



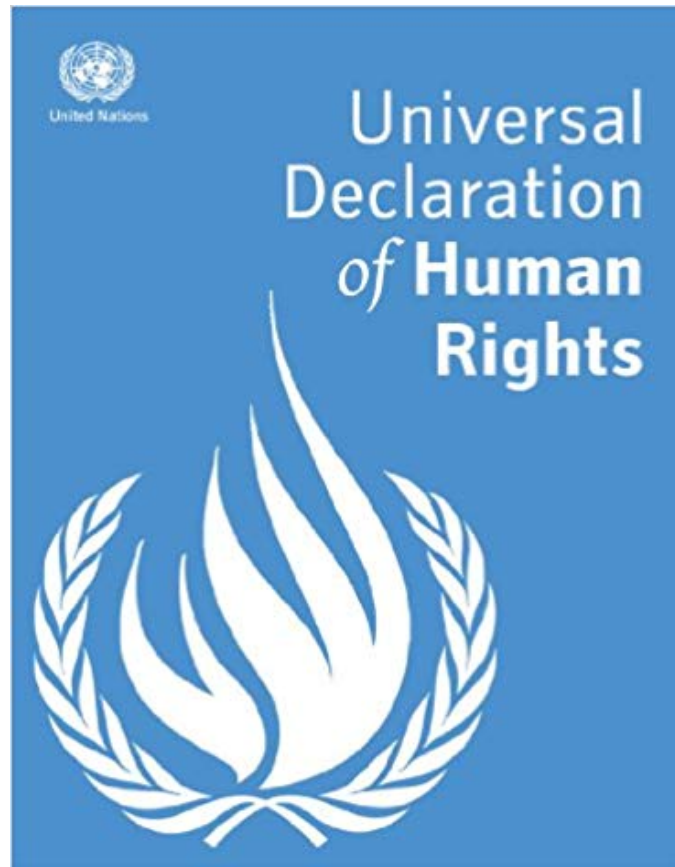
Towards an Open and Equitable Future

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Executive Director, SPARC
SPARC Africa Open Access Symposium
Cape Town, South Africa
December 5, 2019

SPARC's mission is to set the default to **open in research and education.**

Our ultimate goal is to create a global research and education ecosystem that is truly **open** and **equitable** for all.

Access to knowledge is a
fundamental human right.





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

15 LIFE ON LAND

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

United National Sustainable Development Goals 16, Target 10:

“Striving to ensure public access to information, and to protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements...”

And yet the materials we most need the freedom to work with in research and education remain laden with **restrictive access, pricing** and **reuse** barriers.

PAYWALL

The Business of Scholarship

 ELSEVIER 1	 WILEY 2
 SPRINGER NATURE 3	 Taylor & Francis 4
 SAGE Publishing 5	 OPEN ACCESS FREE!

SERVE
YOURSELF

1 2 3
4 5 6

\$39⁹⁵



A FILM BY JASON SCHMITT
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2 in 3

Students say they have decided against buying a textbook because cost was too high.

A dark grey world map with numerous red bubbles of varying sizes overlaid on it. The bubbles are most concentrated in North America, Europe, and parts of Asia, with some smaller bubbles scattered across Africa and South America. The background is a dark, almost black, color.

Who's downloading pirated papers?

EVERYONE

In rich and poor countries, researchers turn to the Sci-Hub website.

“In a world where the law and the system is **skewed** in favor of one group and against another, theft is legitimized...”

- Prof. Thuli Madonsela

OPEN  **ACCESS**

“An old tradition and a new
technology have converged **to make**
possible an unprecedented
public good...”

- BOAI, 2002

“The public good they make possible is **the world-wide electronic distribution** of the peer-reviewed **journal literature** and **completely free and unrestricted access to it by all.**”

- BOAI, 2002

Open Access is not the end goal.
It is an **enabling strategy**.

“Open Access will accelerate **research**,
enrich **education**, **share** the learning of
the rich with the poor and the poor
with the rich, make this literature
as **useful** as it can be, and lay the
foundation for uniting humanity in a
common intellectual conversation and
quest for knowledge.”

- *BOAI, 2002*

Because barriers to **access** are **not** the only problems we are trying to correct in the current scholarly communications ecosystem.

“The golden thread is the need for unhindered, multidirectional **participation** in knowledge **production** and **dissemination...**”

- Jaya Raju, 12/4/2019

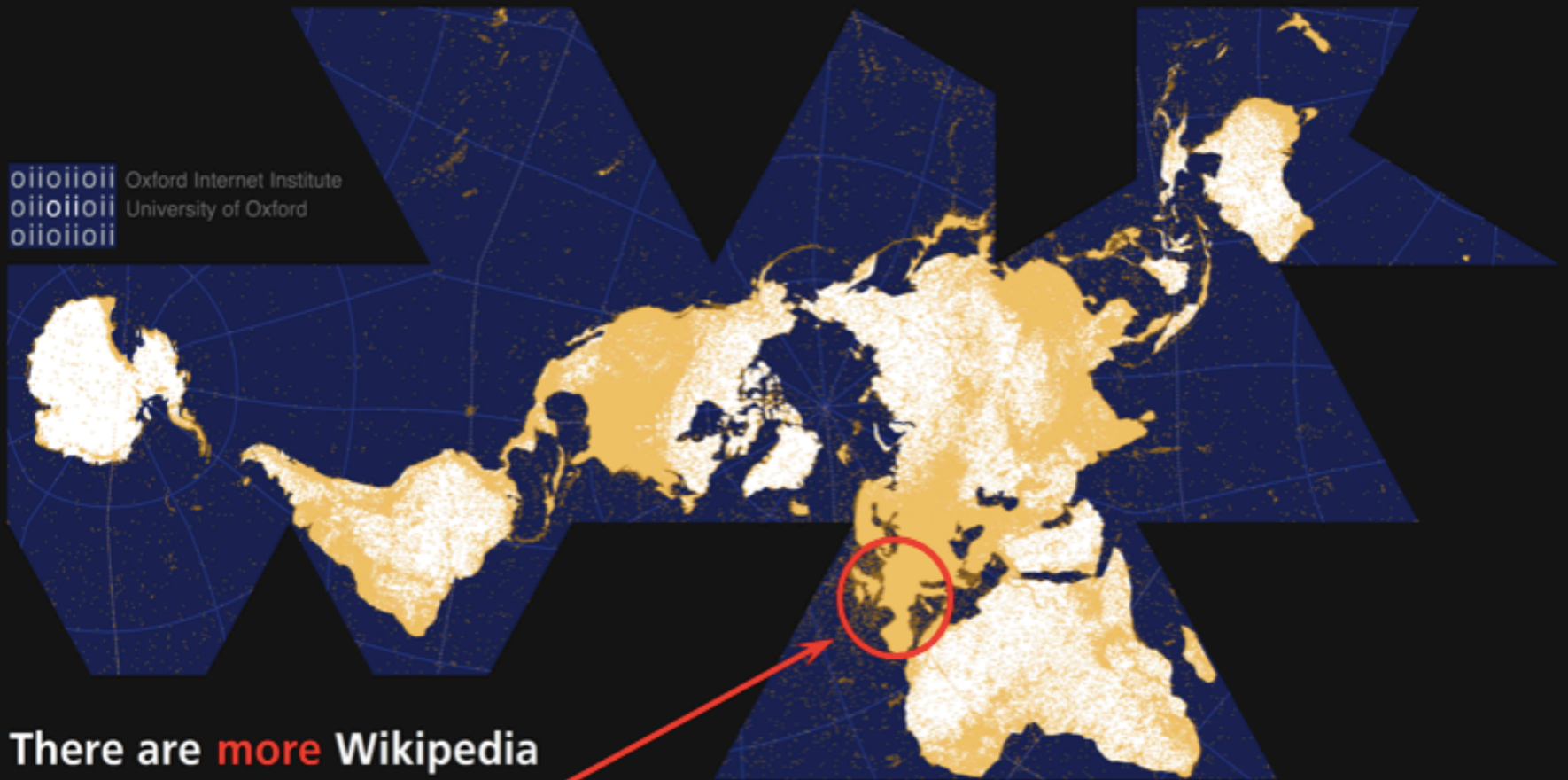
Whose voices are **represented** in
Our “global intellectual
conversation?”
And whose are **left out**?



The Geographically Uneven Coverage of Wikipedia

While it is an invaluable resource of knowledge for numerous users, Wikipedia's articles have a strong bias in their geographic distribution. Below map is based on 3,336,473 geotagged articles in November 2012 data dumps of 44 language versions. Each article is represented by an orange dot.

oioioioii Oxford Internet Institute
oioioioii University of Oxford
oioioioii



There are **more** Wikipedia articles **inside** this circle **than outside** of it

This map is part of the Information Geographies project at <http://geography.oii.ox.ac.uk>.

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Ralph Straumann, Mark Graham
Data sources: Wikipedia, Natural Earth

We need to carefully and deliberately consider the implications on **equity** when we are deciding:

- What **business models** we choose
- What **technology** we choose to build or buy
- What **rights** we choose to empower users & producers with
- What outputs and behaviors we choose to **incentivize** and **reward**
- How we construct **leadership/governance** bodies **SPARC***

One example: Libraries now have opportunity for libraries to **move money out** of journal subscription bundles and **reinvest** it strategically in a new ecosystem.

But **what** to reinvest it in?

Increasing pressure to get to Open
by supporting “flipping” journal
system from subscription model to
article processing charge (APC)
model.

o p e n a c c e s s

2 0 2 0



OA2020: A Global Initiative to Drive Large-Scale Transformation of the Subscription System

Plan S

Making full and immediate Open Access a reality

Home

About Plan S

Plan S is an initiative for Open Access publishing that was launched in September 2018. The plan is supported by cOAlition S, an international consortium of research funders. Plan S requires that, from 2021, scientific publications that result from research funded by public grants must be



Is it really enough to increase
number of Open Access articles if
we fail to address fundamental
inequities in the publishing
system?

Equity must be deliberately built into the ecosystem at critical choice points...not bolted on later as an afterthought.

This is just **one** decision point.

Let's consider **infrastructure**.

When you are **building infrastructure**, start by remembering that:

Infrastructure is the
product of very human
decisions about **how**
infrastructure should be...

...So it matters deeply **who**
is making decisions about its
functionality.

When we are are **buying**
infrastructure, we should
consider...

...using community **principles**
to help guide purchase of
infrastructure and services to
make sure they fully support
our missions and values.

Good Practice Principles for Scholarly Communication Services

COAR and SPARC have developed seven good practice principles to ensure that scholarly communication services are transparent, open, and support the aims of scholarship. These principles can be used by users to make decisions about which services they will contract with, and by service providers to improve their practices and governance



GOOD GOVERNANCE

The service has strategic governance that allows community input on the direction of the service and operational governance with community representation and decision making power.



OPEN STANDARDS

The service uses open APIs to enable interoperability, and adheres to open standards. Ideally, the platform is based on open-source software, but in cases where it is not, user-owned content is managed according to well-established, international standards.



FAIR DATA COLLECTION

Only data necessary for the service's provision are collected from users and the type of the data collected and how they are used is clearly and publicly articulated.

These principles are informed by Principles for Open Scholarly Infrastructure-v1 by Bilder G, Lin J, Neylon C (2015) © 2019 COAR and SPARC, subject to a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License



TRANSPARENT PRICING AND CONTRACTS

The service's contract conditions and pricing are transparent and equitable, with no non-disclosure agreements included.



EASY MIGRATION

User-owned or generated content can be easily migrated to another platform or service upon termination of contract, without any additional fee from the service provider.



SUCCESSION PLANNING

If the service is a nonprofit, the organization's bylaws state the conditions and terms governing how the organization may be transferred or wound down. If the service is provided by a for-profit entity, the contract/agreement should not be assignable to another entity without the client's express permission.



OPEN CONTENT

Content, metadata and usage data are immediately, openly and freely available in machine-readable format via open standards, and using licenses (like CC0 or similar) which facilitate reuse.

Community **culture** and **norms**
matter, too.

i. Peer Reviewed Contributions

List all works reviewed prior to publication by peers / editorial boards in the field, such as journal articles in refereed journals, juried presentations, books, etc. Indicate up to five of the most important contributions with a double asterisk and briefly explain why these choices have been made. Include a description of the stature of journals and other scholarly venues and how this is known (e.g., impact factors, percentage of submitted work that is accepted, together with an explanation of the interpretation of these measures).

And finally, **governance** matters.

This means radically **rethinking** our
relationships to commercial
vendors.

Is “customer” the role we really want to be consigned to?

OCTOBER
21-27

OPEN ACCESS WEEK 2019

¿ABIERTO PARA QUIÉN?

EQUIDAD EN EL CONOCIMIENTO ABIERTO

मुक्त प्रवेश किसके लिए खुला?

खुले ज्ञान में समानता

OPEN FOR WHOM?

EQUITY IN OPEN KNOWLEDGE

حر لمن؟ الإنصاف في المعرفة المفتوحة

OUVERT POUR QUI?

ÉQUITÉ DANS LE SAVOIR OUVERT

openaccessweek.org

Creating a **research** and **education**
ecosystem that is truly **open** and
equitable for all.

Looking forward to our discussion!

Thank You.

Particular thanks to Leslie Chan, Cameron Neylon, Claudio Aspesi, Nicole Allen, Nick Shockey, and the OpenCon Whose Knowledge Is it? Communities ,
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