



IFLA's global voice

# “Open Access: an imperative for growth and development”

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South Africa



## IFLA's global voice

**What:** International NGO based in The Hague

Active since 1927

**How: Member based;** is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users.

**Figures:** nearly 1700 Members in 147 countries

**Purpose:** -Promote high standards of provision and delivery of library and information services

-Encourage widespread understanding of the value of good library & information services

-Represent the interests of our members throughout the world



**IFLA's global voice**

## 3 Regional offices in:

### **IFLA Africa**

based in **Pretoria, South Africa**

**IFLA Asia and Oceania** (includes the five sub-regions of Asia and Oceania:  
West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia and Oceania)

based in **Singapore**

### **IFLA Latin America & Caribbean**

based in **Rio de Janeiro**

## 3 Language centres:

**Arabic** - in Egypt **French for Africa** - in Senegal

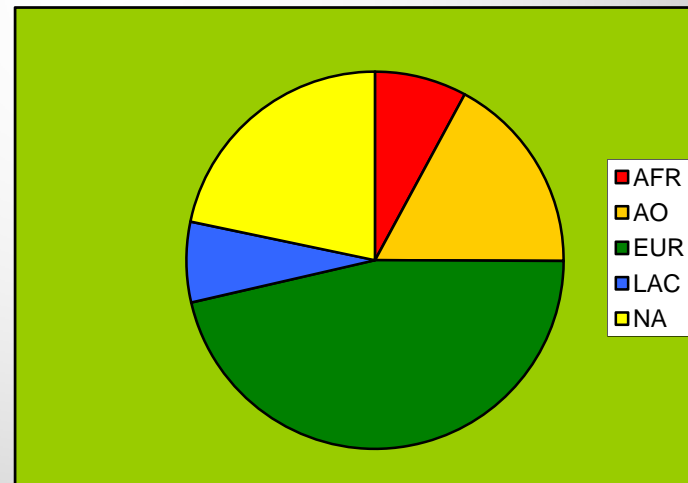
**Russian** - in Russian Federation



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# IFLA has nearly 1700 members in 147 countries

125 in Africa  
272 in Asia & Oceania  
734 in Europe  
109 in Latin America  
344 in North America





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45 Sections on Library Types *Library Collections* **Library Services** Support of the Profession **Regions**

11 Special Interest Groups

6 Core activities:

FAIFE, CLM, ALP, PAC, UNIMARC, ICADS



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## IFLA Core Values

**We believe that people,  
communities and organizations need  
for their physical, mental,  
democratic and economic well-  
being, free access to information,  
ideas and works of imagination**



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## Professional Values

### **Balancing the Intellectual Property Rights of Authors with the Needs of Users**

IFLA assumes a dual responsibility, both to the producers of intellectual property and to libraries as representatives of information users, because safeguarding and providing access to products of the mind are fundamental to the growth of knowledge.

IFLA works to protect the rights of authors and the role of libraries by playing an active role with organizations such as WIPO and UNESCO in the drafting of appropriate treaties and legislative models which recognize the rights of authors and the needs of users.



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IFLA also works to assure that intellectual property rights support the universal availability of information by such activities as encouraging national legislation for legal deposit and assuring the right of libraries to make copies of published documents in a manner consistent with principles of fair use. Safeguarding these rights must involve both the owners of intellectual property and its users. It necessitates working in collaboration with authors, publishers and librarians



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## OA: an imperative for growth and dev.

- . Bridging the digital divide
- . Other barriers to access to information
- . OA window of opportunity for DCs
- . Strategies to develop OA in DCs
- . Some examples
- . Conclusion



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## Bridging the digital divide

Consensus that ICT hold great promise for development by connecting people to more accurate and up-to-date sources of information and knowledge

However, evidence so far shows that the benefits accrued have been inequitably distributed in most developing countries



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## Bridging the digital divide

Inequality of access to information and technological advantages among scientists becomes a crucial factor in formal Science, and Africa can be said to be suffering from a scientific information famine

Growth of and reliance on ICTs crucial factor in accelerating the transition to the knowledge economy



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## Bridging the digital divide

The Internet is the backbone of the open access

Equal access to knowledge difficult to attain  
where are there technical limitations or barriers to  
Internet access

The digital divide between the developed and the  
developing countries has a negative impact on  
the actualisation of the OA initiative in developing  
countries



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## Bridging the digital divide

Despite the rapid rate of Internet penetration, Africa and other developing countries still lag behind in Internet connectivity

Inadequate technological infrastructure not only block information flows but ultimately stifle social and economic development



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## Bridging the digital divide

The key questions therefore is:

“Will open access help to bridge the digital divide for developing countries?”



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## Other barriers to access to information

Scholars in developing countries merely 'active consumers' and 'passive contributors' – reading only research works in open access journals and archives – not contributing

Not in the best interest of the developing countries as most of the research will focus on issues affecting countries from the perspective of the developed world



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## Other barriers to access to information

Inadequate research funding affects quality

The requirement for payment of author's fees or article processing fee in open access publications

Some scholars choose not to publish in OA journals to avoid embarrassment of having to apply for waiving of charges on the ground of financial need



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## Other barriers to access to information

Lack of awareness and misconception of open access scholarship

Poor access to scientific publications from developed countries, exacerbated by the institution of copyright

Financial constraints –subscription costs are very high coupled with stringent conditions for their use and sharing



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## Other barriers to access to information

Scientists not connected to the Internet are excluded automatically from publishing in, and benefitting from a growing number of OA journals

Internet connection still requires a telephone line  
– at least 80% of the world population does not have access to one



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## Other barriers to access to information

Electronic publications are presently as exorbitant and difficult to access as their printed-paper counterparts

Issue regarding freedom of information – access to the Internet brings with it free access to information – therefore if the political climate of the country does not permit such access, then OA cannot succeed in that country



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## OA window of opportunity for DCs

Overwhelming evidence for the disparity in scientific output between the developing and already developed countries

Sufficient basis to suggest that part of the reasons for the low profile is poor access to scientific publications



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## OA window of opportunity for DCs

Known fact that the Internet provides a bonanza of knowledge – the new revolutionary instrument for accessing knowledge

Scientists in developing countries can freely access hundreds of scientific journals, etc.

Represents considerable progress compared with the situation a few years ago



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## OA window of opportunity for DCs

Many opportunities for scholars from DCs to deposit their articles in OA archives/databases

Developing electronic publishing can help to overcome some of the weaknesses of local journal publishing

No assurance that OA initiatives championed by Western scholars and associations will ultimately serve the benefit of Southern scholars



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## Strategies to develop OA in DCs

- .Governments be committed to funding research efforts of their scholars and academics
- .Governments endeavour to improve the standard of ICT in their countries – important as the Internet is the back-bone of the OA initiative
- .Educational and research institutions should assist in payment of authors fees for publications by their scholars in OA journals
- . Institutions should endeavour to establish institutional archives



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## Strategies to develop OA in DCs

- .Institutions as well as professional bodies should endeavour to spread awareness of OA
- . Organisations and groups should assist in funding the research efforts of scholars in developing countries as well as undertaking the cost of making freely available material accessible (Christian, Gideon Emcee)



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## Strategies to develop OA in DCs

- .Government commitment and funding
- Adopt collaborative strategies with agencies and institutions where research infrastructures are better developed
- .Institutions grant funds to offer free access to their readers
- .Institutions willing to financing the model
- .Encourage trained people to support and use the OA solution



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## Strategies to develop OA in DCs

- . Training users and developers a high priority
- . Policy support for an OA strategy needs to expand to include all key players at the governmental and departmental levels, IT professionals, and computer users  
(Ahmed, Allam)



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## Examples

.HINARI

.AGORA

.INASP

.ePol-Net mode

.NEPAD ICT Task Force

.African Virtual University (AVU)

.UNITWIN

.WHO Free Medical Journals Initiative



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## Conclusion

- .With less funding available to libraries and educational institutions in the developing world, the benefit of open access cannot be over-emphasised
- . Will ensure stable development in these countries, as well as curb the 'brain drain' syndrome
- . Acceptance of OA is the most fundamental strategy for the progress of scientific exchange – groundwork for future innovations



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## Conclusion

.These innovations can become a reality with the continuing development of the Internet

. The priority, however, is still to get essential research information out to all research organisations, regardless of their ability to pay

“A united global development could lead to a monumental impact on scientific progress in all regions of the world, and, in turn, lead to major improvements in health and the control of infectious diseases, in agriculture and monitoring the environment. and so to the relief of poverty”



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Thank you for your attention!