Open Access and Digital Publishing

Pierre JT de Villiers
Founder and Executive Chairman, AOSIS

AOSIS

Definitions

- **<u>Open access:</u>** Making scholarly works **freely** available to the public **without financial barriers** through the **internet**. (Usage T&C's may apply)

- **<u>Digital publishing:</u> Electronic dissemination** and access of scholarly works, making them more accessible and interactive.

Open Access History (32 years)

- **1991**, early experimentation with sharing manuscripts

- **2001**, Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI)

  - Definitions of Open Access - "Green" and "Gold"

- **2003**, "Berlin Declaration" on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities.

- **2000**, BioMed Central, the first for-profit OA publisher, AOSIS in South Africa 2003.

AOSIS

Types of Open Access

- Repository-based or "**Green**" open access

- Journal-based or "**Gold**" Open Access

- "**Diamond**" Open access – free read and publish

- "**Hybrid**" open access in subscription journals

- "**Bronze**" open access - no open license

- "**Black**" open access – (illegal)

-

Open Access benefits

1. **Accessibility** (no financial barriers)

2. **Visibility and Impact** (work and career)

3. **Scientific Progress** (rapid exchanges)

4. **Public Engagement and Societal Impact**

5. **Cost Savings and Sustainability**

AOSIS

Trends in Open Access Publishing

1. **Articles:** 2015 (**18%**), 2018 (**28%**) – 2022 (**35%**)

2. **Journals**: 19,367 OA / 34,000 total = **57%**

3. **Drivers**: <u>Funding</u>, <u>demand</u> and OA <u>mandates</u>

4. "**Gold Access**" rapid growth (primary route)

5. "**Hybrid**" model in subscription journals

6. "**Diamond Access**" growing (community driven)

Open Access Policies and Mandates

- Policy (guideline) vs Mandate (instruction)

- **Mandate**: NRF (2015) – 12 months

- **Policies:**

  - UCT (6)

  - WITS, Stellenbosch, UKZN, UJ, NWU (12)

- All providing some funding support

AOSIS

Digital Publishing revolution

- 1665 – "**Journal des Sçavans**" (Journal of the Learned)

- ARPANET (1960s) – INTERNET (1980s) – went Public

- 1989 – "**New Horizons in Adult Education**"

- 1991 – "**arXiv**" preprint server (physics papers)

- 1999, SA 1st OA journal: "**SA Journal of Information Management**" (**SAJIM)** – Prof. Pieter van Brakel

Digital Publishing Platforms

- Commercial publishing platforms ($$$ - $)

- Open Source platforms – Open Journals Systems

- Online repositories (Pubmed Central)

- Pre-print servers (e.g arXiv, BioRXiv etc.)

- Indexers (DOAJ, ScieloSA)

AOSIS

Digital Publishing Tools

- **CrossRef**: DOI's – "permanent web address."

- **Mendeley**: helps authors organise, cite, and share

- **Crossmark**: tracks the versions of publications

- **Altmetric:** tracks the attention that research receive

- **Social Media** (Twitter, ResearchGate, LinkedIn, etc)

AOSIS

Social media in digital publishing

- Disseminate research findings to a wider audience

- Connect with other researchers

- Build a research community around your work

- Measure the impact of your research

AOSIS

Tips for Social Media

- **Be professional**: avoid making any personal attacks or controversial statements.

- **Be selective**: share only the most important and relevant findings.

- **Be patient:** It takes time…….

AOSIS

Thank you for your time

2023

ASSAf Webinar for New Editors – Tips on Editorial Processes

Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)

Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)