The Library as Enabler: Open Access and the SDGs

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SDGs and Libraries

Libraries contribute to improved outcomes by:

• Promoting universal literacy
• Closing gaps in access to information
• Providing a network of delivery sites for government programs and services
• Advancing digital inclusion through access to ICT
• Serving as the heart of the research and academic community
• Preserving and provide access to the world’s culture and heritage
<table>
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<tr>
<th>SDGs</th>
<th>Information Requirements</th>
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<tr>
<td>SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere</td>
<td>• Access to research and data</td>
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<td>• Facilitate learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and</td>
<td>• Access to research and data</td>
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<td>promote sustainable agriculture</td>
<td>• Access latest technical information</td>
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<td>• Facilitate learning</td>
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<td>SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all</td>
<td>• Access to most recent findings in health and medical journals, both for technical</td>
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<td>ages</td>
<td>information as well as support in the development of appropriate policies and strategies</td>
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<td>SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote</td>
<td>• Access to research and data</td>
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<td>lifelong opportunities for all</td>
<td>• Facilitate learning</td>
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<td>SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</td>
<td>• Access to information to broaden and deepen the discussion</td>
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<td>• Information for policy development of gender-related issues</td>
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Open Access

- Ready access to information
- Open access information freely available
- Libraries leading the way
Impact of Open Access

- Massive increase in publishing open access
- Refocusing of services for academic libraries
- Development of OA policies
- Establishment of OA repositories

- Directory of Open Access Journals
  - 4.45 m articles, over 14,000 journals, 130 countries

- African Journals OnLine (AJOL)
  - 524 journals (50% open access), 170,493 full text articles for download (65% open access)
Open Access Publishing

- Publishing models
  - Gold, Green & Diamond
- Issues
  - Pay to publish - APCs
  - Predatory publishers
- Some solutions
  - Funding body mandates
    - Plan S (cOAlition S)
  - Transformative Agreements
  - Library as publisher
Unesco and Open Access

- Unesco was one of the first agencies to commit to OA
  - Openness in scientific research
  - Open Access Policy
  - Open Access Portal
  - Joint statement with COAR

- “Given that these goals must be achieved globally, there is an absolute need to remove restrictions to disseminate research outputs to intended stakeholders, irrespective of their geographic location and financial status of those institutions and individuals seeking information” (Unesco 2015)
Australian Libraries
SDG Priorities

• Open access to research outputs
  • As a default, government-funded research data and findings are made freely and publicly available immediately upon publication
  • Open access to scholarly journal articles and datasets overtakes locked content in terms of volume
  • Australian copyright legislation supports open access
CAUL Report 2019: UN SDGs

CAUL Strategic priority for 2017-2019

“Fair, affordable and open access to knowledge”
Open Scholarship

- Open Access Research
- Open Access Data (underpins the research)
- Open Educational Resources (OERs)
- Open source software
Promotion and Advocacy

• Workshops and forums
• Open Access Week
  • CDU Library OA Award
  • Seminars
• Online resources
• Social media
• elists
Policy & Procedures

- **Policies**
  - Open Access Policy
  - Responsible Conduct of Research Policy
- **Procedures**
  - Open Access Procedures
  - Research Data Management Procedures
Conclusion

• Access to information is critical to realising SDGs
• Open Access is ‘access to information’
• Libraries have major role to play
• The enabling environment:
  • Promotion and advocacy
  • Training and consultation
  • Technology & infrastructure
  • Policy & procedures
Thank You!
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