
The essays in this book draw a comprehensive picture of the open source software (OSS) design principles, their successes, and how they are extending beyond the software domain to engage new disciplines. A brief history of the open source software movement is included to assist readers in building a picture of the field. A combination of tables, case examples and figures are used to illustrate the technical concepts introduced in the essays, making complex concepts accessible to readers outside the software field. Essays, like the one exploring how social capital is generated in OSS communities, reach well beyond the software domain to engage other related disciplines and concepts. This book is likely to appeal to researchers and information practitioners seeking to understand OSS implementation, its principles and successes. – RM


This book offers readers an accessible introduction to the open access movement, including basic concepts, important names, issues, controversies, ways to take action, and key resources. Crawford provides a detailed listing of resources on open access, including books, websites, blogs, and what he defines as “key sources.” Summarizing key and perceived controversies, this book provides a solid overview of the open access movement, introducing the complexities of the movement and presenting them in a way that is meaningful to librarians, students, and researchers. – RM


Electronic Publishing: Politics and Pragmatics questions the cost and efficiency of traditional printing methods of scholarly publications in the humanities. This book looks at the new frontier of electronic publication technologies that facilitate the dissemination of knowledge without the large financial investments of traditional publication. The politics of this emerging field are discussed by a team of seasoned academics. They delve into such topics as intellectual property rights, coding standards and the new knowledge economy in the humanities disciplines. – MM
Global Wikipedia is an apt title, as the editors of this book seek to highlight the global dimensions of the well-known Wikipedia phenomenon. Finchman and Hara provide an in-depth case study into the highly controversial open access resource, focusing on its transnational and multilingual properties; up to 80% of the articles on Wikipedia are written in languages other than English. The editors are particularly interested in exploring the interaction between the social aspects of Wikipedia and the underlying technology. Topics covered include the importance of maintaining neutrality, the gender gap in contributions to articles, and the role that “bots” play in producing content. - MR

Editors Drs. Andrew Flinn and Harriet Jones have compiled this collection of essays focusing on the impact, successes, and difficulties of the Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation that has been passed in many countries worldwide. The essays are divided into three subject areas. The first section focuses on the social and academic implications of FOI legislation in Great Britain. The second section examines the effects of the legislation in other countries, including the Netherlands, the USA, Sweden, and Canada. The third section of the book focuses on archives, information access, and methods of historical research. The essays are written by an international group of senior archivists and historians, and would be of interest to students, researchers, and practitioners. - JCa

Responding to the discourse on the contested value of open access, Hall communicates the potential of open access publishing to transform conventional “papercentric” scholarship and democratize access to knowledge. Hall weighs the intellectual, political, and ethical implications of open access, and ultimately advocates for the use of open access as a mechanism for dissolving existing barriers to knowledge around the university. Hall is considered a pioneer in the field of open access publishing in the humanities, and is concerned with distinctions between authors and readers and with how emerging media may dissolve boundaries between disciplines. This book looks at how we can reconceptualize academia and scholarly practice by eliminating elitist attitudes and delimiting access to knowledge. The book is useful to readers concerned with the construction and dissemination of scholarly knowledge and the possible ramifications of open access and digital media in transforming the conventional approach to knowledge production and control. - RM

Jacob’s book compiles analyses from multiple experts on the technical and economic aspects of open access. As a springboard, the foreword describes the damaging monopoly held by commercial publishers over academic scholarship, and thus ideas and knowledge. The book examines self-archiving, the growth of the open access movement, creative commons and discussion forums, the evolution of scholarly publishing in response to the movement, the movement’s sustainability, and misconceptions common to the very definition of open access. – LM


*Libraries driving access to knowledge* is a multi-national endeavour in the field of Access to Knowledge (A2K). It features contributions from authors worldwide, culminating in 15 chapters dedicated to the theme of Ellen Tise’s (president of the IFLA from 2009-2011) presidency theme of the role of libraries in driving access to knowledge. The book presents case studies and academic papers about current and possible future practices in providing access to knowledge in libraries, and the use of technology to support this initiative. The book is divided according to 4 sub-themes, which make up the four major sections: User-oriented A2K Actions, Libraries and Life-Long Learning, Libraries as Space and Place in A2K, and Other A2K Theme Approaches. Those interested in learning more about A2K, and in particular international perspectives of A2K, will find this an informative and thought-provoking read. - MR


This book makes accessible to readers the complete proceedings of the First World Summit on the Knowledge Society – WSKS 2008 – that was organized by the Open Research Society. The summit reflects a global attempt to encourage a dialogue on knowledge creation in contemporary society. The papers submitted for inclusion reflect a diversity of voices, including submissions from academics, information practioners, policy makers, politicians, government officers, and socially-engaged citizens representing 65 countries. The excellent quality of the research included in these proceedings provides readers will a sense of future directions in the development of an open knowledge society, and is likely to generate strong discussion. – RM

This bilingual compilation of papers presented at the 2011 IFLA Satellite Conference emphasizes the important role social science libraries play in contributing to sustainable development. The book is split into three parts which cover open archives and digital libraries and their potential in supporting social development, the specifics of information technologies in a Cuban context, and a discussion of the needs of students and future practitioners in social development. This publication is noteworthy for its commitment to accessibility by providing all the chapters in English and Spanish, as well as its narrow geographical focus on the Caribbean and Latin America. This book will particularly appeal to readers interested in issues of social development within the information field and those interested in this geographic area. The book also provides an excellent discussion on the history of Open Access for a wider readership. – MR


This text imparts to its readers a broad-scale overview of open source software (OSS) and those involved in the use, development and promotion of OSS technologies. The book, the results of work conducted by a research team over the course of five years, provides a rigorous investigation of Internet collaboration that is useful to researchers and information practitioners who seek to ground OSS practices in theory. The author’s use of case studies is useful in distinguishing between what makes some OSS commons successful and some not. Their framing of OSS commons as ecosystems with definable characteristics and community attributes uniquely positions this book among other books exploring the OSS movement. – RM


Peter Suber’s concise introduction to open access is a valuable resource for students, librarians, administrators, and information practitioners looking to acquire a general understanding of the issues, considerations and major topics related to open access. Intended to be both comprehensive and accessible to busy people, Suber provides a succinct introduction to the basics, including what open access is and is not, how it benefits authors and readers of research, how open access avoids copyright problems, how it has moved from the periphery to the mainstream, and what its future may hold. This book is an accessible introduction useful to anyone looking to acquire a general knowledge of open access. – RM

Coming from an author with a background in the philosophy of law, this book makes the case for a sui generis model of licensing for open source software. A well-researched and structured work, it moves logically from one chapter to another, each building on the previous. The book’s structure follows several key open source topics such as: the emergence of open source software, the legal governance structure, the licensing regime, and the intellectual property rights issues as they evolved over time. Vasudeva’s argument culminates in a proposed model law for open source licensing, based on multi-licensing schemes. A major concern is the tension between the freedom of information philosophy and the concerns of intellectual property rights in open source licensing, striking a better balance between the two. This will be a valuable resource for stakeholders who struggle with these concerns, as well as readers already familiar with intellectual property law. –MR

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In *Acquiring Copyright Permission to Digitize and Provide Open Access to Books*, author Denise Covey investigates aspects of open access to books with privately held rights. Covey describes three efforts the Carnegie Mellon University is taking to make books freely accessible on the Internet. Covey’s examination reveals a range of challenges, in addition to outlining strategies for success. – JCy

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Libraries and other information organizations are increasingly opting for open source software (OSS) solutions to generate transparency, save costs, enable citizen access and increase the efficiency of communicating and delivering services to users. This book offers five detailed real-world case studies from which to explore OSS adoption by information organizations. The case studies, drawn from both European and American organizations, provide a useful framework for comparing OSS adoption between organizations and interrogating the relevant issues and considerations that arise in the process. – RM

In a move away from theoretical considerations, Joel Gurin presents practical guidance on the diverse Open Data applications. Split into two sections, the book covers the opportunities for innovation access to Open Data creates, as well as the emerging trends in business and government. Part One deals with the advantages of using Open Data in start-ups, the Open Data tools for business analysis, using crowd sourcing to speed up innovation, and the possibilities for collaborative research. Part Two covers issues of security and privacy, and the implications for business and government in an “open world.” Gurin closes with a discussion on the future possibilities of using Open Data. Anyone looking to explore practical uses of Open Data beyond the academic and private sectors will find this an engaging and accessible read. - MR


Davis-Kahl and Hensley present a wide range of perspectives on the topics of information literacy and scholarly communication from many contributors. The unifying themes of the book are engaging in discussions about improving information literacy and scholarly communication, and raising awareness. Each chapter highlights different elements of importance such as: the ethical dimensions of increased access to knowledge, the open access needs of faculty and researchers, open access as a founding principle of librarianship, the benefits, values, and necessity of open access, and the importance of open access education. This book will serve as a valuable resource for teaching issues of open access and raising awareness of both its importance and its centrality to the future of scholarly communication. – MR


This volume of the White Papers discusses key topics in user and information access. Issues regarding litigation, privacy and network protection, and the standards relevant to user and information access are addressed. Planning considerations are outlined for those undertaking a significant IT project, including a discussion regarding standards, with particular attention paid to interoperability, and building proof of authenticity into the information infrastructure. Additionally, the paper describes the main drivers for architectural change. – TS

This collection of essays provides practical techniques and strategies for integrating the principles of open access into existing library activities. The essays trace the relationship between open access and technology, best practices and management considerations, copyright and open access journals in academic libraries, and strategies for evaluating the quality of open access collections. By relating the principles of open access to workable examples, this book is a reliable resource for administrators, information practitioners and policy makers seeking to identify best practices. Its international scope is reflective of the range of considerations raised in the use of open access in public, academic, government and special library collections.

-- RM


Editors Littlejohn and Pegler build on their previous work by re-visiting the issue of how open, online resources can be used and reused to support learning in a wide variety environments. It brings together empirical evidence and ideas from expert authors in the field of digital learning resources, and explores how the use of these resources has changed as they have become more mainstream and open, rather than only specialist tools. Specific topics covered include learning design, MOOCs, learning networks, learning analytics, and OERs. The book’s 3 sections cover the topics of life-long learning, workplace learning, and education. Section one focuses on learning beyond the academic and workplace spheres. Section two covers issues of intellectual property rights in opposition to principles of open access and open learning. Section three explores the design of open courses and the use of analytics to assess their potential. Educators and even administrators will find this a useful resource when looking into ways to reuse online resources. - MR


This book addresses the lack of current research examining how academic librarians have responded to the open access movement in their daily work and LIS publications. In addition to emphasizing the importance of keeping up-to-date on open access legislation, the book focuses on how open access affects collection development practices, public service work, and technical services work. -- JM

Solomon’s book is a practical guide for creating and disseminating open access, peer-reviewed scholarly journals. *Developing Open Access Journals: A Practical Guide* is a comprehensive handbook that provides the reader with the essentials for getting started with open access, from hosting, data systems, by-laws, financing and maintenance. Creating well-developed open access journals requires an interdisciplinary understanding that bridges the fields of library science, web development, intellectual property rights and publishing. – MM


Bailey offers an all-inclusive guide to resources on the open access movement, presenting over 1,300 books, conference papers, debates, editorials, e-prints, journal and magazine articles, new articles, and reports on the subject. In an effort to promote open access in practice, approximately 78% of the resources provided are freely available online. The book includes a section dedicated to open access concepts; here, the author concisely defines the movement itself and some of its most important concepts. *Open Access Bibliography*, which is also available for free online, is an essential starting point for researchers. – LM


Gérard Boismenu and Guylaine Beaudry examine the current state of scholarly journals and the many challenges involved in adapting to the ongoing social, economic, and technological transformations in the publishing sector. They advocate for many changes in the way scholarly journals are published, and they provide recommendations for new strategies. The book also contains information on how to create and publish a journal online in order to reach a wider audience. This book would be of interest to students, researchers, and others who are interested in scholarly or other non-profit publishing or the future of publishing in general. – JCa

Independent library consultant Martha Brogan wrote this book as part of her work for the Digital Library Federation and the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). She is currently on the CLIR’s Scholarly Communications Advisory Committee. This text is a significant volume in a series of work by the Digital Library Federation that focuses on the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH). Brogan offers a detailed examination of the current state of scholarly communications and digital libraries. She analyzes digital library aggregation services, including the obstacles to creating an open and widely accessible digital library. This book would be of particular interest to scholars and student who are keen to deepen their understanding of the standards, tools, and technologies that are part of building a successful digital library. – JCa


The primary goal of this survey was to gather information on whether and how ARL member libraries select, provide access to, catalogue, host, track usage of, and promote the use of open access research literature. Specifically, the ways in which ARL member libraries used established library resources, such as OPAC and link resolvers, were discussed. Notably, libraries provided links to journals, and category most commonly associated with the open access movement, law resources, and, to a lesser degree, conference proceedings and technical reports. The survey demonstrated that many libraries were actively involved with the open access movement, and readily educated faculty and students about issues in scholarly communication through websites, newsletters, and blogs.” – TS


Grey literature is comprised of current and original works which, although not readily available through conventional channels, are relevant to the LIS academic community. This 2005 conference highlights the grey literature community’s efforts to eliminate barriers to access. The articles, theses and dissertations, and summaries of presentations provide insight into the challenges and innovations that arose through increased access to grey literature. Issues regarding metadata to facilitate retrieval of grey reports, and how to make accessible to the end user, are discussed. – TS

The *Survey of Higher Education Faculty* is a series of twelve reports based on a survey of 555 full-time higher education faculty in the United States and Canada, conducted in 2009. The book presents the methodology, the survey instrument, a summary of main findings, and a series of response tables presented as percentages. The summary of main findings provides a concise and accessible overview of the results and conclusions drawn by the Primary Research Group concerning faculty perceptions of open access. – RM


SPEC Kit 311 explores the role that the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) member libraries play in supporting public access policies (PAP) in their institutions. ARL surveyed 123 member libraries in the US and Canada in February 2009, asking about staffing, partnerships, resources and services developed for public access policy (PAP) compliance support, and the challenges related to providing such support. The kit includes documentation from respondents in the form of PAP websites, faculty and library staff, and sample letters to publishers. It contains valuable and up-to-date information on public access policies, procedures, and implementations. This book will help librarians to set standards in program design, and to write procedure statements. This SPEC Kit will be a valuable reference for library administrators, staff, students, and professionals. – JCa


Willinsky’s book advocates for making open access a prominent feature of future scholarly communication and publishing. The core message Willinsky imparts is what he calls the access principle: any commitment to valuable research comes with an inherent responsibility to disseminate as widely as possible, so that all who wish or need access have it. Topics covered include the history of the Open Access movement as well as its key principles. It develops the core argument through an exploration of the practical matters of digitizing scholarly journals, and other themes in scholarly publishing. Anyone interested in the history of open access and its societal implications will find this a valuable source. – MR

As the traditional publishing model shifts from print to a hybrid of print and electronic formats, how will users, librarians, and publishers be affected? Electronic publishing has changed how cultural ideas are exchanged, how individuals and organizations communicate, and how stakeholders use new information systems to navigate through digitally published content. This book examines how open access is affected by electronic publishing, examining if it is a viable and sustainable business model and if it might change how scholarly work is conducted and reported. – JM


This book provides a wealth of qualitative and quantitative information on issues vital to the e-serials world. A chapter on open access, written by Gerry McKiernan, traces a variety of open access initiatives, examining the importance behind the effort to broaden the dissemination of scholarly literature. The discussion of specific software programs is dated; however, the coverage of open access movements will be useful to readers interested in the background of the effort. The book addresses many significant e-collection management issues and challenges for serials librarians, and maps the movement from print to electronic resources in detail. – LM


Focusing on policy, cultural, and organizational aspects of institutional repositories, Jones demonstrates that there is more to repository building than simply establishing the technological infrastructure. Content, preservation approaches, and the means of including content are all cultural and organizational issues that need to be addressed. Jones offers a toolkit for discovering and understanding these respective milieus, and offers a policy framework to ensure successful long-term implementation. – TS

This book addresses the often contentious debate around open access (OA) e-journals. Many contend that OA e-journals have led to an unregulated environment that is diluting and weakening the state of scholarship. Others believe that OA breaks down the digital divide that hampers the free flow of scholarly research around the world. In-depth quantitative and qualitative methodologies are used to examine open access e-journals, measuring important elements like articles, authors, countries, subjects, and cited references. He calculates the impact factor of OA e-journals by synchronous and asynchronous approaches. This book presents the first study to extensively evaluate LIS journals' websites qualitatively, by using a newly developed set of criteria. This book would be of interest to students, researchers, and information practitioners, and anyone else with an interest in the current state of OA publishing and e-journals. – JCa


Written in French, this book examines different options for free software and access to documents and archives, and offers a global reflection on how these options and changes affect the professional, social, and political landscape. With an emphasis on open source software, the authors consider the conditions conducive to open source and open access, and how these conditions have profoundly impacted the profession of librarianship, particularly in a time of budget constraints. This is a useful work for exploring the broader context for open licensing, and for exploring its political and social implications. – LM

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