

United Nations Educational Scientific and culture organisation (UNESCO)

Country : India

Delegate : Chandu .N

Topic / Agenda : Promoting open access to scientific information and research.

What is open access of scientific information and research?

Open Access (OA) scientific information means making them freely available online , rather than charging readers to view them . OA to research data means making research data more widely available for re – use by others to support research , innovation and wider public use.

Benefits of Open Access to Indian researchers?

I would point out that by making their research more widely available they can increase its visibility, and thus its impact. Essentially, the appeal of OA for Indian researchers is that they can publish in a full OA journal at no cost to themselves, or to their organisation; or they can publish in any journal and then self archive their papers; and by doing so they can raise their profile within the international research community.

Does open Access have a positive effect on the scientists?

Scientists have a moral duty to share new knowledge with other scientists and the public as this informs and accerlerates scientific progress

It is important to ensure reasearches work is accessible and recognized. Open-access journals enable researches to increase the visibility to their work and receive more widespread recognition for it.

Does open access have a positive effect on scientific research?

Open access enables the commercialization of the results of scientific research by increasing the visibility of the work .This encourages an exchange of ideas and experience within the scientific community, both academic and commercial.

Progress in research benefits from the sharing and collaboration. Research known only to a small closed circle soon becomes sterile.

Some places have restricted the open access transactions on the export of power supply when there is shortage and import of power supply in cases where there is a surplus. Open access power has become uneconomical as some of the open access charges such as the cross – subsidy surcharge have been too high.

Professionals in many fields may be interested in continuing education in the research literature of their field, and many businesses and academic institutions cannot afford to purchase articles from or subscriptions to much of the research literature that is published under a toll access model.

Patients benefit when their doctor and other professionals have access to the latest research. As argued by open access advocates, open access speeds research progress, productivity, and knowledge translation.

Faster discoveries benefit everyone. High school and students can gain the information literacy skills critical for the knowledge age. Critics of the various open access initiatives claim that there is little evidence that a significant amount of scientific literature is currently unavailable to those who would benefit from it. While no library has subscriptions to every journal that might be of benefit, virtually all published research can be acquired. Note that interlibrary loan may take a day or weeks depending on the loaning library and whether they will scan and email, or mail the article. Open access online, by contrast is faster, often immediate, making it more suitable than interlibrary loan for fast-paced research.

Strategies for Open Access:

- There is strong need to improve advocacy for Open Access.
- Policies and mandates at the level of institution and country are essential for Open Access.
- Capacity building is important to Open Access.

Green and Gold routes to Open Access are complementary to each other.

Developing countries need special support to improve access to scientific information.

Clearing-house of Open Access education, research and development.

In the world of Information by the initiation of Open Access the situation in India has been improving. Most common example discussed is of the Journal of PostGraduate Medicine, a quarterly journal, which benefited and improved many folds and attracts close to 100,000 visitors with more than 110,000 article downloads per month. The increased accessibility and visibility has also increased the citations received by this journal. Recent studies show the data about how the position of India has been elevating in the world of scholarly communication. India is marking it's position in the world by making most of the journals open access, which previously suffered from '*low circulation – low visibility – low impact factor*' syndrome. Increasing number of institutional repositories in India, has also contributed towards it's visibility.

Open access to knowledge and information as we may see from this listing has far to go in South Asia. It is largely achievable in a country where policy frameworks, institutional frameworks, information infrastructure, trained manpower, and financial resources are adequately available. The effect of focused capacity building programmes in the areas of digital preservation, digital libraries and open access to literature is encouraging in a country like India, where significant proliferation of open access and digital library initiatives have been achieved in the last decade. A number of workshops and training events were organized in India during this period, where a few thousand library and computer professionals received training in open source software for building open access repositories. Library schools in India have since included open source digital archiving software in their curricula. Several national and international conferences, seminars, and symposia were also organized in India, where library professionals discussed methods and techniques of

digitization, digital library development, institutional repository development and digital preservation. India has now become the leader in digital library and open access initiatives in South Asia and across Asia, due to stakeholders' active participation in capacity building processes as well as the availability of financial resources. The key to commitment and development in this field lies in the sensitization of stakeholders as which has been done in India.