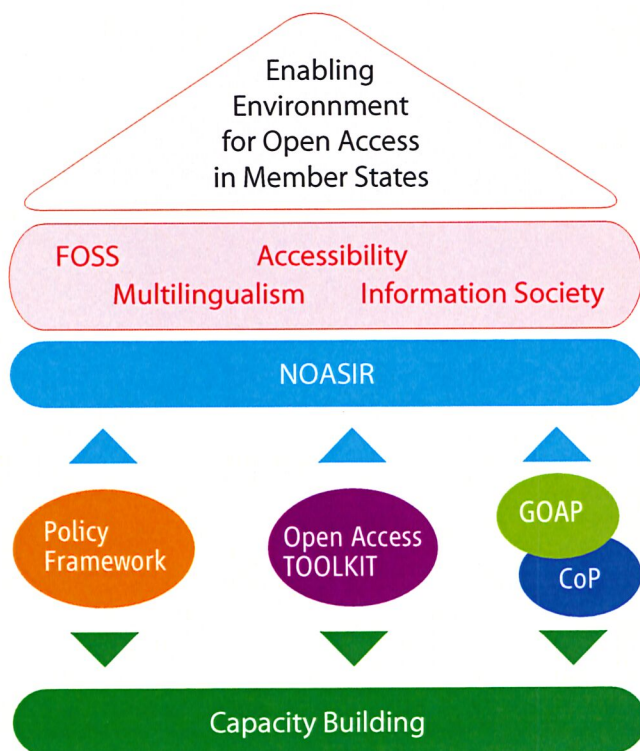- Encourage cooperation amongst different stakeholders to broaden the OA movement through partnerships and collaboration.
- Participate in advocacy and promotional events related to Open Access.

Increased access to information and knowlegde through ICTs

Global Open Access Portal (GOAP)

The Global Open Access Portal (GOAP), funded by the Governments of Colombia, Denmark, Norway, and the United States Department of State, presents a current snapshot of the status of Open Access (OA) to scientific information around the world. The portal provides a high-level view of the Open Access environment and is designed as a knowledge portal to provide condensed information on OA in specific countries, including relevant links to different initiatives. The primary target audience includes policy-makers, advocates, and delegates from national, regional, and non-governmental organizations as well as members of the OA community. The Portal aims at being the first destination of information seekers on OA.

Open Access Community

The OA activity of UNESCO is also supported by a strong Community of Practice through the existing online platform "WSIS Knowledge Communities". Interested stakeholders are encouraged to join the community at http://www.wsis-community.org/

For More Information

UNESCO Open Access Web Site:
www.unesco.org/webworld/en/openaccess

Global Open Access Portal:
www.unesco.org/ci/goap

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Online Community on Open Access:
www.wsis-community.org/pg/groups/58145/open-access/

Contact: Sanjaya Mishra - s.mishra@unesco.org

Open Access
to Scientific Information and Research

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Knowledge Societies Division
Communication and Information Sector
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Open Access

Open Access (OA) is the provision of free access to peer-reviewed, scholarly and research information to all. It envisages that the rights holder grants worldwide irrevocable right of access to copy, use, distribute, transmit, and make derivative works in any format for any lawful activities with proper attribution to the original author. OA uses Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to increase and enhance the dissemination of scholarship. OA is about Freedom (as in free of cost and freedom of speech), Flexibility (choice of licensing options and business models), and Fairness (to the creator/author and the society).

The rising cost of journal subscription is a major force behind the emergence of the OA movement. The emergence of digitization and Internet have increased the possibility of making information available to anyone, anywhere, anytime, and in any format. To make this possible, the civil society has endorsed different declarations that are often referred as 3B – the Budapest Open Access Initiative (2002), Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing (June 2003), and Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities (October 2003).

Through Open Access, researchers and students from around the world gain increased access to knowledge, publications receive greater visibility and readership, and the potential impact of research is heightened. Increased access to and sharing of knowledge leads to opportunities for equitable economic and social development, intercultural dialogue, and has the potential to spark innovation. Open Access is at the heart of UNESCO's goal to provide universal access to information and knowledge, focussing particularly on two global priorities: Africa and Gender equality. The Executive Board in its 187th meeting approved the UNESCO strategy for promotion of Open Access to scientific information and research.

Objectives

In line with the mandate to increase access to information and knowledge and foster building knowledge societies, the objectives of UNESCO's OA strategy are to:

▶ Provide a platform for debate and discussions around the theme of OA to peer reviewed information in all disciplines of knowledge with special focus on scientific information.

Open Access
Knowledge Dimensions

Technology Drivers — Processing power, Bandwidth, Open Source software, Open Web, Data and Storage — *Network infrastructure*

National R&D System — R&D indicators, Knowledge economy, Strategic policies, network and Consortia, R&D Investments — *OA capacities and policies*

Challenges — Techonology infrastructure requirements, OA Policies, OA Capacity Development, Cost of Journal Subscriptions, OA Awareness and Copyright issues, OA Groups, OA Publication Fees, Toll Access Publishing

Institutional Framework — New models of publications, Impact Factor, Research productivity, Research collaborations, Fiscal constraints, Talent management (promotion) — *Changes in scholarly communications*

Communities of Researchers — Self-organization, Crowdsourcing, Open Peer-review, Open Innovation — *Collaborations and partnerships*

Societal Expectations — Excellence, Access, Sharing, Availability, Societal returns — *New business models*

▶ Serve as a clearinghouse for information related to OA through its Global Open Access Portal (GOAP).

▶ Encourage research institutions and funding bodies in Member States to use appropriate policy framework to adopt OA policies.

▶ Provide capacity building opportunities for implementation of OA through repositories (Green OA) and also by promoting OA journals (Gold OA).

▶ Support development of ICT infrastructure for OA using Free and Open Source Software (FOSS).

▶ Engage with different stakeholders (including publishers) to facilitate development of a Network for Open Access to Scientific Information and Research (NOASIR) to promote new business models and alternative approaches to provide access to scholarly information in less developed countries.

Strategy

To achieve these goals, the following activities are in different stages of implementation:

▶ UNESCO Policy Guidelines for Development and Promotion of Open Access.

▶ Capacity Building is a continuous activity used in conjunction with an enabling environment for adoption of appropriate policy at national and institutional level. Both policy and technology level training at regional and national level to different groups of stakeholders are part of the strategy.

▶ Professionalizing education and training on OA by developing curriculum and self-directed learning courses for OA, including the release of Open Access Toolkit.

▶ Develop and maintain the Global Open Access Portal (GOAP) as a clearinghouse of information related to OA.

▶ Building a Community of Practice (CoP) around OA through the WSIS platform of Knowledge Communities.