

Time to Open the Discussion on Open Access

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What are your views on the topic of open access publishing? Are you for it, against it, suspicious of it, ambivalent? We're hoping that whatever your views, you'll be interested in some of the events in store in the upcoming Open Access event, April 27-28.

The most important moral argument I have for open access publishing, especially in the digital era, is this: the content of academic journals is based on the hard work of the authors and peer reviewers, none of whom get paid for publishing their articles in academic journals. And yet, publishers charge readers for access to those articles, the marginal cost of which is almost zero for the digitally published versions of the journals. The research those academic authors have done is often funded by governmental organizations, i.e. taxpayer money, and yet taxpayers (who have already paid indirectly) are asked to pay again to read the results of that research.

I believe that many of the arguments against open access publishing are based on myths/misconceptions about quality, payment structures and the ways it can be achieved, as I discuss in Bali (2013). I also got together with Mark Muehlhaeusler from AUC library (another advocate of open access, and wrote an article (2014) about why (Arab) academics should care about open access publishing, and what they can do about it.

Mark also suggested it was time AUC led an event on open access, and to open that event to the public. Since then, we have been working with Meggan Houlihan from the library and with Access to Knowledge for Development (A2K4D) via Dr. Nagla Rizk and Nadine Weheba, through whom we have been able to involve prominent open access advocates nationally and internationally.

The event will include workshops and a joint panel by two guest visitors Nicholas Cop (representing the Latin American open access initiative SciELO) and Iryna Kuchma (representing the international organization EIFL). Another panel on Open Access in Egypt includes panelists from BibAlex, OpenEgypt, Tahrir Academy, Open Knowledge Foundation, and Cairo University. There will be also a panel on copyright and disseminating research, including panelist from within and outside of AUC.

Event Program

Sunday, April 27, 2014

All sessions will be held in the Conference and Visitor Center, room P020.

| Time | Workshop Title |
|---------------------|--|
| 9:30 - 10:15 am | What is Open Access? (Student Edition / Faculty Edition) |
| 10:30 am – 12:00 pm | SciELO Strategy to Increase Visibility of Developing and Emerging Countries Journals. Speaker: Nicholas Cop |
| 1:00 - 2:00 pm | Panel on Open Access Initiatives on a Regional and Global Scale Speakers: Nicholas Cop and Iryna Kuchma |
| 2:00 - 3:00 pm | Panel on Open Access in the Arab world. Hala Essalmawi, Bibliotheca Alexandrina |

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| | Seif Abou Zeid, Tahrir Academy Ahmed Hussein, Open Egypt Tarek Amr, Open Knowledge Foundation Egypt Respondent: Ramy Aziz, Cairo University & PLoS One Moderator: Nadine Weheba, A2K4D, AUC |
| 3:00 - 4:00 pm | Panel on Disseminate Your Research Ryder Kouba, DAR Representative, LLT, AUC Ahmed Mostafa, Department of Biology, AUC Ramy Aziz, PLoS One and Cairo University Mark Muehlhaeusler, LLT, AUC |

Monday, April 28, 2014

| Time | Workshop Title |
|---------------------|---|
| 10:30 am - 12:00 pm | International Open Access Policy Landscape and Why You Should Take Action Now. Speaker: Iryna Kuchma |
| 1:00 - 2:00 pm | Panel on Copyright Sherif Kassas, CS, AUC Hoda Mostafa, CLT/SSE, AUC Naghham el Houssamy, A2K4D, AUC Laura Bradford, Law, AUC Moderator: Mark Muehlhaeusler, LLT, AUC |
| 2:00 - 3:00 pm | Open Educational Resources: what they are and how to find them Speaker: Maha Bali, CLT, AUC |
| 3:00 - 4:00 pm | Open Journal System (OJS) Workshop. Speaker: Mark Muehlhaeusler, LLT, AUC |

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Location: Library Building – Room 1021

| Time | Workshop Title |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1:00 - 2:00 pm | Panel on Tenure and Altmetrics |

The event is free and open to the public, and most sessions will take place in CVC P020. The event will also be live-streamed via AUC's YouTube channel. To sign up, please email openaccess@aucegypt.edu or register at www.tinyurl.com/OpenAccessAUC - and to participate via twitter, use the hashtag #auco

To view the event website, visit www.tinyurl.com/AUCOpenAccess

REFERENCES

Bali, M. (2013, November 25). A map for the maze of open access publishing. *Al-Fanar Media*. Retrieved from: <http://www.al-fanarmedia.org/2013/11/a-guide-to-the-maze-of-open-access-publishing/>

Bali, M. & Muehlhaeusler, M. (2014, March 25). Take advantage of open access publishing. *Al-Fanar Media*. Retrieved from: <http://www.al-fanarmedia.org/2014/03/open-access/>