Global Open Access Movement: Carving space for Universities

Date: 23 October 2020 (Virtual)

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<tr>
<th>Geographical scope/benefitting country(ies):</th>
<th>Latin America</th>
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<tr>
<td>Duration (in months):</td>
<td>2 months (including preparatory days and post event follow up)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name, Unit and contact details of Project Officer(s):</td>
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<td>Partner(s) institutions:</td>
<td>Redalyc/Ameli-CA, Mexico/ CLACSO/DORA</td>
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<td>Tentative budget inclusive of Programme Support costs:</td>
<td>USD XX,000 – UNESCO Contribution Virtual Meeting</td>
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1 Executive Summary

Academia is supporting and contributing to the realization of United Nations goals, including the promotion and protection of human rights, access to information, and sustainability. UNESCO works towards “Maintaining, increasing and diffusing knowledge by encouraging cooperation among the nations in all branches of intellectual activities” in line with the target 17.6 of SDG². In this process, UNESCO has been working with academia as one of the key partners to make scholarship ‘open’ and “inclusive” to democratize scientific knowledge. UNESCO recognizes Open Access (OA) as one of the key modalities for opening science as it allows researchers to learn and build from previous works and make important scientific research available to all.

Open Access week is an annual “scholarly communication event on OA issues and presents as an opportunity to reflect on the progress made in the past, strengthen multistakeholder processes, and plan strategies for the future. UNESCO, along with its partners, wish to utilize the OA week of 2020 to engage with the academia

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² enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation, and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, particularly at UN level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism when agreed (https://indicators.report/targets/17-6/)
to explore new shifts in the academic publishing and knowledge democratization processes. OA week will be organized in 2020 with a theme "Open with Purpose".

Latin America has been a continent that has led OA by examples and has set several milestones. Therefore a regional webinar has been planned to engage Latin American Academia to generate more concrete understanding and actions to increase the role of academia in the scholarly publication processes. In order to contextualize, the OA week of 2020 will be utilized to reflect, inter alia, on issues such as: internationalizing Latin American Scholarship, development of alternative evaluation matrix, rethinking peer review processes and approaches to reduce or article processing charges (APC).

2 The Context

The Amsterdam Call for Action on Open Science\footnote{Call for Action on Open Science} notes that ‘although digitization, globalization and the development of the Internet have tremendously changed and accelerated communication in general, the scientific communication process remains fairly traditional’. Issues such as excessive time periods between submission and publication, payment walls, embargos and other access barriers impede the transfer of knowledge. Within this context, OA to information and data paves the way to Open Science and plays an important role in research and in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

In its 187th Executive Board session in 2011, UNESCO was requested by its member states to draw up a strategy for OA. This strategy contains a set of short, medium and long-term action plans - to be achieved within set time frames – to assist governments in strengthening the processes for granting irrevocable rights of access to copy, use, distribute, transmit and make derive works of research outputs in any format, within certain constraints. The strategy also requires UNESCO to continuously innovate and produce new tools, processes and content. The strategy further requires UNESCO to celebrate achievements and fully involve varied stakeholders in the process. These involvements are not only sought by discussing various issues around OA, but also by giving an opportunity to celebrate achievements. Arguably, Universities are at the nucleus of this process and have the most significant role to play to open scholarship for the benefit of the humanity.

3 Situation in Latin America

Latin America has a long tradition of regional information networking to provide Open Access to its research results. Among others, a few milestones are:

- Multidisciplinary peer-reviewed journal portals are platforms, sponsored mainly by public funds, make it possible for journals to have an online presence, international visibility, bibliometric indicators and improved quality of editorial processes, a requirement for being accepted in those journal portals.

- As per DOAJ, approximately 2000 journals are from Latin America and the Caribbean, of which around 1000 journals are from Brazil. At regional level SciELO and Redalyc have developed Open Access peer-review journal portals. Both portals can also be searched in the Latindex harvester. Of late, emergence of non-commercial Open Access Model America has shown promise.

- Among digital repositories registered in ROAR and OpenDOAR, the most frequent full-text content are collections of electronic theses and dissertations (Cyberthesis, NDLTD) as well as national theses consortia (For example, Brazil, Chile and Peru, with initial promotion by UNESCO).
Open Science and Open Data Movement in Latin America:

In the sphere of Open Science too, several key achievements can be noted, for example:

- An important Open Science initiative in Latin America is the Open and Collaborative Science in Development Network (OCSDNet) composed of twelve researcher-practitioner teams from the Global South interested in understanding the role of openness and collaboration in science as a transformative tool for development in the region. Participating countries from Latin America include Brazil, Colombia and Argentina. The project is funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada and the Department for International Development (DFID) in the UK.

- With regard to Open Data movement, in the legal domain, Peru and Argentina have recently enacted laws that will change the way institutions and researchers manage their data. These legal norms set new requirements for individuals and organizations whose research is publicly funded, as they will have to share their data in institutional and national repositories open to the public. In both cases, this has led to the development of technical infrastructure to make data management and sharing possible: the National System of Repositories (SNRD) in Argentina and the National Digital Repository of Open Access Science, Technology and Innovation (ALICIA) in Peru.

These are just a few examples of the efforts that institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean are making to work on the development of policy and infrastructure needed to make scientific research and data elements accessible and manageable. Although much work and collaborations have been done, it’s not clear to what extent the academia is involved in the process and efforts are still needed, particularly by rallying support of the academia into the open solutions domain.

4 The event

Latin America has been at the vanguard of the global movement towards laws and systems for public access to information since Colombia adopted the region’s first access to information law in 1985. SDG 16.10.2 (UN: 2015) monitors the implementation of ‘public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements’. This universal commitment to public access to information represents a recognition by the international community that this principle is both a basic human right and a practical requirement for the achievement of all these global development objectives. Although Latin America has set an example, the Academia appear either lagging in awareness or not fully involved in the processes to develop procedures and mechanisms established for scholarly publication. The event to be organized on 23rd October 2020-during OA week 2020 will therefore:

- Take stock of the ongoing efforts on OA by the academia in collaboration with other stakeholders
- Explore modalities to increase engagement of Academia in the OA ensured, and their concerns are explored to implement OA, especially on internationalizing Latin American Scholarship, development of alternative evaluation matrix, as well as in rethinking peer review processes and approaches to reduce or article processing charges (APC).

It is in this view, UNESCO and its partners will organize a dedicated event to discuss the role, involvement and concern vis-à-vis OA in Latin America during the Open Access Week of 2020. OA Week is a global event now entering its tenth year, is an opportunity for the academic and research community to continue to learn about the potential benefits of Open Access, to share what they’ve learned with colleagues, and to help inspire wider participation in helping to make Open Access a new norm in scholarship and research.
5 Participants

The event will invite one or two representatives from the universities in Latin America. A tentative long list of universities is provided in the annex.

6 The Partnership:

UNESCO: In keeping with its mandate to ensure OA to information, UNESCO has developed several initiatives and training programmes to spread awareness of OA and to help bridge the technology gap in order to create resources such as open digital repositories. UNESCO also is the first UN organization to develop a house-wide OA strategy for its publication, data and other resources. The effort will be coordinated by UNESCO headquarter with strategic and programmatic inputs from UNESCO field offices from Asia and Latin America.

AmeliCA/Redalyc: Open Knowledge for Latin America and the Global South is an infrastructure developed for the scholarly communications ecosystem in Latin America. It is a good option for scholarly societies in other Global South countries to use to compete with the international publishing brands in terms of technology for publication and dissemination.

CLACSO– The Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO) is an international non-governmental institution with associative status in UNESCO, created in 1967. Currently, it brings together 680 research and postgraduate centers in the field of social sciences and humanities in 51 countries of Latin America and other continents.

San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) - Intends to halt the practice of correlating the journal impact factor to the merits of a specific scientist's contributions. Also according to this statement, this practice creates biases and inaccuracies when appraising scientific research. It also states that the impact factor is not to be used as a substitute "measure of the quality of individual research articles, or in hiring, promotion, or funding decisions.

7 Links with 2030 Agenda

The project will directly contribute to Goals 4, 9, 16 and 17.

Goal 4: The portal will aide in improving teaching and learning processes and broadening the global landscape of open knowledge flow.
**Goal 9**: The portal will contribute to facilitating technological innovation by disseminating novel technologies that expand the range of technologically fit solutions.

**Goal 16**: The portal will contribute to enhancing access to information to various stakeholders

**Goal 17**: The portal will be developed in collaboration between UNESCO and research institutions from different regions in the Global South, contributing to Target 17.6 of Knowledge Sharing and Cooperation for Access to Science, Technology and Innovation through South-South cooperation through a global technology facilitation mechanism.

**Visibility plan**

The event will be publicized through emails to groups/organizations who might be interested in the subject matter, indicated in the List of Potential Attendees above.

Additionally, we will also liaise with UNESCO DPI to explore the possibility of publicizing the event through UNESCO social media.

**8 Link to UNESCO work and future action**

This initiative is in line with the 40 C/5, and more specifically with Main Line of Action 2 under Major Programme V, on building knowledge societies by enabling universal access to information, including through use of ICTs. It will particularly help achieve the goals noted in Output 2 of the expected result on: Awareness campaign on Openness of sciences,