

Unit 4: Advocacy for Open Access

Objective: This Unit briefly discusses looks at the various global advocacy initiatives to help the library and information professionals in strengthening their efforts in sensitizing, awareness raising and promoting the concept of open access to knowledge at the local and national level.

Learning Outcomes

After going through this topic, the participants are expected to be able to:

- Identify key advocacy organizations and their initiatives to promote open access to various stakeholders;
- Identify key stakeholders to promote Open Access, and identify their needs; and
- Prepare appropriate advocacy campaign and training programmes for the stakeholders.

Areas of focus

- Open Access Advocacy
- Training and Development

Open Access Advocacy

Strategies to promote OA include:

- Open access advocacy – OA advocacy-based strategies – *see Swan, Alma (2012). Policy Guidelines for the Development and Promotion of Open Access. Paris: UNESCO. Pp. 44*
- Policy-oriented advocacy
- Infrastructure development advocacy

Activity: in groups study the Text-Box4.1, outline and discuss strategies for planning, designing, and implementing for OA in your respective institutions.

Other strategies for promoting OA

- International Open Access week – *see website* –
 - *what can librarians do to promote OA pp. 46, Text Box 4.2 - <http://legacy.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/do.htm#librarians>*
 - *What Universities and Administrators can do to promote open access - <http://www.openaccessweek.org/page/englishhigh-resolution-1>*
- OA Blogs for OA advocacy, e.g. [*each group to review and identify activities they can do in their institutions*]
 - *Peter Suber's Blog – <https://plus.google.com/+PeterSuber>*
 - *Open Access News: News from the open access movement (Peter Suber's former blog, May 2002 – April 2010) <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/fosblog.html>*
 - *Open Access Archivangelism by Stevan Harnad - <http://openaccess.eprints.org>*
 - *SPARC Blog - <http://www.sparc.arl.org/blog>*
 - *Scholarly Open Access: Critical Analysis of Scholarly Open Access Publishing, by Jeffrey Beall - <http://scholarlyoa.com>*

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- OASPA (Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association) Blog - <http://oaspa.org/blog/>
 - Open Access Week Blog - <http://www.openaccessweek.org/profiles/blog/list>
 - ACD Blog, by IFLA Acquisition & Collection Development (ACD) Section - <http://blogs.ifla.org/acd/>
 - BioMed Central Blog - <http://blogs.biomedcentral.com/bmcblog/>
 - PLOS Blogs - <http://blogs.plos.org/>
 - SciELO (Scientific Electronic Library Online) Blog - <http://blog.scielo.org/>
 - Open Access India: Advocating Open Access in India - <http://oaindia2013.wordpress.com>
 - Other microblogs like Twitter (Now X) – look out for the hashtags like #OpenAccess, #OA, etc
- OA Advocacy Organisation and Initiatives – see Open Access Directory – http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Advocacy_organizations_for_OA
 - Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)
 - Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL.net)
 - International Network for Advancing Science and Policy (INASP), formally International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications
 - Enabling Open Scholarship (EOS) www.openscholarship.org University OA policies
 - Open Access Scholarly Information Sourcebook www.openoasis.org
 - ROARMAP (Registry of Open Access Repositories Mandatory Archiving Policies) Roarmap.eprints.org

Training and Development

Infrastructure development OA applications do establishing OA repositories, OS journals, and OA conferences. Open source software – Dspace, EPrints, Open Journal Systems (OJS), Open Conference Systems (OCS), and Open Harvest Systems (OHS). OHS is a free metadata indexing system that helps indexing metadata from Open Archives Initiatives (OAI) compliant OA digital archives or institutional repositories.

Initiatives for OA training and development include:

- Dspace, EPrints, OJS, and OHS included in graduate curricula of many LIS schools
- CPDs to develop competencies and technical skills of librarians, e.g. INASP, EIFL.net, SPARC, & UNESCO
- MOOCs, ODLs, OCW, OERs, etc available
- FOSTER – facilitate Open Science Training for European Research

Activity: as part of our follow up activities, each participant shall register for online training – in groups of 3 people identify a training that you will undertake

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Activity: pp. 52 - 54

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