

2024 OASPA Conference

Sessions Abstracts

Conference Keynotes

Maurice York (Big Ten Academic Alliance) on efforts to grow a sustainable Diamond OA publishing network in the U.S. and Canada

Rebecca Ross (Creative Commons)

For the past two years, Creative Commons, along with partners EIFL and SPARC have been leading the Open Climate Campaign, an initiative that has the ambitious goal of ensuring open access to all climate research. Today, Rebecca will be providing an overview of a project called "Unbinding" which was incubated as part of the Open Climate Campaign with the goal of ensuring that every paper cited in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment reports are open access. This session is a call to action for the OASPA community to find ways to collaborate on collective climate action thus contributing to the mitigation of the climate crisis.

Devika Madalli (INFLIBNET and OA India Forum) Open Access: Let's walk the talk

Open Science ensures equitable access to knowledge while facilitating the reuse of knowledge resources. Barrier free access to information and knowledge is a basic requirement for realizing the goals of Open Science. After three decades of the inception Open Access to knowledge resources, especially scholarly publications, they still continue to remain behind paywalls. The costs of subscriptions are prohibitive for academics. While subscription costs have steadily increased, the budget of libraries have reduced. On the open access front, APCs are high enough to be prohibitive for authors to publish especially for the authors from Global South. For these reasons it is necessary to remove such barriers that deter access to scholarly publications. There are obviously challenges to achieve open access in its true form where there is 'no payment at any stage in any form' for accessing knowledge. If true open access is to be realized, there needs to be a disruption in the present cycle of scholarly publishing models, there needs to be a paradigm shift in the way research is evaluated and new design of metrics. The keynote highlights the different challenges that prove to be barriers in realizing the goals of open access and attempts to discuss possible solutions.

Monday September 16

Opening panel discussions & Q&A : Who cares about equity? How different stakeholders of the open access scholarly publishing landscape approach equity

Equity seems to be the buzzword of the hour in scholarly publishing. We all talk about it, yet what do we really mean? Do we grasp the essence of equity and its implications amongst all the chatter? How do different stakeholders of the scholarly publishing landscape approach equity, define it, and act on it? Join us to investigate the multilayered notion of equity in the open scholarship ecosystem through the voices of various stakeholders operating in different contexts and different geographical and economic circumstances. The panel will also look into how equity morphs when viewed through the diverse perspectives of stakeholders.

Panel : Show me the money: decoupling OA from per-publication journal charges

This panel explores the shift from APC-based Open Access models to equitable, community-funded initiatives like Diamond OA and Subscribe to Open (S2O), in particular, focusing on the interplay between social justice and financial sustainability. How can we, as an industry, develop and implement sustainable non-APC based funding models for Open Access?

Tuesday September 17

Panel : Open Access and Precarity in the Academic Landscape: Learning from the Experiences of Authors and Scholar-led Publishers

This panel will reflect on how precarity (a key issue facing academics in many international contexts) relates to OA book publishing. It will consider this issue from the point of view of academics (particularly early career researchers, or ECRs) and scholar-led publishers. This panel will identify the essential issues and aim to correct some misconceptions related to this challenge.

Panel : Improving technical standards and practices for Diamond OA - lessons learned from the CRAFT-OA project

What are the technical challenges for smaller, Diamond, open access publishers and platforms, and how can the OA community best address them? Panellists will share experiences and learning to date from the Horizon Europe CRAFT-OA project on implementing practices and standards in the light of the FAIR principles. This will form the basis for the discussion around the experiences and perspectives of other regions and contexts. How can publishers gain skills in and use standards and best practice to improve the professionalism, visibility and findability of their publications?

Panel : Openness and robust scholarship in the age of generative AI

Concerns have been voiced by some parts of the community that publishers' commercial interests inevitably compromise academic rigor. The widespread public adoption of generative AI is a boon to those wanting to commit misconduct - are different types of publishers more susceptible to these risks, or are we collectively facing the same challenges? This panel aims to cast a diversity of perspectives on how the Open Access model interplays with challenges imposed on the research community caused by the increasing use of generative AI.

Panel : Assessing the Real-World ROI: Tracing the True Value of Open Access Publishing

Aims to address the financial and practical implications of Open Access (OA) publishing and its return on investment (ROI). Featuring industry experts, including publishers, solution providers, and global access initiative representatives, this session will delve into the multifaceted approaches to determining OA's value. The discussion will focus on several key points: evaluating impact metrics beyond traditional citation counts, considering the societal benefits of OA such as public engagement and global research equity, understanding the varying perspectives of stakeholders in the OA ecosystem, and speculating on future trends that could reshape the assessment of OA's value. Stakeholders will emerge with the knowledge to make informed decisions and strategic investments in the future of scholarly publishing, ensuring that the potential of OA to democratize knowledge is fully realized without overlooking the economic considerations it entails.

Wednesday September 18

Panel : Building Equity in Open Access: Tools, Frameworks, Practices & People

Exploring practical initiatives to remove barriers and foster inclusivity in research dissemination. Covering new concepts for pricing, emerging assessment-frameworks, harnessing of networks, use of open infrastructures, connecting people and more, panellists will share their thinking about shifting from ideology to implementation in the area of equitable open access.

Panel : All impact, no factor? How to assess the benefits of OA books and infrastructure

We will host a rich discussion exploring how we can maximise and demonstrate the benefits of OA for books without falling into the traps of impact factors and metricization. Our panellists will draw on their experience with different facets of OA book publishing, including dissemination, policymaking, usage data collection, and readership, as well as publishing and writing OA books. Join us and take part in the conversation!

Panel : Addressing Integrity and Building Trust in Open Scholarly Publishing

What are the unintended consequences of open and inclusive practices on research integrity and how can we mitigate these risks? This panel explores new screening tools and initiatives and looks at how they can support publishers of all sizes to ensure adherence of articles and journals to scholarly standards. We will also look at open and transparent peer review - can it restore public trust in science? What outdated practices and gatekeeping in peer review need review?