OPEN ACCESS

Open Access is a growing international movement that uses the Internet to throw open the locked doors that once hid knowledge. It encourages the unrestricted sharing of research results with everyone, everywhere, for the advancement and enjoyment of science and its use for the benefit of society.

Open Access is the principle that publicly funded research should be freely accessible online, immediately after publication, and it's gaining ever more momentum around the world as research funders and policy makers put their weight behind it.

The Open Access philosophy was firmly articulated in 2002, when the Budapest Open Access Initiative was introduced. Today, the OAIster search engine provides access to 17,799,314 Open Access records from 1015 contributors. According to the Directory of Open Access Journals – India publishes 105 Open Access journals.

To learn more

Logon to:

www.openaccessday.org

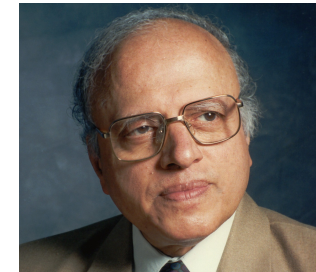Or contact:

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Sam Pitroda

Chairman, National Knowledge Comission of India

"A strong foundation in the pure sciences is essential to transform India into a knowledge superpower. And we cannot excel in science unless we ensure free flow of scientific knowledge. That is why we in the National Knowledge Commission have recommended mandating open access to all publicly funded research."

M S Swaminathan

Chaiman MSSRF

"IPR is certainly an obstacle to implementing the philosophy of social inclusion in access to technologies. This is why support for public good research and development is equally important. . I fully believe in Open Access. I will do my best to persuade all academies to follow the principle of Open Access. Mahatma Gandhi said that we should behave as trustees and not as owners of both physical and intellectual wealth."

Madhan Muthu

Information Division - NIT, Rourkela

"A professor, who works on polymer composites, one day called me over phone and thanked me for setting up the institutional OA repository of NITR. The repository made his papers more visible and accessible to users from industries who do not subscribe to even a single core journal, the professor told. He also said, he was getting more consultancy offers from small and medium scale industries after he archived his papers in the institute's repository, which was not the case before. He further said that he wrote papers with an intention to communicate the results to his academic peers, but the repository helped him to find unintended diversified users."

Peter Suber

Open Access Director Public Knowledge

"The more knowledge matters, the more open access to that knowledge matters."

Frederick Noronha

Co-founder, Bytesforall

"Open access, a great idea! Not just an idea, it's practical and works. We've seen the power of sharing in so many fields starting with Free Software. India has a special interest in promoting this. People before just profits, please!"
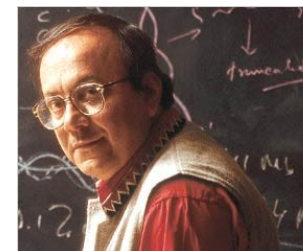
Alma Swan

Director, Key Perspectives

"The Internet has brought many benefits to society, amongst them the means to disseminate the results of scientific research more equitably and more efficiently. Open Access to research ensures that scientists and scholars, wherever they are in the world, now have a way to make sure that other scholars who might be interested to read and use their work, in whichever country they may be, can access it quickly, easily and without cost. It will be a major influencer of scientific progress this century."

Barbara Kirsop

Secretary, Electronic Publishing Trust for Development

"We are now seeing the usage of open access material escalate as statistics become available - 3.5 million downloads in 2007 (Bioline International), 10,000 downloads of health articles in the first week of August 2008 (Universidad de los Andes Institutional Repository), 5022 downloads in 2007 by users in India from the University of Otago Institutional Repository in New Zealand – all accessed for free for professional research purposes. All unattainable, pre-OA."

Samir Brahmachari

Director General, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

"The open source model gives students in colleges and universities an opportunity to experience and share scientific excitement. It provides a practical platform to them and an opportunity to contribute to the scientific cause. Brilliance flourishes where knowledge is free and the mind unfettered to soar to the highest reaches of excellence."