

15 June 2004

Dear Colleagues

You are hereby invited to the
“Open Access Scholarly Communication Conference”

held under the auspices of
SASLI (South African Site Licensing Initiative) and the OSI (Open Society Institute)
at the
Burgers Park Conference Centre, Pretoria

on the
29th and 30th of July 2004.

1. Purpose of Conference

To focus on the different perspectives and issues related to Open Access Journals and institutional repositories; to enhance and support research output and the system of scholarly communication in higher education institutions and research institutes in South Africa; broaden the engagement of libraries, higher education institutions, government and researchers in scholarly communication issues.

2. Background to “Open Access”

An old tradition and a new technology have converged to make possible an unprecedented public good. The old tradition is the willingness of scientists and scholars to publish the fruits of their research in scholarly journals without payment for the sake of inquiry and knowledge. The new technology is the internet. The public good they make possible is the world-wide electronic distribution of the peer reviewed journal literature and completely free and unrestricted access to it by all scientists, scholars, teachers, students and other curious minds. Removing access barriers to this literature will accelerate research enrich education, share the learning of the rich with the poor and the poor with the rich, make this literature as useful as it can be, and lay the foundation for uniting humanity in a common intellectual conversation and quest for knowledge.

For various reasons, this kind of free and unrestricted online availability, which we will call **Open Access**, has so far been limited to small portions of the journal literature. But even in these limited collections, many different initiatives have shown that open access is economically feasible, that it gives readers extraordinary power to find and make use of relevant literature, and that it gives authors and the works **vast and measurable new visibility, readership and impact**. To secure these benefits for all, we call on all interested institutions and individuals to help open up access to the rest of this literature and remove the barriers, especially the price barriers that stand in the way. The more who join the effort to advance this cause the sooner we will all enjoy the benefits of open access.

The Open Access movement builds upon the principles outlined in the Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) and aims to assist the international effort to make research articles in all academic fields freely available online. To achieve open access, the BOAI recommends two complementary strategies: the development of institutional repositories and open access journals. More information on Open Access: URL: <http://www.soros.org/openaccess>.

3. Practical Issues

Registration form to be completed in full and faxed or e-mailed to the Conference organizer with the proof of payment (sasliadmin@cosalc.ac.za, Fax: +27 12 663 8559) not later than 19 July 2004.

Registration fees for day one - Open access Scholarly Communication:	R600.00
Registration fees for day two – Roundtable discussion on implementing an institutional repository:	R200.00
Cocktail party: (Evening of 29 July 2004)	<u>R80.00</u>
	R880.00

Registration will only be confirmed upon receipt of the registration fee.

A limited number of conference bursaries, covering registration fees, accommodation and transport only, are available on submission of a motivation to Mrs Susan Veldsman at sasli@cosalc.ac.za. Motivations to be received by 7 July 2004.

Delegates are responsible to make their own accommodation bookings and transport arrangements. Should you choose to stay at the Burgers Park Conference Centre, please contact SASLI for special rates.

A preliminary programme, registration form and a list of Hotels/Guest Houses are attached for your information. Please reply as soon as possible because space is limited!

Any further information can be obtained from:

The Conference Organizer: Annita van Oudtshoorn
 E-mail: sasliadmin@cosalc.ac.za
 Tel/Fax: +27 12 663 8559

Kind Regards

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 SASLI: Project Coordinator

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