

Open Access Australasia Strategy 2021-2022

Principles

2020 was a tumultuous year globally and one that reinforced the key role of open access to academic research to combat global threats, specifically the COVID-19 pandemic.

The principles that underpin the work of Open Access Australasia are:

- Equity in scholarly communications, to both access and publish research
- Support for a diverse ecosystem of open access approaches
- Support for integrity and quality in research
- Maximisation of the impact of research
- Appropriate and respectful use of Indigenous knowledges
- Retention of rights by authors or their institutions



In late March 2021, Open Access Australasia (then known as AOASG) members met to review last year's work and to provide input on priorities for 2021-2022.

Our strategic priorities for 2021-2022

- Advise on national, regional and international strategies for open research
- Establish Open Access Australasia as the authoritative regional resource for open access
- Support thriving communities of practice for open access in Australasia

Related initiatives

Though our work for 2021-2022 will continue to focus primarily on open access, we are mindful of the need to ensure that it aligns with work regionally and globally on open research initiatives more widely. We will continue to monitor developments across the entire research lifecycle and will participate as appropriate.

Rationale and activities associated with strategic priorities

Advise on national, regional and international strategies for open research

Rationale

Work by CAUL and Open Access Australasia in 2020 cemented the interest and opportunity for a national approach in Australia. International work also coalesced around support for open research more generally as evidenced by UNESCO and APEC work.

Specific Activities

- Liaison with CAUL to support work of Australia's Chief Scientist
- Support for UNESCO consultation
- Discussion of relevant policies and initiative with national funders and peak bodies
- Provide support to CONZUL as requested to support open access in New Zealand

Establish Open Access Australasia as the authoritative regional resource for open access

Rationale

Research on the use of our website in 2020 showed that there was large use of specific, regional content especially directories of unique Australasian content and resources tailored to this region.

Specific Activities

- Complete the project to renew the website and transfer relevant content across
- Develop new resources, especially aimed at providing rapid, accurate updates
- Develop online courses and other resources on open access

Support thriving communities of practice for open access in Australasia

Rationale

As open access uptake increases across the region, there is an associated increase in the need for a healthy community of practice to support practitioners. We have long-standing experience in coordinating communities of practice for New Zealand and Australia through monthly online meetings.

Specific Activities

- Provide opportunity for our Australian group to support particular aspects of open access
- Continue our webinar series to promote awareness of the diversity of open access approaches
- Engage with our membership through practitioner working groups