Accelerating the paradigm shift towards Open Science and Data Sharing in Pandemic times and beyond

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Open science initiatives triggered by COVID-19 in Australasia

Ongoing Australasian approaches to open research

What we’ve learnt
A diverse membership
28 universities across Australia & Aotearoa New Zealand
Creative Commons Australia, Tohatoha Aotearoa Commons,
Australian Library and Information Association, Australian Digital
Alliance, Wikimedia Australia

Principles
● equity in scholarly communications, to access & publish research
● diverse ecosystem of open access approaches
● 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

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What we’ve learnt
Some of the best pandemic science communication came from New Zealand!

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What we’ve learnt
Connecting The Dots
20+ years of open in Aotearoa
New Zealand

There have been open research initiatives in since the very beginning of global discussions on open access to research publications in the early 2000s. This arrow illustrates some of the key initiatives over the past 20 years.

- Kiwi / advocacy body
- Government
- Funder
- Institution
- Event

2000 - 2010
- Papers Past launched by National Library of New Zealand
- NZETC begins large scale CC licensing of GLAM content
- Digital NZ launched

2003
- Te Ao Paenga Whenua Library System

2006
- Creative Commons Aotearoa NZ formed
- New Zealand Electronic Text Centre at Victoria (NZETC)

2007
- AUT Institutional Research Repository launched

2009
- Omega Polytechnic, Open Educational Resources Foundation founded

2010
- NZ Govt Open Access and Licensing Framework (NZOAL) passed by Cabinet

2014
- NZ Universities join AUSGO

2016
- AUT Tuvahora Open Publishing launched

2019
- CONZUL OA project
- CONZUL Statement on Open Scholarship

2020
- AUT Open Scholarship Policy approved
- First transformative agreement with a regional publisher - CSIRO - negotiated by CAUL

2021
- CONZUL prioritises open scholarship in the 2022-2025 Strategic Priorities
- ADASO becomes Open Access Australasia

2021
- First two CAUL-negotiated transformative agreements with Microbiology Society & Portland Press come into effect.

Adapted from graphic originally developed by CAUL and OA.
Case studies illustrate need for a coordinated approach

**Case Study 1: Policy advisors can’t access the research they need**

*Barriers to access academic research increases timeframe for policy advice*

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how valuable it is to have immediate, free access to research to inform policy, but this is far from the norm for most research that policy advisors need to review.

"Lack of access drastically increases the timeframe for policy work" – Health policy advisor

**Case Study 2: Mapping NSW Black Summer Bushfires**

*Responding to data gaps in real time*

A map was created from open, yet disparate, data sources to show real-time information of fire fronts in NSW during Black Summer, 2019.

Image taken: 20210224, 09:14

"Difference in the data update times really showed the challenge in what they [firefighters] were dealing with" – map creator

Responses to specific issues often siloed by sector & availability

Spending on open research neither coordinated nor transparent
Advancing Open Scholarship (FAIR)

- **March 2020**: First online Roundtable
- **June 2020**: Roundtable Canberra Cancelled!
- **November 2020**: Webinars with international and national experts
- **December 2020**: Second online Roundtable
- **January 2021**: Discussions with Chief Scientist and National Science and Technology Council
- **March 2021**: Discussions with national stakeholders
- **May 2021**: Chief Scientist announces open access as one of her four pillars of work
- **November 2021**: Chief Scientist continues discussions
- **March 2022**: UNESCO Open Science Recommendation adopted

https://oaaustralasia.org/2021/01/31/making-the-case-for-a-national-approach-for-open-research-in-australia/
2021 in Australasian open science - policy

Australia’s Chief Scientist, Dr Cathy Foley, has named Open Access as one of the key pillars of her strategic work plan, and is the government’s champion for Open Access in Australia.

NHMRC open access policy review
“These advantages of open access publishing have been clearly demonstrated over the last 15 months as governments have relied on emerging science for evidence-based policy to address the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Australian Academy of Science “maintains that the advancement of scientific knowledge is best served through the free, open, and accessibly distribution of high-quality peer-reviewed research.”

Office of the Chief Scientist openaccess@chiefscientist.gov.au
Open scholarship and FAIR scholarly practices support the efficient dissemination of knowledge to researchers, students, policy makers and to the wider public, facilitate faster scientific discovery and problem solving, and underpin the integrity of research.

What has been made apparent during COVID-19 is the need for a broad conversation about how research publications are disseminated – specifically the need for universal open access to research globally.

CONZUL open access project “Only two out of five articles by New Zealand researchers are free-to-access”

https://oaaustralasia.org/2020/12/21/what-a-year-its-been/
https://www.universitiesnz.ac.nz/sites/default/files/uni-nz/documents/oa-infographic_20200820%5B1%5D.pdf
https://peerj.com/articles/11417/
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COVID-19 showed that open science practices are essential across the research life cycle
● Need to be systematically planned and implemented
● Needs to be principle-led with equity at the forefront
● Infrastructure for open science remains fragmented, fragile and lacking capacity

The change in how we worked had some positive effects
● A wider range of people could participate in online global conversations (as in this conference)
● Interest in open educational resources was driven by understanding of inequity in current models

However
● Terms are still being dictated by service providers, not users
● Need a high-level champion to effect real change
● System-wide shift to a “bibliodiverse” open ecosystem requires political will and global collaboration

https://opensocialwork.org/research/open-science
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Feedback and follow up welcome!