

Changing Landscape of Scholarly Communications: Open Access

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While Open Access (OA) to scholarly and scientific information is not new, various factors, including the shift to emergency remote teaching and national mandates for sharing the products of funded research outputs drive scholars to rethink traditional scholarship models. Today, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, we are witnessing unprecedented levels of research output generated in a short period of time and shared globally with those who are embarking on finding vaccines and cures in an accelerated fashion. The pandemic indeed, highlighted the importance of transparency, open, and timely access to data and information. Government and private institutions worldwide are reacting to the new situation where researchers, educators, students, and staff are trying to adjust to remote teaching and learning as well as telecommuting.

With the changing landscape of academic publishing and the growing interdisciplinary field of studies, open access facilitates amalgamations of a diverse set of methods, theoretical frameworks, tools and processes that originate from different disciplines and continue to be developed, adopted, and extended through further research, teaching, and practices. In this panel, panelists argue that open access to scholarly knowledge production should be the modus operandi in the time and age we live in. Open access to knowledge is critical not just to accelerate advances in finding solutions to societal issues, but also to meet the growing expectations around higher education institutions' social responsibilities in times of uncertainties. Beyond improving access to scholarly and scientific research for all, OA supports implementation of guiding principles, including the FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable) and FATE (fairness, accountability, transparency, and ethics) principles