

OPEN ACCESS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: THE NEXUS

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Agenda

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 - 1.2 Defining SDGs
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1. Introduction



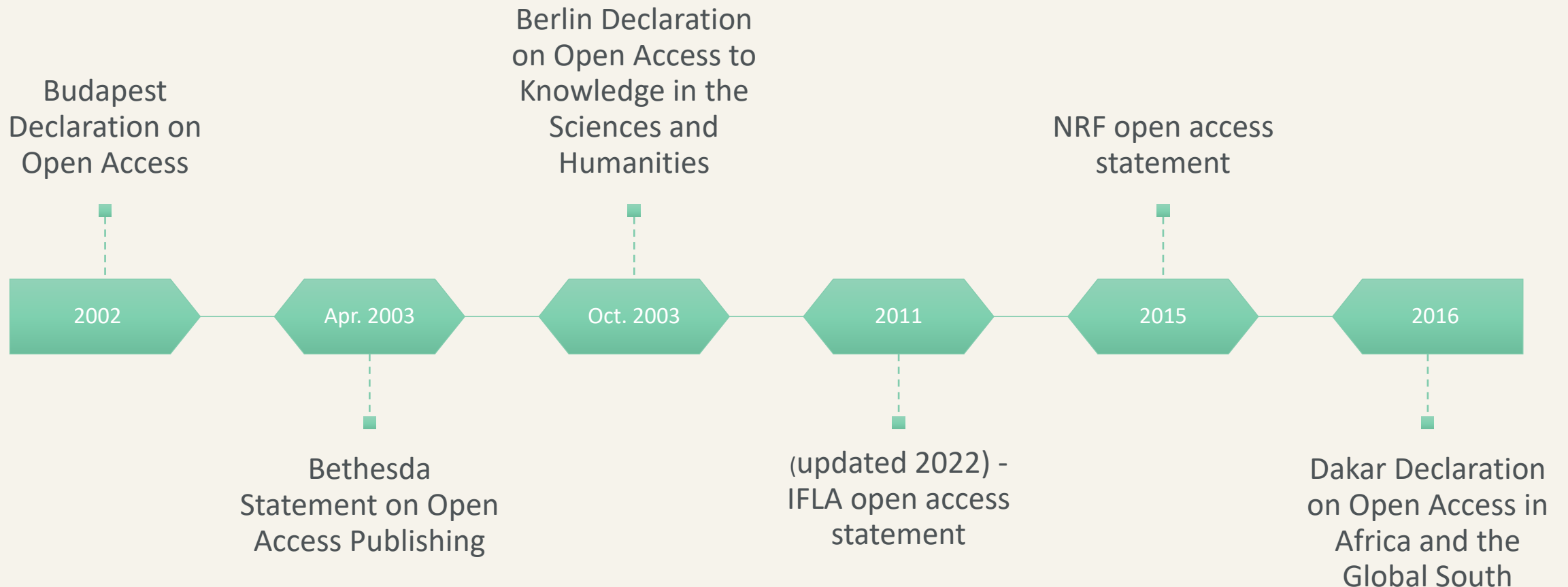
Open access as a transformative model

Openness at the heart of the scientific endeavor

Research should serve the greater good of human society

Anathema to commercialisation of knowledge

1.1 The season of open access statements!

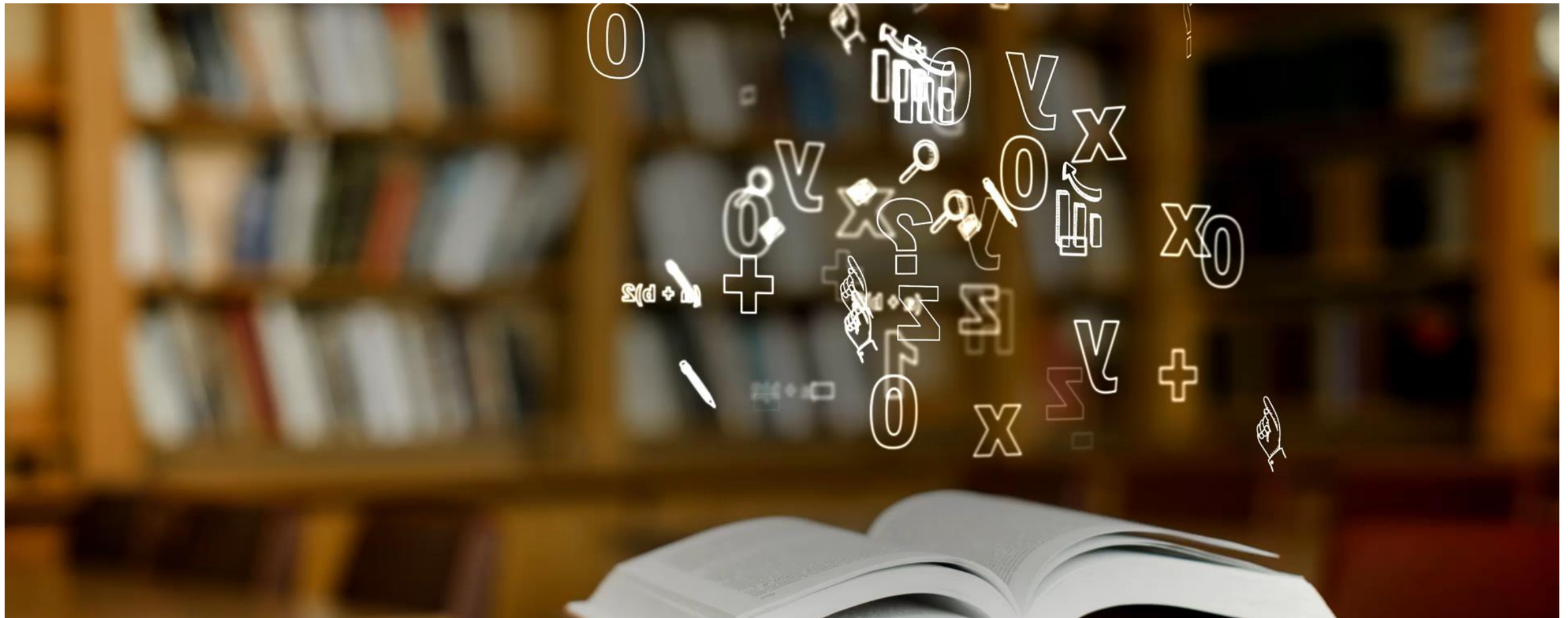


1.2 Defining SDGs



- Integrated political framework for sustainable human development
- Aim to address negative socio-economic and environmental trends
- Consists of 17 goals, 169 targets and 247 indicators

3. Contribution of libraries to SDGs through open access



SDG 3

SDG 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages (United Nations, 2023).

- Anchored on 13 targets:

➤ *13.7 Universal access to sexual and reproductive care, family planning and education*

OPEN ACCESS CONTRIBUTION TO SDG 3

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



- Open access to quality health information including information on reproductive health.
- Open access to information about the latest ailments and how to treat them.
- Open data for faster healthcare decision-making.
- OA information available for physicians and other doctors that are not affiliated with academic institutions.
- Create LibGuides sharing OA resources on specific diseases e.g. Covid-19.

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (United Nations, 2023).

- Anchored on 10 targets:
 - 4.5 – *Eliminating inequality in access to education*
 - 4.6 *By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.*
 - 4.7 *By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.*
 - 4.A *Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, nonviolent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.*

OPEN ACCESS CONTRIBUTION TO SDG 4

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



- Libraries provide information resources (OERs) for teaching, learning and research.
- Educate students and members of the general public on the value of open access resources.
- Provide access to unpublished educational data and gray literature such as theses and dissertations, local journals, conference papers, inaugural lectures etc.
- Libraries serve as publishers, publishing open monographs and journals.

SDG 9: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (United Nations, 2023).

- Anchored on 8 targets:
 - *Target 9.5: Enhance research and upgrade industrial technologies*
 - *Target 9.c: Universal access to information and communications technology*

OPEN ACCESS CONTRIBUTION TO SDG 9

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



- Provide opportunities for open access to patents.
- LibGuides on open access databases on patents.
- OA may spark innovation by making research available to all.

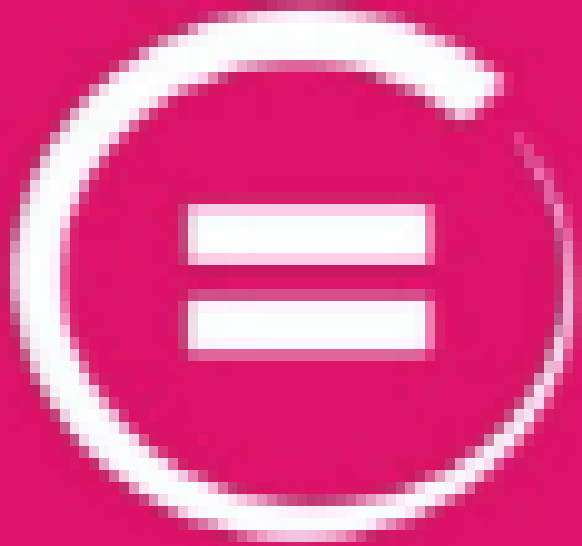
SDG 10

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries (United Nations, 2023).

- Anchored on 10 targets:
 - *Target 10.2: Promote universal social, economic and political inclusion*
 - *Target 10.3: Ensure equal opportunities and end discrimination*

OPEN ACCESS CONTRIBUTION TO SDG 10

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



- Open access has potential to close the gap between the information haves and the information have nots. (financial, sector, intra- and inter-country divides, dis/abilities etc.
- Potential for increased collaborations between Global South and North researchers.
- Open access ensures transparency in research evaluation and little opportunity for discrimination.

SDG 11 - Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable by confronting the challenges of urbanisation, homelessness, air pollution, public transport and other city and human settlements challenges (United Nations, 2023).

- Anchored on 10 targets:
 - *11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.*
 - *11.7 Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.*

OPEN ACCESS CONTRIBUTION TO SDG 11

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



- Curate, digitise and preserve local collections for posterity.
- Publish open access material in indigenous languages.
- Transformative potential to reduce inequalities.
- Provide free open access spaces for diverse people.

SDG 13

SDG 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (United Nations, 2023).

- Anchored on 5 targets:

➤ *Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into policy and planning*

OPEN ACCESS CONTRIBUTION TO SDG 13

13 CLIMATE ACTION



- **Open access saves tress!**
- **Data and information resources about climate change readily accessible.**
- **Researchers and policy makers can be able to track impact on the environment.**
- **Potential to curate open access resources on climate change.**

SDG 16

SDG 16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (United Nations, 2023).

- Anchored on 12 targets:
 - *Target 16.3: Equal access to justice*
 - Target 16.8: Strengthen the participation in global governance
 - Target 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms

OPEN ACCESS CONTRIBUTION TO SDG 16

16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS



- Open access increases the potential for equal access to justice.
- Equality before the law.
- Open access ensures public access to information and the protection of fundamental freedoms.
- It has potential to increase public participation to political and civic life.
- Can serve to strengthen democratic institutions.

SDG 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (United Nations, 2023).

- Anchored on 17 targets:
 - *Target 17.6: Knowledge sharing and cooperation for access to science, technology and innovation*
 - Target 17.9: Enhanced SDG capacity in developing countries
 - Target 17.16: Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development
 - Target 17.17: Encourage effective partnerships
 - Target 17.18: Enhance availability of reliable data

OPEN ACCESS CONTRIBUTION TO SDG 17

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



- Open access potential to advance transdisciplinary research and citizen science.
- Potential for scientific collaborations between the Global South and North countries.
- Partnerships in preserving local collections.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, in this presentation I argued that open access is a vital component towards the achievement of sustainable development. By breaking down barriers to access, open access can assist nations to achieve all the SDGs, but its role in SDGs 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16 and 17 is even more pronounced. It is the contention of this presentation that without openly accessible information, the path towards achieving the SDGs is significantly narrowed.

Not only does open access contribute to the SDGs but it also remains one of the low hanging fruits for libraries to effectively communicate their contribution to the SDGs. Libraries, therefore, should incorporate sustainable development thinking in their planning and operations. This might include using the SDGs as a framework for their strategic plans and reporting to the powers that be. Libraries should map their activities against the SDGs to demonstrate a contribution beyond their immediate environment and show high-level thinking and impact.

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