJS continues to grow and evolve to help meet their needs.

OJS provides a number of additional features, such as enhanced search engine optimisation for better placement in Google Scholar and other important indexes, as well as the ability to export article metadata (i.e. article titles, author names, keywords, abstracts, etc.) to third-party indexing services such as PubMed,³ CrossRef,⁴ the Directory of Open Access Journals,⁵ or other institutional or OAI-compliant repositories. This provides editors with an easy and efficient way to participate in some of the most important visibility tools in the online environment, which is critical to developing an ongoing readership and community.



The software also provides the editor with detailed reports and statistics of online activity. This can help to make the case for support to funders, in the absence of subscription numbers or other traditional means of evaluating readership. In addition, OJS also includes a subscription module, allowing for delayed open access (i.e. free back issues) or even paid access (ideally, in the spirit of PKP, at affordable prices).

In terms of the technology, OJS requires only the most basic of web server hardware, and can be run completely with free, open source components, including Linux, Apache, MySQL, and PHP (although it can also run on the Windows operating system). PKP is committed to making sure that OJS can be used by journals with minimal resources, including many in developing countries without access to the latest and most powerful hardware or software.

Another important aspect of OJS technology is its “plug-in” architecture. As open source software, anyone is free to make modifications to the software, develop new features or enhancements, and then contribute them back to the community as “plug-ins” or options that do not affect the core of the system. Journals using OJS may then choose which of these new features to enable or ignore. In this way, the software continues to evolve and grow beyond the capacity of the Public Knowledge Project itself, and is closely connected to a global community of expertise.

A final, important element of OJS is the contribution of our community of volunteer translators. At this point, OJS has been translated into 16 languages, with another 18 in development. Current languages include Chinese, French, German, Hindi, Portuguese, Spanish and Vietnamese.⁶ This has helped OJS to expand to over 7000 installations around the world, with many of them located in the developing world, including significant communities in South America, Africa, and Asia. Important examples of these are the

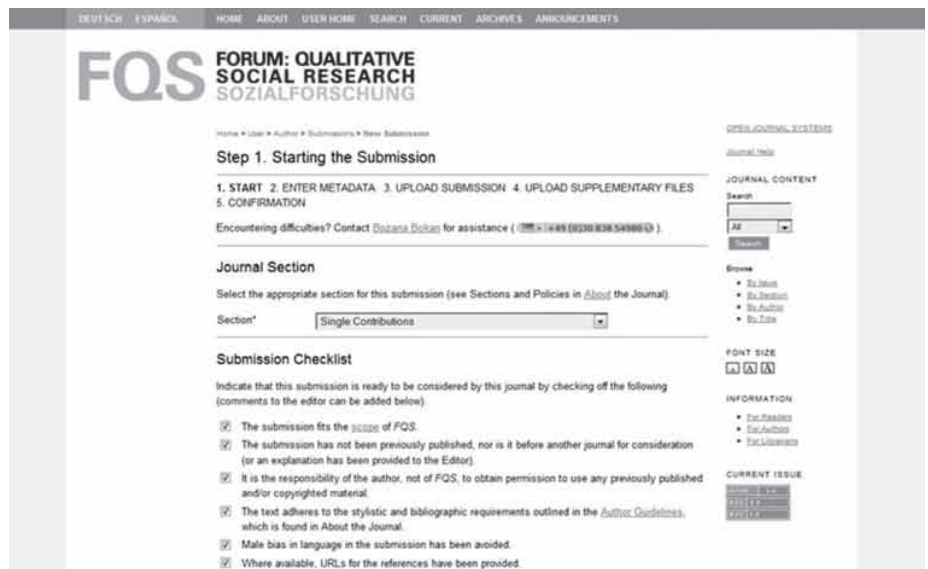


Figure 2: Online Submissions



Figure 3: Published Content

African Journals Online⁷ (e.g. Figure 1) and Asia Journals Online⁸ projects, providing support for over 500 journals.

The development and continued success of journals in the developing world is a key factor in expanding the international scholarly conversation. While the lack of print journals from the developed world was certainly one factor in limiting the participation of researchers from the South, of equal importance was the challenge for their voices to be heard in the North. With the continued advances of the open access movement, and with ever more sophisticated publishing tools (such as OJS) being created, this conversation can now become richer

than ever before, and begin to create knowledge in new and exciting ways.

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Building a specialised economics library consortium in Vietnam, Hanoi, Vietnam, August 2010

In August 2010 a two-day workshop was held in Hanoi to facilitate the establishment of an economics library consortium in Vietnam. The aim of the consortium would be to strengthen the information and resource sharing activities of the member libraries, developing opportunities for collaboration, and creating a means for improved operational effectiveness.

There were three key questions addressed:

- Why the need for a Vietnamese economics library consortium?
- What are the challenges faced by economics libraries in Vietnam?
- What specific goals do the partners want to achieve, for their libraries and their users?

Information Literacy workshop, The Library, National University of Lesotho, Roma, Lesotho, 1–3 September 2009

This three day training workshop was facilitated by Professor Peter Underwood of the University of Cape Town. The key objectives were to: develop strategies for incorporating information literacy (InfoLit) skills into the teaching, learning and the research process; to develop the necessary skills to design and deliver InfoLit programmes; to develop strategies for strong working relationships between librarians and facilitators; and to review existing InfoLit standards and guidelines.

In keeping with the third objective, the 26 participants were a mix of library staff and lecturers from 5 different institutions. Each participant left the workshop with an action plan for developing and implementing an InfoLit programme in their home institution.



Welcome Les Haynes

A qualified Chartered Accountant, Les joined INASP in November, bringing with him over 10 years previous experience of financial management within the charity sector.

He has a Diploma in Charity Accounting and as the Financial Controller at INASP he is responsible for all financial and contractual arrangements within the organisation.

Launched in 2008, Publishers for Development (Pfd) is a joint initiative of The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) and the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP).

Pfd is a forum for information and discussion around the importance of access to information for development. Through a range of activities, it explores some of the unique challenges developing country librarians, researchers and publishers experience and also provides an opportunity for publishers to keep up-to-date and feed their input into the work all parties are undertaking to lessen the digital divide.

To keep you up-to-date we plan to produce a newsletter twice a year. If you aren't already on our mailing list and would like an electronic copy, contact the Pfd team. Also, please let us know of any colleagues you think might be interested!

PUBLISHERS *for* DEVELOPMENT

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