

STATEMENT ON OPEN SCHOLARSHIP

Context

CAUL is the peak leadership organisation for university libraries in Australia. Its mission is to enhance the value and capacity of Australian university libraries and to influence scholarship, learning, and information policies and practices relevant to Australian higher education.

Open Scholarship is a core issue for CAUL.

Open Scholarship is an umbrella term used to describe developments such as open access¹, open education, open science and other “open” initiatives. It reflects the increasingly open nature of access to information, research collaboration and the sharing and re-use of research data and educational resources. The free flow of information and ideas underpins excellence in scholarship. It contributes to the building of informed communities, reduces barriers to learning, facilitates the elimination of social and economic disadvantage and fosters international collaboration and understanding. It also serves to strengthen Australia’s position in the knowledge economy.

CAUL acknowledges declarations in support of open access from the OECD, the World Summit on the Information Society, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), universities and university groups, scientists, researchers, educators, research funding organisations, and from many bodies dedicated to the advancement of knowledge and the building of open democratic societies.

Recognising the benefits of the wide dissemination of research, an increasing number of funding organisations around the world have released policy statements to stipulate that the findings of publicly funded research be made available to the public as soon as possible through open access repositories. In Australia, this is reflected in the policies of the National Health and Medical Research Council² and the Australian Research Council³.

Advancing Open Scholarship is dependent on systems of publishing and communication and on the preservation of the scholarly record for future use, enabling the rapid and affordable dissemination of the outcomes of research and scholarship and the data that produces those outcomes.

¹ Open Access may be achieved in a variety of ways including publication in an open access journal or other open scholarly medium or deposit in an open access repository but its availability must satisfy the definition of open access in the Budapest Open Access Initiative 2002 (<http://www.soros.org/openaccess/read.shtml>):

By 'open access' to this literature, we mean its free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited.

For an overview of Open Access see <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm>

² For information on the NHMRC’s policy decision on the dissemination of research findings, see <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/policy/nhmrc-open-access-policy>

³ For information on the ARC Open access policy, see <http://www.arc.gov.au/arc-open-access-policy>

The support of Open Scholarship by CAUL recognises that:

- Digital communications offer opportunities for the development of more efficient and effective systems for the dissemination of information including scholarly publishing.
- Research is increasingly conducted globally by collaborations facilitated by grids of communications and computing power. Access to shared information resources assists such endeavours.
- Open access to the outcomes of scholarship enhances the profile of universities, researchers and research programs, contributes to the further advancement of knowledge, enhances open online courses and highlights the contributions of research funders.
- Maintaining the quality and authority of scholarly publishing; the integrity of the scholarly record and the rights of creators is of critical importance and integral to open scholarship.

Goals

CAUL and its members seek to facilitate Open Scholarship by:

- Collaborating with researchers, educators, universities and publishers to raise awareness of the principles, practice and benefits of open access publishing.
- Collaborating with organisations worldwide in promoting open scholarship.
- Working with researchers, educators and others to enable appropriate open access to both their published works, their primary research data and educational resources.
- Advocating and implementing policies to ensure fair use of copyrighted information for educational and research purposes.
- Cooperating with the Australian Government to improve access to scholarly information through maximising the amount of information in the public domain or otherwise available without economic restriction through open access to publicly funded research findings and data.
- Developing infrastructure components, including institutional repositories, that will facilitate open access to scholarly information.

1 October 2010, updated & endorsed 17 September 2015