



IFLA Leaders Programme: Library Advocacy for Open Access Toolkit

Note: this toolkit is a project of the [IFLA International Leaders Programme](#)

IFLA Leaders Associate are pleased to make available a Toolkit that provides relevant materials that can inspire and sharpen your effort in advocating support for the Open Access (OA) drive. In addition, this Toolkit constitutes an instrument with global relevance that can be used for capacity building for the Library and Information Science profession.

The main purpose of the Toolkit is to provide materials that can be used by Library staff to strengthen advocacy efforts in support of Open Access that can result in more institutions signing the Berlin declaration; enhanced information services and improved staff skills and capacities.

The Toolkit pulls together ways in which National Associations and IFLA Sections can support the IFLA statement on OA; a brief on the results of a survey conducted on the state of OA in some regions (made up of developing and transitional countries) of the world in 2013; case studies on OA around the world; some frequently asked questions (FAQs) on OA as well as information resources on OA.

Supporting the IFLA Statement on Open Access

How National Associations and IFLA Sections can Support the IFLA Statement on Open Access

IFLA has provided a Statement on OA that captures empirical facts within the principles and ethics of academic discourse relating to free access to scientific publications and related materials that can be used to strengthen advocacy for the OA drive. The statement is a valuable tool that can be used by institutions to develop their policies on open access. The statement outlines various ways and procedures that can be used in OA advocacy.

The [IFLA Statement on Open Access](#) recognises the importance of and benefits of a business model whose goal is to provide free access and re-use of scientific knowledge. It is an essential issue within IFLA's information agenda.

Library and Information Science National Associations and Sections of IFLA can support the statement in the following ways:

- Create awareness to enlighten and educate their members on the IFLA Statement on Open Access. This could be in the form of presentations during the annual conferences/Annual General Meetings; seminars; workshops and other capacity building training programmes.
- Engage with their members and other stakeholders through online discussion fora; social and other media in order to inform and collect feedback on Open Access initiatives.
- Conduct research that could, cover case studies and best practices in adoption of Open Access initiatives; provide factual information and collect relevant data that will support policy makers to make informed decisions; and measure impact, help take decisions on economic models that will be of benefit to publishers, booksellers and vendors as well as acquisition models
- Write and publish journal articles and books on the subject with a view to promoting initiatives from different regions.
- Provide a platform for active engagement between publishers, booksellers, authors, aggregators, vendors, librarians and users to have robust debates that focus on how all stakeholders can deal with the issue to bring about a win-win situation for everybody.

- Provide Information Literacy classes that support teachers, students and other users in use of Open Access resources.
- Work with other stakeholders to help develop sustainable business models for Open Access.
- Carry out advocacy visits for the adoption of IFLA Open Access principles and policies in organizations and institutions.
- Use the Statement as a platform to urge institutions to sign up for the Berlin Declaration on Open Access.
- Use the Statement as a tool to work with institutions to develop their policies on Open Access.
- The Statement could be used as a guideline to develop a national policy on Open Access.
- Use the Statement to source and support funding for research initiatives or projects with the agreement of having the results published on the Open Access platform.

Victoria Okojie

Survey on Open Access Availability

Brief on Survey on Open Access Availability in Developing and Transitional Countries

Between March and June 2013, IFLA Leaders Associates conducted a survey to explore the availability of OA Literature in developing and transition countries in Western and Central Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Oceania in order to identify and determine the level of knowledge about Open Access in selected countries. 7 members of the working group from 5 different regions (Jereny Lachal – France, Rosemary Shafack – Cameroon, Atarino Helieisar – Federated States of Micronesia, Jorge Ruiz Vaca – Mexico and Victoria Okojie – Nigeria) were involved in this study. A questionnaire was prepared on Survey Monkey service in English and made accessible to respondents via Internet while printed versions were equally made available for respondents with poor Internet connectivity. The target sample population were faculty members in tertiary institutions; graduate students, librarians, other relevant stakeholder organizations and publishers. A total of 100 questionnaires were filled and returned.

In summary, the results of the study suggests that there is still great need for IFLA and other stakeholders to engage more in advocacy to support Open Access

Background

Since becoming a formal signatory to the Berlin Declaration on *Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities* in 2010, IFLA has been actively advocating for open access policies internationally. Through the creation of an Open Access Task Force, IFLA set an agenda with objectives to guide its efforts aimed at improving free access to quality information resources.

In order to promote and implement the organization's position on Open Access (OA), Associates of the IFLA Leaders programme decided to carry out a project to explore the availability of OA literature in developing and transition countries in Western and Central Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Oceania in order **to identify the main actors working on Open Access and determine the level of knowledge of the professional community on the subject in selected countries.**

Methodology

General objectives:

- To improve IFLA's knowledge of the state of Open Access around the world;
- To enhance IFLA's position and advocacy tools on OA;

Specific objectives:

- To conduct a survey in developing and transition countries in order to:
- Identify institutions that had signed the Berlin Declaration on OA and the main and most dynamic actors on OA;

Determine the status of OA in selected countries;

- Determine the level of awareness of stakeholders about the subject;
- Determine the activities and position of Policy makers on OA;
- Determine the impact of OA on the population;
- Identify the national and regional policies available;
- Develop strategies for promoting OA.

Duration:

Two months - from March 1st to June 31st, 2013

Response Rate:

98 professionals from academic institutions, university and public libraries, and the book trade, among others.

Plan of Action:

A questionnaire was sent out divided into two main sections: (1) general information and (2) knowledge on Open Access. A pilot study was carried out where each Group member was requested to administer 5 questionnaires to randomly selected respondents. Some of the questions in the questionnaire were amended to make them clearer after the feedback from the pilot study.

The target groups of the survey were faculty members in tertiary institutions, graduate students, librarians, other relevant stakeholder organizations and publishers.

Main results

General findings:

A hundred filled questionnaires were returned. The profile of the respondents was as follows:

- Approximately 60% were from Africa;
- 55% were female;
- 68% were within the 30yrs-49yrs age range;
- Approximately 50% were from academic institutions/university libraries;
- 16% were from the public library sector.
- 49% were in some form of managerial position (head of department/division/university librarian) in their institutions and as such, could make decisions and know about policies in their institutions.

OA-related findings:

KEY FACTS

- While 56% of respondents had good knowledge of OA at the personal level, 32% stated that their institutions either had little or no knowledge of OA;
- 99% of the respondents would support advocacy for OA in their institutions;
- 55% were not sure if their institutions had any policy on OA;
- 83% said their institutions had not signed the Berlin Declaration;
- 80% preferred workshops/ conferences/seminars to learn more about OA

About 49% of the respondents were in some form of managerial position (head of department/division/university librarian) in their institutions and as could make decisions and to know about policies in their institutions. Many of the respondents were aware of OA at the personal level but 32% of the respondents stated that their institutions either had little or no knowledge of OA.

The respondents were asked what they felt the benefits of OA were. Wider access to published works, increased visibility and research impact and increased visibility of researchers, were the most popular reasons while cheaper publishing and increased research funding were the least popular reasons.

Although 99% of the respondents stated that they would support advocacy for OA in their institutions, as many as 55% were not sure if their institutions had any policy on OA. All

these suggest that there is opportunity for IFLA and other stakeholders to do more advocacy on OA because most staff of academic institutions understand the benefits and importance of OA and are willing to support it. The survey results also suggest that the management of the institutions are positively disposed to developing and implementing policies that facilitate OA.

When asked if their institutions had signed the Berlin Declaration on OA, 83% of the respondents said No. This implies that there is an urgent need for advocacy and that the respondents will be well disposed to it. The respondents also showed a great preference for workshops/conferences/seminars (80%) as the mode through which they would like to learn more about OA.

Conclusion

In summary, the survey results suggest that there is need for IFLA and other stakeholders to engage more in advocacy, especially through workshops and conferences, to promote the adoption of the principles of the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge. This strategy should focus on Africa where the knowledge of OA appears particularly underdeveloped and follow the following objectives:

- **Create awareness by promoting the IFLA statement on OA** through seminars, workshops and other capacity building training programmes.
- **Engage with IFLA members** and other stakeholders through online discussion fora
- **Conduct research** that could, cover case studies and best practices in adoption of Open Access initiatives;
- **Write and publish** journal articles and books on the subject with a view to promoting initiatives from different regions.
- **Provide a platform** for active engagement between authors, publishers, booksellers, aggregators, vendors, librarians and users to have robust debates that focus on how all stakeholders can deal with the issue to bring about a win-win situation for everybody.
- **Provide Information Literacy** classes that support teachers, students and other users in use of Open Access resources.
- Work with other stakeholders to help **develop sustainable business models for Open Access.**
- **Carry out advocacy visits** for the adoption of IFLA Open Access principles and policies in organizations and institutions.
- Use the Statement as a platform to urge institutions to sign up for the **Berlin Declaration on Open Access.**

- Use the IFLA Statement on OA as a tool to work with institutions to develop their **policies on Open Access**.

Jeremy Lachal

Frequently Asked Questions

Questions and Answers to Support the IFLA Position on Open Access

Questions and answers to support the drive on Open Access especially by IFLA were put together. These are some of the frequently asked questions that can help clarify issues surrounding the Open Access initiative. The questions cover aspects such as what OA is all about; OA access roads, benefits and procedures.

Q1: What is Open Access?

A. Open Access (OA) is having access to free information that includes scientific research, raw data and metadata, source materials, and images and multimedia in digital format which are all made available under an open license; and accessible online through the digital repository of an institution dedicated to supporting information literacy.

Q2: What are the access roads to OA?

A: The two primary access roads to OA are OA journals (gold road) and OA repositories (green road). The main difference between gold and green is that gold conducts peer review while green does not.

The Golden road of OA journal publishing is where journals provide OA to their articles either by charging the author/institution for refereeing/publishing outgoing articles instead of charging the user/institution for accessing incoming articles, or by simply making their online edition free for all. It is easier for authors to retain copyright to their materials and to provide libre (free) OA which means that articles are provided with free online access with additional rights on re-using the materials. Some of the publishers are for profit, while some are non-profit. OA journals are also economically sustainable because prices associated with them are considerably lower than subscription costs to materials.

The Green road of OA self-archiving is where authors provide OA to their own published articles by making their own e-prints free for all. OA repositories are organized by discipline or institution. Although they do not perform peer review, they host articles that are peer-reviewed elsewhere. Repositories can include either pre-prints or post-prints or both. By default, repositories provide all their contents for open access. Authors still hold copyright of their work and in cases where authors transfer copyright to publishers, permission and decisions of OA are sought from the publisher.

Q3: What are the benefits of Open Access?

A: The benefit of Open Access is that it makes knowledge, scholarly and others, available to anyone, removing price and permissions barriers.

OA contributes to personal and professional development and improvement in a user's work and knowledge. OA also helps in increasing the research component of an institution. For publishers and authors, OA increases visibility and impact of their articles. OA pulls and connects people from all over the world, interconnecting them to information that is shared through OA.

Q4: What are the advantages of Open Access for science and scholarship?

A: One advantage of Open Access is that scholarly information is readily available to people fast. They are openly available to anyone and enable research to move at a constant pace, providing quality research materials that any user can access through any information tool. Open Access paves the way for a smoother road for the acquisition of new information and knowledge.

Q5: Why should librarians be concerned with Open Access?

A: Increasing subscription prices for journals and databases are affecting access to research material due to budgetary constraints on library institutions, typically academic and research libraries.

Open Access is making it possible for libraries to connect their readers to high quality content and expand their resources at no cost. Materials are freely available and accessible to faculty and researchers.

Open access reduces the pressure of library budgets for purchasing subscriptions to databases and print materials. Moreover in relation to information, the librarians can manage and organize information in an open access repository or journal.

Librarians in their roles as information professionals need to be concerned with ensuring that access to scholarly information is ongoing and is stored in a medium that future scholars can easily retrieve from and OA provides that access.

Q6: Why should students support Open Access?

A: As research is an essential part of education, students support open access due to the rich scholarly journals that are available. Open access provides students the access to research materials that they would not otherwise be able to gain access to without a subscription fee.

Students benefit most from OA scholarly content, which contributes to success in their studies. The medium in which information is provided fits very nicely with students of this generation, who are more skilled with the way technology works through different types of media. Students are also very strong advocates for OA.

Q7: How will readers know what articles are available on Open Access?

A: Readers know what articles are available OA when an icon with the word Open is marked next to the articles. OA articles are available in full text or PDF format.

OA access is provided mostly through institutional repositories. An institution establishes its own repository of OA materials, to share their research literature to the world. Their main role is to capture and preserve the digital collections of scholarly works of an institution. The repository delivers quality content and research of the institution and increases the institution's value and importance in the community and abroad while also providing the means to scholarly information.

Q8: Who retains copyright of the open access articles?

A: Authors retain copyright of their work even when it gets transferred to publishers. In that case, permissions and decisions for OA are in the hands of the publishers.

Q9: What is the difference between open access literature and digital, online and free-of-charge literature?

A: Open access literature is available to the public under conditions that permit [to varying degrees] different types of re-use. Users are often able to download, print, copy, link to the articles, distribute or for any other use without any barriers. Digital, online, and free-of-charge literature is available for free, but still requires permission for copying, re-

publishing, and further communicating. The material is provided for users through another institution that may be paying for subscription on the users' behalf.

Q10: Is open access compatible with copyright?

A: Copyright co-exists with OA because it respects authors' rights. Authors can make access to their materials open or restricted. It is the intent of open access to have authors and institutions who are willing to provide their materials openly, without restrictions.

Q11: Is open access compatible with peer review?

A: OA is compatible with peer review. Both traditional forms and newer forms that make use of the interactive medium that technology provides are used for peer reviewing OA articles.

Q12: Is open access compatible with high standards and high quality?

A: Open access literature has a similar publishing process like a commercial publication so it is also made available with high quality and high standards in content and accessibility. Standards that apply to traditional scholarly information publishing are also incorporated in the open access scholarly information publishing process.

Q13: I want to publish my paper in an Open Access journal, how can I find the relevant journal?

A: The relevant journal can be found in the [Directory of Open Access Journals](#). It can be searched by title or subject to pull up the appropriate journal and its requirements, in order to publish your research result as open access. There are journals that charge publication fees so you might want to select the ones that do not charge any publication fees

Atarino A. Helieisar & Jorge Ruiz Vaca

Case Studies

A number of case studies have been collected by the IFLA Leaders group which represents examples of practical efforts made by some institutions towards advocating for support for Open Access. These case studies highlight opportunities, challenges and results unique to different geographic contexts. They provide cases from which great lessons can be gathered that can constitute sources of inspiration.

We hope that lessons from these case studies will go a long way to strengthen efforts towards advocacy for Open Access.

Central Africa – Cameroon

OPEN ACCESS: The case of a Cameroonian University

In 2013, the University of Buea signed the Berlin Declaration. The University of Buea before 2013 had not signed the Berlin Declaration and OA was not yet accepted by this institution. It took a lot of advocating convincing the authority of this institution on the relevance of OA. The following procedures were used to advocate for OA: There was awareness creating in the Deans and Directors meeting of the university where a clearly written presentations on OA was made with copies distributed to members of the assembly followed by a question and answer session with permission from the Vice-Chancellor, secondly there was a short article written and published on the university newsletter on what OA is all about and its benefits, there were discussions with faculty members who were already very familiar with OA and its benefits who were used to take the idea to their departmental and faculty board meetings and this yielded good fruits and finally there was a formal request made requesting the Vice-Chancellor to sign the Berlin declaration after exciting feedback and requests from the institution's establishments in favour of OA. After this important step, its Library took the opportunity to explore the possibilities and advantages of promoting the Open Access drive:

BioMed Central Foundation Membership

In the same year 2013, the University of Buea Library with the approval of its institutional hierarchy, submitted an application for the Foundation Membership to BioMed Central. The choice of this publisher was as a result of the fact that the faculty members of the University of Buea in the field of applied sciences and sciences were very interested in publishing with BioMed Central. Most of them had published already a number of articles with this publisher and were hoping to see the publication fee either reduced or waved. This was to be achieved if their institution became a foundation member of this publishing house.

This has gone through successfully and over 10 journal articles have been published by the University of Buea faculty members with BioMed Central in the fields of Science and Health.

It is worth mentioning that BioMed Central provides the following:

- Broad subject coverage

- Quality, reputation and high stand of peer review
- Fast publication
- Open access
- Visibility
- Indexing and Impact Factors
- Included in PubMed, Google and all major bibliographic databases
- No space constraints
- Promotion of articles

Besides the above named facilities, the authors of BioMed Central articles stand to benefit from the following:

- High visibility through unrestricted online access
- Rigorous peer and editorial reviews
- Rapid publication
- Authors retain copyright
- Compliance with open access mandates
- Citation tracking and inclusion in bibliographic databases.

Benefits to BioMed Central Institutional Members

- Automated Article Deposit
Here BioMed Central enables the simple transfer of an institution's complete published article content from BioMed Central's journal into the institutional repository.
- Again, based on the SWORD Protocol (Simple Web-Service Offering Repository Deposit) any open access article published in a BioMed Central journal will be automatically deposited in its official final published form (including PDES, additional files and article metadata) into the author's institutional repository, offering significant savings of time and effort for both authors and repository administrators.
- Time saving
- Policy/mandate compliance
- Repository population

Given that the University of Buea Library is in the process of building its institutional repository, its newly acquired BioMed Central membership is just timely to help this institution to improve on the content of its repository with the input from the publications of its faculty members.

Rosemary Shafack

Europe – France

Note: The following text (except the update at the end) is a summary of the state of the art report on Open Access in France published in 2011 by the French Ministry of Higher Education, Couperin.org, the CNRS and INIST.

Open Access in France

In the past years, the dynamics for Open Access in France have found a convergent support from higher education and research institutions with common general principles applicable to all researchers. The movement is mainly driven by the HAL platform (for pluri-disciplinary open archives) but still lacks a large political consensus and a national policy to achieve its ambitions.

First steps

- In November 2000, CNRS created the Centre for Direct Scientific Communication (CCSD). The Centre developed the HAL platform which is used by many research organizations to build their institutional repository. Following the pioneer example of University of Lyon 2, several academic institutions developed local archives of electronic theses in the 2000s: INP Toulouse, University of Strasbourg, Paris Tech, University of Lille 1, INSA Lyon, etc.
- The French institutions began to express their strong commitment in 2003 when CNRS and Inserm were the first in the country to sign the Berlin Declaration. Other French research organisations signed the Declaration in the following years. This commitment to Open Access brought about the setting up of archives by several institutions. The same year, Ministry of Higher Education and Research launched the Persée digitization program with the aim to widely disseminate the French scientific output in Humanities on the internet. 7 years later, in 2010, Persée was giving full access to 89 journals. This successful program completed the Revues.org project that gives access to more than 240 electronic publications and represents a successful collaboration between CNRS and higher education institutions and research.
- In the life sciences area, the second road (gold road) has also been largely explored by the research organisations, particularly with the support to both BioMed Central and PLoS initiatives brought by CNRS and Inserm. Since 2006, CNRS has also been involved in the SCOAP3 initiative - led by CERN - through the IN2P3 institute dedicated to research in nuclear physics and particle physics.

Towards a national policy

- In 2006, the major French research institutions, the CPU (Conférence des présidents d'universités) and the CGE (Conférence des grandes écoles), signed an agreement for “a coordinated approach on a national level to open archiving of scientific output”. This memorandum stated that “the signatories wished to acquire the necessary means to identify, disseminate, develop, promote and monitor the scientific output of their researchers and faculty members, within their research units and laboratories and, where applicable, of affiliated research teams”. The agreement also seeks to join forces to acquire a common platform for archiving scientific findings”. Signed for two years and unfortunately not renewed since then, this memorandum paved the way to the development of many institutional repositories in connection with the HAL platform.

However, this agreement **did not lead to a common statement** for the implementation of depositing in an archive or supporting Open Access journals. France **has not yet implemented any mandates regarding article deposits**. Some research institutions merely have filing requirements, while some agencies, universities or disciplinary entities enforce more or less effective incentive policies (INRIA, HSS, etc.).

- The main French funding body, the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) nevertheless stated that “all publications produced during funded projects have to be deposited by researchers in the HAL open archive system with which it will collaborate”.

Landscape of OA Journals and Archives in France

- **Journals:**
 - France counted 168 full OA journals (with no embargo period) in 2011.
 - A vast majority of these journals cover Humanities and Social Sciences related subjects. STM disciplines as well as Economics or Law are clearly under represented. In terms of visibility, the main international database for Open Access journals, the DOAJ, only refers to 86 out of the 168 French academic journals. Revues.org journals are especially under-referenced as only 29 out of the 86 journals are in the DOAJ (33 %).
 - It must be noted that embargoed journals are also well represented in French publications notably with the Revues.org platform (87 embargoed journals), I-Revue (9) and Carin (242).
- **Archives (Repositories):**

- France counted 68 repositories in 2011.
- Most of the major research organisations set up an institutional repository. As previously mentioned, these institutions adopted HAL as their open archive platform after its launch in 2001.
- **Digitization programs:**
 - 3 large-scale digitization programs have been launched in the past years including: Persee (full access to 89 journals), Numdam in the field of mathematics (30 journals and 29 seminars) and the French National Library platform Gallica (nonacademic contents, more than 300.000 documents online)

Update:

In a recent statement (January 2013), the French Minister of Higher Education claimed full support to Open Access despite the challenges and the necessity to implement a national and consistent policy focused on :

- The development of OA Green with a global negotiation on the duration of the embargoes (as long as the embargo concerns the scientific publications and not the general debate of opinions).
- Accompany the evolution OA Gold through license negotiation and costs control.
- Promote a third road, the Platinum one which would be free access publishing based on alliance between publishers, researchers, libraries and platform and hybrid business model.
- Improve the HAL platform and provide incentives for researchers to deposit their publications.
- Propose to researchers a national model of publishing contract
- Support the publishers in their international development

Jeremy Lachal

Latin America

Open Access Actions in Latin America and the Caribbean

Prior to carrying out a survey, it was important to analyze the Open Access status in different Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) countries and also to identify groups and individuals doing Open Access Advocacy in the countries.

Regarding the Open Access status in different countries, the results are presented as annexes to this study. Four countries with a large number of Open Access resources, Brazil, Colombia, Chile and Mexico were identified. This situation is as a result of economic, educational, social and cultural issues. In these countries it is necessary to take actions for strengthening Open Access led by LAC library associations in collaboration with IFLA LAC and the Regional Office.

Advocacy groups were identified in the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, El Salvador and OA LAC. These groups are actively involved in organizing conferences, workshops and panel discussions to promote Open Access during the World Open Access Week (LINK). The groups that were identified are:

Argentina: 9 members; Brazil: 5 members; Colombia: 3 members; Mexico: 9 members; Peru: 2 members; Puerto Rico: 5 members; El Salvador: 1 member; OA Latinoamerica: 34 members

The next step will be to carry out a survey among LAC Library Associations, particularly among Central America countries to know more about the situation, challenges, opportunities and the actions that need to be developed to improve the current state.

Jorge Ruiz Vaca

Pacific Islands

Open Access in the Pacific Islands

Background

Open Access (OA) is a fairly new concept to libraries and educational institutions in the Pacific islands. Advocacy and promotion of OA research is in its beginning stages with librarians, local library associations, and the regional association of the Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums ([PIALA](#)).

Our understanding of OA is that articles and journals from these types of databases are of scholarly material and provide resources for research purposes at minimal or no cost to the researcher, which is a tremendous benefit to researchers in the islands and for libraries. Limited budgets are a common occurrence for libraries and educational institutions everywhere, even more so in the islands where technology plays a major role in information access and the environment is not very conducive for maintenance of equipment.

Rising costs for accessing scholarly articles and research prevented many libraries in the region from accessing these valuable resources. The only libraries that were able to provide access were the academic libraries, however their focus was on the student and faculty population they serve, limiting other types of users from being able to access these resources.

Awareness of OA journals and articles opened up a pathway for all types of users to be able to access these scholarly materials without limitation.

Process

Realizing the need for OA research for the local population and those abroad, especially in areas of interest that pertain to the Pacific, the PIALA in partnership with [PREL](#) collaborated on a project to provide training to 16 participants. The project was funded by the Institute of Museums and Library Services ([IMLS](#)) office, based in Washington D.C. and the Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Library of Medicine through the Pacific Resources for Educational Learning (PREL) and was part of a series of intensive training workshops for Pacific librarians, called Leaders for Pacific Libraries ([LPL](#)).

Through a screening process, 16 participants were selected and flown in from the islands of [American Samoa](#), [Republic of Palau](#), [Republic of the Marshall Islands](#), the [U.S. Territory of Guam](#), and from the [FSM](#) States of Chuuk, Pohnpei, Yap, and Kosrae. Training was conducted by a firm from New Zealand in collaboration with Jane Barnwell and Mathew Belhouse-King of PREL office, based in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The training took place for three weeks on the island of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia at the College of Micronesia-FSM's ([COM-FSM](#)) Media Instructional Technology Center (MITC). Equipment, software, and hardware were all funded by IMLS, with each participant given a laptop, scanner, and software for training and eventual ownership. The participants were trained on the identification of materials that were not copyrighted and of interest to the Pacific region, scanning, OCRing (optical character recognition), revision of the materials, and uploading to the server for public access using the [Greenstone Digital Library software](#).

After the three week training, participants were tasked to return to their island entities and promote the project through actively seeking for locally published materials for possible scanning and uploading.

Challenges

- Sharing of locally published materials from island entities
- Finding time to dedicate to the project became a challenge when participants returned to their families and work in their home islands
- Technology and software challenges made it difficult for materials to be scanned, ocr-ed and sent to Technical Director for uploading onto server
- Vast distances from each other delayed troubleshooting problems from being addressed by Technical Director and other experts
- Communications are sometimes unanswered from participants thereby delaying newer titles from being added to the project's website
- There was a need for timely acquisitions of storage devices for the large number of files that were being sent for uploading
- No stable funding for uploading and updating collection and PDL site
- Need of desktop computer with bigger space for building purpose and backup
- Skills in Greenstone software is limited

Outcomes

- The [Pacific Digital Library](#) was launched in 2009 and continues to be updated with newer titles.
- Technical Director and participants continue to collaborate on the project with identification and selection of materials for addition to the project's site.
- PDL is accessible worldwide with highest usage statistics coming from the United States region.

Since its inception, PDL has been accessed worldwide, spanning across several countries which include Japan, Brazil, Greece, Belgium, Russia, Australia, Philippines and New Zealand in addition to the United States and Micronesian regions. Lowest usage was in the first few months of its initial launch, specifically in December 2010, with 1,856 hits compared to its highest usage in October 2013 with a total of 16,129 hits.

Atarino A. Helieisar

West Africa - Nigeria

Advocacy on Open Access Scholarly Publishing in Nigeria

Nigeria has an estimated population of 173 million with about 126 universities (National Universities Commission, 2013). Many researchers in Nigeria publish in international Open Access (OA) journals, however, only a few local journals are published online. Nigeria has no national policy on OAs although a few universities have adopted AO policies.

With the advocacy initiatives by eIFL (Electronic Information for Libraries), and the recognition of Nigeria as a country with a large output of scholarly publications, it was decided that there was need to engage with the Nigerian Library and Information Science (LIS) community to advocate for OA policies.

eIFL galvanized stakeholders to hold the first international workshop on “Open Access Repositories: new models for scholarly communication” in April, 2008 at the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria. These included the Department of Library and Information Science, ABU, Zaria and the Nigerian University Libraries Consortium (NULIB). The workshop facilitated by Dr. Ezra Gbaje, a lecturer in the Department of Library and Information Science had 89 participants from 45 institutions, including policy makers, ICT experts, Librarians, editors-in-chief of peer reviewed journals, scholars and researchers from universities and research institutes. The main objectives of the workshop were to provide information on:

- the importance of OA initiatives to academia and society at large
- the strategies for formulating appropriate policy for implementing and sustaining OA institutional repositories
- copyright issues and open content licenses
- strategies for the promotion and marketing of institutional repositories (Gbaje, 2008).

A follow-up workshop was organized in November 2009 with the theme “Maximizing Research Output and Impact” by the same stakeholders and also at the ABU, Zaria. The third initiative was the seminar organized by Dr. Joseph Ana, of the British Medical Journal West Africa Edition, with the theme “Open Access to Health Information”.

The key outputs from these initiatives led to advocacy for universities to develop OA policies and for Nigerian researchers to embrace OA. Since these workshops, the following achievements have been recorded by various institutions:

- Three institutions established OA repositories which are listed in the Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpenDOAR) and in the Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR). These are the University of Jos, Jos; University of Nigeria, Nsukka and Covenant University, Ota.
- The Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria's effort at establishing an institutional repository experienced some hitches and is only available on its intranet.
- The Department of Library and Information Science, ABU changed their two existing journals (The Samaru Journal of Information Studies and The Information Manager) which were previously by paid subscription to Open Access.
- Seven institutions (Ahmadu Bello University Press; Federal College of Education, Akoka; Forestry Association of Nigeria; Science Education Development Institute; College of Medicine, University of Ibadan; Usmanu Dan Fodiyo University, Sokoto and Wilolud Journals) have signed the Budapest Open Access Initiative.
- Covenant University initiated a policy in 2011 mandating researchers to deposit their publications in journals, conference proceedings and books in the university repository.

Some of the challenges that have led to the low up-take of OA initiatives are:

- Limited awareness of the Open Access movement by researchers, policy makers and other stakeholders
- Limited understanding of the benefits of Open Access
- Intellectual Property issues: researchers are concerned about piracy and plagiarism of their works
- Lack of skilled professionals that can manage Open Access repositories
- Lack of national policy on Open Access
- Limited support from institution's leadership
- Limited follow-up activities and advocacy to drive sustainability of initiatives.

However, the institutions that have adopted Open Access have lauded the initiative and the huge benefits accrued. Such benefits include better visibility of research output and researchers in the international arena; higher self-esteem of the librarians and greater respect of librarians from faculty. According to the University of Jos Librarian the deployment of an OA institutional repository at the university “has been a journey well thought of, a path well taken, a result most fulfilling, an excitement worth celebrating, and a project worth sharing”.

With more efforts to improve Open Access initiatives in Nigerian institutions, the horizon looks bright especially with the increasing availability and affordability of internet access and a better enabling environment engendered by government policies. The IFLA Statement on Open Access has been discussed at different fora including the African Library Summit in Pretoria, South Africa in 2013 and at the Nigerian Library Association conference in Calabar, Nigeria in July 2013. The Librarians Forum organized by the Librarians’ Registration Council of Nigeria in 2013 in Abuja, Nigeria, also provided a platform to create awareness and to urge participating institutions to sign the Berlin Open Access Declaration. Furthermore, the research carried out by IFLA International Leaders Associate created an opportunity to educate respondents about the IFLA principles and the Berlin Declaration.

Victoria Okojie

Online Resources

A bibliography and references on Open Access made up of Websites on Open Access Repositories/Suppliers and Information of Developments on Open Access, scholarly articles and news have been made available in this Toolkit. It is hoped that these resources will help to provide additional relevant information on this topical issue (OA).

OA Repositories/Suppliers

- Academia.edu
- CiteSeerx
- Cornell University Library
- Directory of Open Access Journals
- Economics
- Encyclopedia of Mathematics
- [The OAster \(Open Archives Initiative\) Database](http://The OAster (Open Archives Initiative) Database)
- Open Access Scholarly Information Sourcebook
- Public Library of Science-PLoS ONE
- The Registry of Open Access Repositories

Developments on OA

- Declaration on Open Access for LIS Authors
- Freedom of Information Laws By Country
- Open Access in the Americas
- Open Access Mandates and the 'Fair Dealing' Button
- Publisher Embargoes and the Copy-Request Button
- [Research Funders Announce Open Access Policies \(China\)](http://Research Funders Announce Open Access Policies (China))
- The Tech Behind Digitizing the Vatican Library: Open Access for All
- A Time for Radical Hope, Freedom and Responsibility: Publishing and Building New Publics
- Understandings of Opening Access

Further Reading:

Scholarly Articles

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Roetter. M. (2014, Jul 26). [Open-access wholesale mobile networks can't guarantee success](#).

Solano, J. (2014, Jul 16). [Libraries support stem education with open access](#). *Marketing and Communications*.

Suber. P. (2013, Dec 16). [Open access overview](#).

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