



# Open Access Initiatives

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# What is Open Access

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- Open Access is free, immediate, permanent online access to the full text of research articles for anyone, web wide.
- In general, Open Access (OA) stands for unrestricted access and unrestricted reuse.



# Emergence of Open Access

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Emerged in response to address problem of escalating cost of journals, which had made their access restrictive

- Three groups took initiatives towards OA:



# 1. Budapest OA Initiative

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**Took place in 2001**

- **Where term “Open Access” was coined**
- **Two strategies of Green OA and Gold OA devised**



## 2. Bethesda Statement

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- Was in 2003
- To promote gradual transition to OA publishing within biochemical community



# Bethseda cont.

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- Stated:
- Results of current scientific research should be as openly accessible and freely usable as possible



## 3. Berlin Declaration on OA

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- Was in 2003

- Further emphasized on OA to knowledge

“Our mission of disseminating knowledge is only half complete if information is not widely and readily available to society”.....through classical form & also support OA via internet



# Other endeavours shaping OA

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- 1. Organization for Economic cooperation and development's (OECD) Declaration on Access to Research Data from Public Funding (2004)
- 2. International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions' (IFLA) statement on OA to Scholarly Literature and Research Documentation (2004)





## Other endeavours cont.

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- Therefore, Open Access we see today is a contribution from diverse international organizations.



# Means to achieve OA goal

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- There are two commonly discussed means:
  - 1. Establishment of a “new generation of journals, “that do not charge subscription or access fees (“gold” road)-authors publish in open access journals



## Means to achieve OA cont.

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- 2. Author self-archiving and /or commitment to deposit a digital copy of a publication to a publicly accessible Website (“green” road)-authors publish in any journal and then self archive a version of their article in their institutional repository



# OA Benefits

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- **Researchers** have wider visibility & usage of their research findings
- Significantly larger & more diverse audience
- Increased citation rates
- Provides an avenue to connect with a global society more easily



## OA Benefits cont.

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- OA provides free articles for **teaching & learning**. This puts rich & poor on equal footing
- **Readers** globally have barrier free access to the latest literature



## OA Benefits cont.

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- **Society** as a whole benefits from an expanded & accelerated research cycle in which research can advance more effectively as researchers have immediate access to all the findings they need.



## OA Benefits cont.

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- **Journals & Publishers**-OA makes their articles more visible, discoverable, retrievable and useful-readers & citations
- **Funding agencies**- OA increases return on their investment in research, making results of funded research more widely available, discoverable & usable



## OA Benefits cont.

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- **Citizens**-gives access to the research for which they pay taxes. Also translation of research into new medicine, useful technology, solved problems and informed decisions that benefit everyone
- **Libraries**-solves pricing & permissions crisis for scholarly journals





# Barriers to OA in Developing Countries

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- Internet & ICT-high cost of availability of ICT, connectivity & poor telecommunication infrastructure. This makes use of OA journals, repositories & software implementation more difficult
- Funding to upgrade internet infrastructure



## OA Barriers cont.

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- Inadequate advocacy and misconceptions-lack of awareness & misconceptions of existence & benefits of OA publishing
- Managing intellectual property rights through alternative publishing agreements-copyright issues



## Barriers to OA cont.

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- In spite of all these obstacles, there are positive indications to OA initiatives
- Reflecting back on research information related problems faced by developing countries, Prof. Abukutsa (2010) said there had been two-fold problems in the past:



# Barriers to OA cont.

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- 1. Inability to afford subscription to journal articles
- 2. Inability to integrate national research into the global knowledge pool



# Institutional Repositories

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- Also known as digital repositories or open access repositories
- Are digital collections that make their contents freely available over the internet



# Institutional Repositories cont.

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- Collect research output of the members of research community & support archiving & long-term preservation of institution's intellectual output.
- IRs are part of OA Initiative ("green" road)



# University of Nairobi IR

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- Demonstration
- [erepository.uonbi.ac.ke](http://erepository.uonbi.ac.ke)



# Thank you!

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- Asanteni nyote.