



Communication and Information Sector
Knowledge Societies Division

Regional –LAC– Consultation on
Open Access to Scientific Information and Research – Concept and Policies

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Open Access

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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CENTRO LATINDEX PARA REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA



OVERVIEW OF OPEN ACCESS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

CURRENT STATUS OF OA DEVELOPMENT

- The development of OA in this country is still at an early stage.
- The Dominican Republic participates in OA regional repositories:
SIDALC – RELPE – CEDUCAR – BVS/BVSDE – PEPSIC – CLAD-SIARE
PERIODICA – CLACSO – FLACSO – CLASE – LABORDOC
- There is a lag in the design and adoption of public and institutional policies and strategies on OA.





OVERVIEW OF OPEN ACCESS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

MAJOR PLAYERS / ON-GOING PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- Dominican Republic is member of **LATINDEX**.
- **APEC University (UNAPEC)** is the national focal point of **Latindex**, and is implementing actions to foster quality and visibility of Dominican academic journals and OA publication. They have organized **seminars and workshops for journal editors**.
- Under the auspices of **Latindex**, journal editors from Dominican Republic have participated in **training workshops** about the **Latin America Journals Online (LAMJOL)** and online publishing , with support from **INASP-PERII**, and **CAICYT/CONICET**.





OVERVIEW OF OPEN ACCESS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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- **Virtual Health Library (BVS-DO)**, sponsored by the **Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO-DO)** and coordinated by Technological Institute of Santo Domingo (**INTEC**).
- Within the context of this regional cooperation initiative, some actions were taken into the possibility of implementing a Scientific Electronic Library Online, **SciELO** site, to integrate journals from Caribbean region. They organized workshops for scientific information managers.





OVERVIEW OF OPEN ACCESS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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- The **Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MESCYT)** have oriented some efforts toward developing policies to promote OA to scientific information.
- **MESCYT** and **Sciences Academy of the Dominican Republic** are partners in the project **Open Institutional Repositories Infrastructure Network for Central America and the Caribbean.**





OVERVIEW OF OPEN ACCESS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

MAJOR PLAYERS / ON-GOING PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

- Dominican Republic has several electronic journals that provide access to full-text content.
 - Six of them have active links in **Latindex Directory**.
 - One open access journal is registered in **DOAJ** and one in **Redalyc**.
 - Four biomedical journals are full-text indexed in **BVS-DO**.
 - Two electronic journals are nearing to their publication online using **Open Journal Systems (OJS)**.





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OA REPOSITORIES

- Two repositories are registered using **OpenDOAR** and **ROAR** directories:
 - **State Secretary for Planning, Economy and Development (SEEPyD)**
 - **National School for Electoral and Civil Registry Training (EFEC).**
- No mandates are registered in **ROARMAP**.
- No **university repository** is currently being implemented.
- Librarians and information professionals from Dominican Republic have participated in **training courses on OA repositories** organized by **OUI/COLAM**.





OVERVIEW OF OPEN ACCESS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

MAJOR PLAYERS / ON-GOING PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- Contribute contents in the *Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC)*:
 - Pontifical Catholic University Madre y Maestra (PUCMM)
 - Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD)

- Several **academic libraries** are members of the *Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL)* and they participate in the annual conference and workshops, which allows sharing experiences and participating in regional initiatives on OA.





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DIGITAL LIBRARIES

- ***Dominican Digital Library***, developed by the **General National Archive (AGN / Ministry of Culture)**.
- ***Virtual library*** hosted in the **Information and Documentation Center for Development (CIDD)**, under the auspices of the **World Bank** and the coordination of the **Libraries System of PUCMM**.
- ***Dominican Virtual Library***, sponsored by **Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD)**.





OVERVIEW OF OPEN ACCESS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

MAJOR PLAYERS / ON-GOING PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- **Official institutions** has been adding efforts to support *free access to public information* and promote *Open Data*.
 - The **Dominican Telecommunications Institute** (INDOTEL)
 - The **National Commission for Knowledge and Information Society**
 - The **Office for National Statistics** (ONE)
 - **Technological Institute of The Americas** (ITLA)

- The **Ministry of Public Health** (MSP) is also promoting and participating in the incipient definition of public policies for open access to scientific information in the health sector.

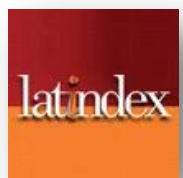




OVERVIEW OF OPEN ACCESS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

MAJOR PLAYERS / ON-GOING PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

- More recently, in the interest of promoting OA in the Dominican Republic, **UNESCO Cluster Office to Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Aruba and the Dominican Republic** and the **Dominican National Commission for UNESCO (CNDU)** set up a task force with national key stakeholders in order to organize the first ***National Seminar on Open Access to Scientific Information*** (tentatively in May 2013).





OVERVIEW OF OPEN ACCESS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

GREATEST CHALLENGES FACING OA

OA to scientific information in DR, as in other developing countries, faces challenges to its full consolidation. Among them, the most important is:

- **The establishment of public and institutional explicit policies that promote OA** by the national support organizations for research and innovation, academic institutions and international development agencies.

There is a lag in this area compared to many countries in the region.





OVERVIEW OF OPEN ACCESS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

POTENTIAL BARRIERS FOR WIDENING THE OA AGENDA

- » Modest scientific production at national level.
- » Little scientific research in the context of Dominican universities.
- » Lack of information on strategies to increase visibility and impact of scientific production.
- » Very few scientific journals which meet international standard requirements.
- » Poor information and understanding on the concept of OA.
- » No awareness of types of licensing that promotes OA, appropriate for academic purposes.





OVERVIEW OF OPEN ACCESS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT OPEN ACCESS

- » OA policies are not consistent with copyright law.
- » OA journals are of poorer quality than traditional subscription-based journals.
- » OA journals are not peer-reviewed.
- » OA only benefits readers, not authors, nor the institutions.
- » The concept of "OA", that refers to "open access to scientific information—in the form of journal articles—", is not widespread within the DR.
- » "Open Access" is frequently associated to Open Data or to "free access to public or governmental information".





OVERVIEW OF OPEN ACCESS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

COLLABORATIVE AND COLLECTIVE EFFORTS THAT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO ADVANCE OA IN THE REGION

- » Provide an overall framework of principles, of regional scope and significance, to guide the design of national policies and strategies on the basis of a shared vision of OA.
- » Facilitate knowledge and technologies sharing for the dissemination of scientific information.
- » Provide guidance on the use of Creative Commons or similar licensing appropriate for academic purposes.
- » Facilitate the participation of people from OA-lagging developing countries in regional seminars, in order to raise awareness regarding the importance of OA.





OVERVIEW OF OPEN ACCESS IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

THANK YOU

