Lessons from the pandemic: an Australasian perspective

2nd Open Science Conference
July 21-23, 2021

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Director, Open Access Australasia
28 universities across Australia & New Zealand, Creative Commons Australia & Tohatoha Aotearoa Commons
Chair of Executive Committee, Martin Borchert, UNSW
We collaborate widely across the Australasian sector

Principles
● equity in scholarly communications, to access & publish research
● diverse ecosystem of open access approaches
● integrity and quality in research
● maximisation of the impact of research
● appropriate and respectful use of Indigenous knowledges
● retention of rights by authors or their institutions

https://oaaustralasia.org/
A brief view from Australasia

Open science initiatives triggered by COVID-19

Discussions on a Australian national approach to open research

2021 in Australasian open science

Lessons from the pandemic for the next crisis
Australasian open science initiatives triggered by COVID-19

Open science: after the COVID-19 pandemic there can be no return to closed working
Some of the best pandemic science communication came from New Zealand!

Council of Australian University Librarians and Open Access Australasia: discussions on a national approach to open research

March 2020
Roundtable Canberra
Cancelled!

June 2020
First online Roundtable

Webinars with international and national experts

November 2020
Review of international strategies and meetings with international experts

December 2020
Second online Roundtable

January 2021 -
Discussions with Chief Scientist and National Science and Technology Council

https://oaaustralasia.org/2021/01/31/making-the-case-for-a-national-approach-for-open-research-in-australia/
Case studies illustrate need for a coordinated approach

Spending on open research neither coordinated nor transparent

Responses to specific issues often siloed by sector & availability
2021 in Australasian open science - policy

Australia’s Chief Scientist, Dr Cathy Foley, has named Open Access as one of the key pillars of her strategic work plan, and is the government’s champion for Open Access in Australia.

NHMRC open access policy review
“These advantages of open access publishing have been clearly demonstrated over the last 15 months as governments have relied on emerging science for evidence-based policy to address the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Australian Academy of Science “maintains that the advancement of scientific knowledge is best served through the free, open, and accessibly distribution of high-quality peer-reviewed research.”

Office of the Chief Scientist openaccess@chiefscientist.gov.au
“Open scholarship and FAIR scholarly practices support the efficient dissemination of knowledge to researchers, students, policy makers and to the wider public, facilitate faster scientific discovery and problem solving, and underpin the integrity of research.”

“What has been made apparent during COVID-19 is the need for a broad conversation about how research publications are disseminated – specifically the need for universal open access to research globally.”

CONZUL open access project “Only two out of five articles by New Zealand researchers are free-to-access”

https://oaaustralasia.org/2020/12/21/what-a-year-its-been/
https://www.universitiesnz.ac.nz/sites/default/files/uni-nz/documents/oa-infographic_20200820%5B1%5D.pdf
https://peerj.com/articles/11417/
Lessons from the pandemic for the next crisis

Open science practices are essential across the research life cycle
● these practices were not systematically planned or implemented
● the infrastructure for open science is fragmented, fragile and lacking capacity

The change in how we worked had some positive effects
● a wider range of people could participate in online global conversations
● interest in open book publishing driven by inequity of current models

Free now does not mean open forever
● terms are still being dictated by service providers, not users
● a system-wide shift to a “bibliodiverse” open ecosystem requires political will and global collaboration

open > free

https://opensocialwork.org/research/open-science
https://www.differen.com/difference/Equality-vs-Equity
Feedback and follow up welcome!

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