

# Chapter 8

## Open E–Resources in Libraries

**Vesna Injac-Malbaša**  
National Library of Serbia, Serbia

### ABSTRACT

*In general, electronic resources include articles, online journals, e-books, e-theses, databases, Websites, portals, gateways, blogs, etc. The author distinguishes Open Access (OA) resources mainly intended for researchers and open digital heritage mainly intended for the general public. The author's objective is to present the background of OA resources, different OA initiatives and software, first institutional repositories, open archives browsers and harvesters, open access registries, activities in Europe and UNESCO, and personalities who are the most important advocates of OA. Concerning the open digital heritage, the author's objective is to present the most important international and national projects like the European Library, Europeana, the World Digital Library, Gutenberg Project, Google Books Project, Hathitrust Digital Library, Digital Public Library of America, International Children's Digital Library, the Library of Congress Digital Library, Gallica of the French National Library, National Digital Library of China, etc. The author's opinion is that libraries have to accept all challenges of the open e-resources for researchers and open digital heritage and that the future of open access for all users is not impossible. The world's knowledge should be accessible as a public good to every citizen of the planet.*

### INTRODUCTION

In general, electronic resources include: articles, online journals, e-books, e-theses, databases, web sites, portals, gateways, blogs, etc. Electronic resources management is the practices and software systems used by libraries to keep track of important information about electronic information resources. Electronic resources are accessible in libraries as licensed (paid) services and open (free) e-resources. We can say that other name for open e-resources is open access resources. We can distinguish OA resources (articles, journals,

books, thesis, databases etc.), mainly intended for researchers, and open digital heritage (journals, books, non-book material, audio and video material, etc.), mainly intended for general public. Concerning OA resources for researchers our objective is to present the background of open access resources, different OA initiatives and software, first institutional repositories, open archives browsers and harvesters, open access registries, activities in Europe and UNESCO and personalities who are the most important advocates of OA. Concerning the open digital heritage our objective is to present the most important inter-

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national and national projects like The European Library, Europeana, The World Digital Library, Gutenberg project, Google books project, Hathitrust digital library, Digital public library of America, International children's digital library, The Library of Congress Digital Library, Gallica of the French National Library, National Digital Library of China etc.

## **1. OPEN ACCESS RESOURCES**

### **Open Access Resources Background**

Open access (OA) is an extremely actual topic in today's librarianship and information sciences, although it is not so new. OA literature is digital, online, free of charge and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. OA removes price barriers (subscriptions, licensing fees, pay-per-view fees) and permission barriers (most copyright and licensing restrictions). The legal basis of OA is the consent of the copyright holder (for newer literature) or the expiration of copyright (for older literature).

Since 1991, a physicist Paul Henry Ginsparg created software that allowed authors to enter by themselves their papers in the pre-print archive called arXiv. Ginsparg was a junior fellow and taught in the physics department at Harvard University until 1990. The pre-print archive was developed while he was a member of staff of Los Alamos National Laboratory, 1990–2001. Since 2001, Ginsparg has been a professor of Physics and Computing and Information Science at Cornell University. The e-print arXiv (where "e-print" means self-archiving by the author) since its inception in 1991 has become a major forum for dissemination of results in physics and mathematics. The arXiv is an example of a service created by a group of specialists for their own use: when researchers create such service, the results often differ from the services provided by publishers

and libraries. The original objective of the e-print arXiv was to provide functionality that was not otherwise available, and to provide a level playing field for researchers at different academic levels and different geographic locations - the reduction in cost of dissemination came as an unexpected advantage.

In 1994, Stevan Harnad suggested at the Princeton University that all researchers should independently store an electronic copy of each published paper on university servers and make them available free of charge. Harnad's research interests are in cognitive science and open access. He is currently Canada Research Chair in cognitive science at Université du Québec à Montréal and professor of cognitive science at the University of Southampton. Harnad is an active promoter of open access and his opinion is that the research access and impact problems arise because journal articles are not accessible to all users and researchers are losing potential impact. The solution is to make all articles open access, free for all. OA articles have significantly higher citation impact than non-OA articles. There are two roads to OA: the "golden" road (publish the article in an OA journal) and the "green" road (publish the article in a non-OA journal but also self-archive it in an OA archive). Only 5% of journals are gold, but over 90% are already green (publishers given their authors the green light to self-archive); yet only about 10-20% of articles have been self-archived. To reach 100% OA, self-archiving needs to be mandated by researchers' employers and funders, as the United Kingdom and the United States have recently recommended, and universities need to implement that mandate.

For researchers and their institutions the main goal is to maximize access to research information and it is not just promotional slogan. Why? Because without OA everyone is at loss: users lose their access, authors lose their impact, and research fails to progress further. In April 2013 Harnad requests not to have different colors of OA as "diamond," "platinum" and "titanium," as

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