

LAS LEARNING ALERTS

Library Association of Singapore



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The LAS Learning Alerts, an initiative by the Training and Development Committee, aims to keep librarians informed about the latest trends and updates within our library network.

Please contact us at training@las.org.sg if you wish to contribute materials for LAS Learning Alerts.

Open Access and Research

In this issue, we dive into the world of Open Access and Research, interviewing librarians from two Universities to better understand the role librarians play. From the Institutional Repository to Article Processing Charges, and even in educating researchers, libraries play an integral role to support the Open Access movement.

Open Access and Research at Nanyang Technological University

Can you describe your library's role in educating researchers about open access publishing?



***Goh Su Nee
Deputy Director and Lead,
Open Science and
Research Services,
Library
Nanyang Technological
University***

Nanyang Technological University Library has been a driving force behind NTU's open-access movement, from establishing DR-NTU back in 2008 to leading the adoption of the NTU Open Access Policy in 2011. This momentum continued with the launch of the NTU Research Data Policy and DR-NTU (Data) in 2016–2017, both championed by the Library as part of NTU's commitment to open research.

Working hand-in-hand with research offices, the Library has helped embed open-access publishing and FAIR data practices into everyday research workflows. Today, NTU researchers actively plan for FAIR datasets through data management planning.

To celebrate and encourage these practices, the Library launched the NTU Open Research Awards in 2022 and created the NTU Open Research Checklist. These efforts have raised the profile of open access and open research, demonstrated its impact on visibility and impact, and helped cultivate a university culture where open science is embraced as a core part of responsible research.

How do you measure the success of your open access programmes, and what metrics do you use to demonstrate their value to institutional leadership and the research community?

It's truly encouraging to see the impact of our efforts, reflected not only in the steady rise of deposits and downloads in our open access publications repository, DR-NTU, and our open access research data repository, DR-NTU (Data), but also in the international recognition our repositories have earned.

DR-NTU is registered with OpenDOAR, ROAR and Duraspace, and indexed by Unpaywall, BASE, OpenAire, CORE and major search engines such as Google Scholar. DR-NTU (Data) has also achieved certifications from international bodies such as CoreTrustSeal and World Data System.

Our librarians' outstanding work continues to shine on the global stage, with invitations to speak and serve on regional and international committees, further showcasing NTU's leadership in open scholarship. We've also fostered collaboration across local universities to champion and celebrate open research through initiatives such as the Singapore Open Research Conference and Awards.



Looking ahead, what emerging trends in open access and scholarly publishing do you believe will most significantly impact academic libraries and research practices in the next five years?

This is truly one of the most exciting times to be a librarian in the university. We are seeing increasing intersections across open access, FAIR data and code, open methods, research integrity, and research visibility and impact. New bridges are emerging to be built, new connections waiting to be made, and new opportunities for the Library to embed itself more deeply, not only within the university's research ecosystem but also within the wider national and international landscape. It's a moment filled with possibility, and we're right at the heart of it.



Open Access and Research at Singapore Management University

Can you describe your library's role in educating researchers about open access publishing?



Danping Dong
Senior Librarian
Singapore Management
University

At SMU Libraries, our role in educating researchers about open access is both practical and outcome-focused. Rather than approaching open access purely as a policy or compliance topic, we aim to help researchers understand how it can support their research visibility and impact.

We incorporate open access topics into our research workshops, particularly for PhD students and early-career researchers, where we introduce key concepts such as open access publishing models, policy requirements, and copyright considerations. Alongside this, we advocate the tangible benefits of open access, including improved discoverability via search engines, broader readership, and potential citation advantages.

Beyond formal teaching, we place strong emphasis on helping researchers see the impact of open access for themselves. Through our institutional repository, InK, authors receive regular readership reports that show how their work is being accessed and used globally. These direct signals of reach and engagement often resonate more strongly than abstract discussions, and help reinforce the value of open access in a concrete, researcher-centred way.

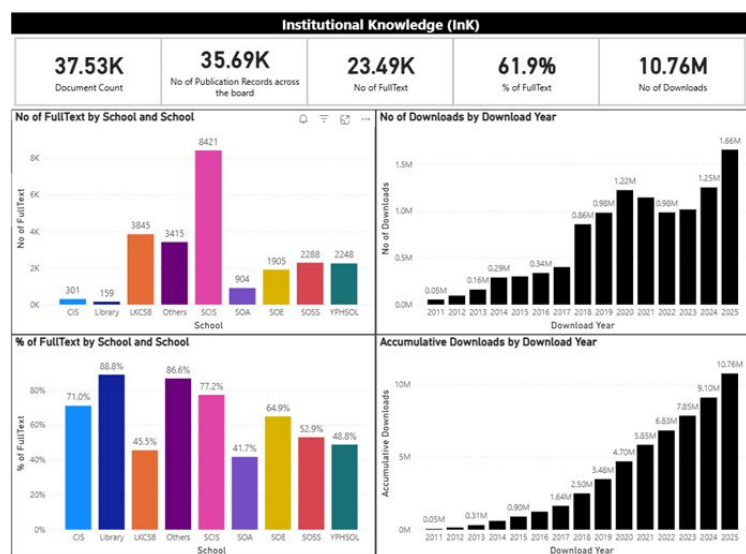
How do you measure the success of your open access programmes, and what metrics do you use to demonstrate their value to institutional leadership and the research community?

We measure the success of our open access programmes using a combination of reach, adoption, and impact indicators, with an emphasis on demonstrating visibility and value.

At a high level, we track usage and reach through our institutional repository, InK, such as total and year-on-year download growth. Recently, InK crossed the 10-million-download milestone, which we use not only as a performance indicator, but also as a way to raise awareness of open access and InK across the university.

We also monitor adoption metrics such as the proportion of full-text content available in InK, growth in open access coverage, and increases in repository deposits over time. These indicators help us assess how embedded open access practices are becoming within the SMU research community.

To demonstrate impact, we have conducted analyses examining the relationship between open access and citation performance of SMU publications, which we share with institutional leadership to illustrate the role of openness in research visibility. More recently, we have observed that open access outputs tend to attract more policy citations, as tracked via Overton and reported to SMU leadership — an area of growing strategic importance to the university.



Looking ahead, what emerging trends in open access and scholarly publishing do you believe will most significantly impact academic libraries and research practices in the next five years?

One significant trend is the increasing adoption of transformative agreements and centrally managed APC funding, areas that SMU Libraries have begun actively exploring over the past one to two years. Open access is becoming embedded in publishing workflows and funding decisions, shifting it from a largely advocacy-driven effort to a core part of research infrastructure. This will continue to reshape the role of academic libraries, particularly in negotiations with publishers and in supporting sustainable publishing models.

Another major development is the growing use of AI-driven tools for literature discovery and research synthesis. As these tools rely heavily on access to full-text content, open access plays an increasingly important role in enabling machine-assisted discovery and analysis. This has implications for how research is found and used, and for how publishing practices evolve in response to automated and large-scale consumption of scholarly content.

We also expect broader definitions of research impact to gain prominence, including policy influence and societal impact. In this context, open access supports wider reuse beyond academia.

Together, these trends position academic libraries as key connectors within the scholarly ecosystem, supporting openness, discoverability, and wider use of research outputs.

Learning Resources

The Open Science Training Handbook

<https://open-science-training-handbook.gitbook.io/book/>

This handbook offers structured guidance on supporting and teaching open science practices, including open access publishing, research data sharing, and reproducibility. Developed by international open science organisations, it is intended for librarians and research support professionals involved in training and advocacy.

UNESCO Open Science Recommendations and Resources

<https://www.unesco.org/en/open-science>

UNESCO's Open Science resources outline an international policy framework that situates open access within broader objectives of equity, inclusion, and global knowledge sharing. The materials provide useful context for libraries aligning institutional practices with national and international open science agendas.

OpenAIRE Webinars

<https://www.openaire.eu/webinars>

A webinar programme focused on open science topics and practical implementation issues, with audience tracks that include research support staff and data librarians. Useful for keeping current with European open science developments, repository practices, and compliance-oriented workflows.

OCLC Research (OA Discovery): Bridging availability and discoverability

<https://www.oclc.org/research/events/2025/bridging-the-gap-between-availability-and-discoverability.html>

An on-demand OCLC Research webinar focused on improving discovery and user access to peer-reviewed open access content. Useful for librarians working with discovery layers, metadata workflows, and "OA integration" initiatives aimed at ensuring open content is actually found and used.

OASPA Virtual Seminars — Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association

<https://www.oaspa.org/events/virtual-seminars/>

The OASPA Virtual Seminar series offers recorded and live online sessions on contemporary open access and open scholarship topics, presented by the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association. These seminars cover developments in OA publishing models, policy, equity, infrastructure, and community practice, providing current insights for librarians, publishers, and research support professionals.

Upcoming webinars and conferences:

The 10th International Conference on Libraries, Information Society 2026 (ICoLIS 2026)

Resorts World Langkawi

[Link](#)

21st - 23rd October 2026

The conference aims to bring together Library & Information Science (LIS) professionals to share new ideas, and application experiences face to face, establish business or research relations, and find global partners for future collaboration.



The IATUL 46th Annual Conference

University of Johannesburg (UJ), South Africa

[Link](#)

22nd - 26th November 2026

Join global thought leaders, library professionals, academics, and innovators at this landmark event that celebrates knowledge, collaboration, and transformation in the world of academic librarianship and information services.

Call for papers is **now open**.

