

Tooling for Open Access in Covenant University Library: Successes and Challenges

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Open
Access



Covenant University—The Vision

- ❑ Covenant University is a Christian-based private university, poised to raising a new generation of leaders for the African continent.
- ❑ This vision birthed the quest to institute a learning context that is rich in educational opportunities, research and scholarship.

Academic/
research
support
system

The library



Centre for Learning Resources—Services

- Several rich online bibliographic and full-text databases
- Provision of remote access to electronic resources
- Teleconferencing facilities
- WEBPAC
- Institutional repository
- Ensuring the integrity of faculty and institutional scholarly outputs
- **Promotion of the University's Open Access Initiative**

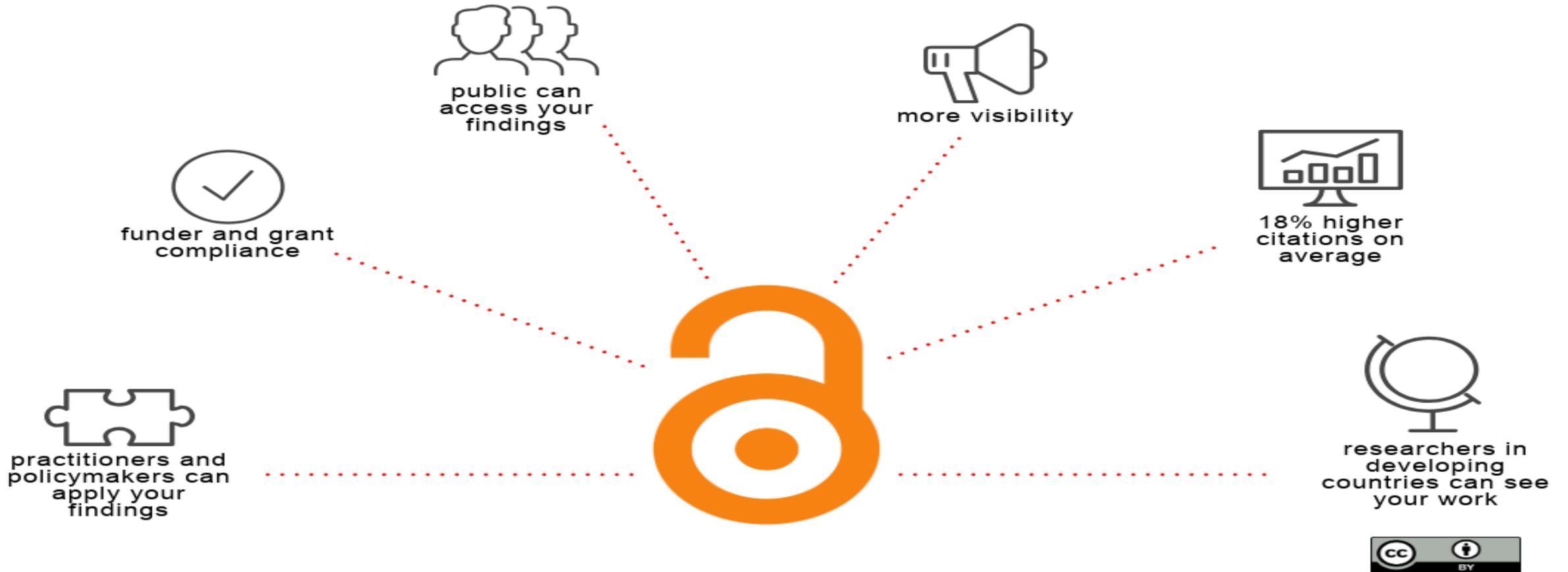


Open Access: What it is

Information that is **freely available** on the **public internet**, **permitting any users** to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the **full texts** of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, **without financial, legal, or technical barriers** other than those inseparable from **gaining access to the internet** itself (BOAI, 2002).



Why Open Access?



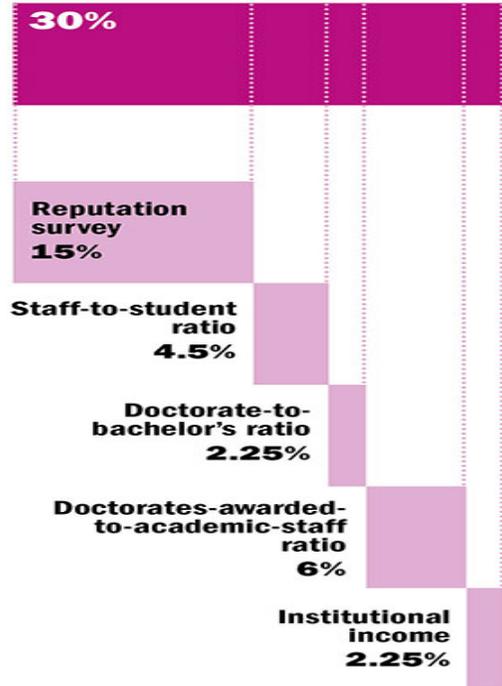
It costs more money to prevent people from reading

Covenant University Open Access Initiative

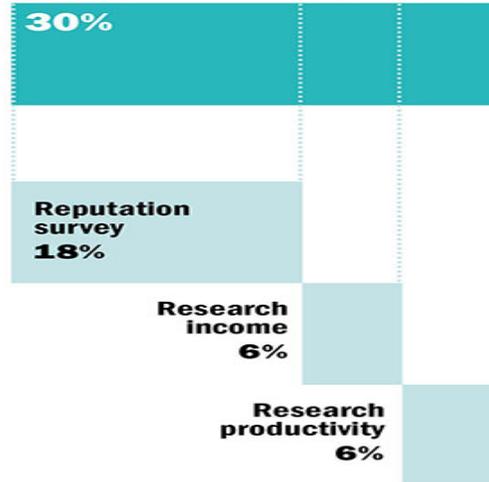
❑ Vision 10:2022

❑ Times Higher Education (THE) parameters for world universities ranking

Teaching (the learning environment)



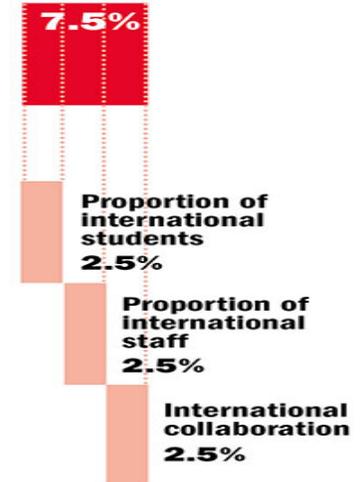
Research (volume, income and reputation)



Citations (research influence)



International outlook (staff, students, research)



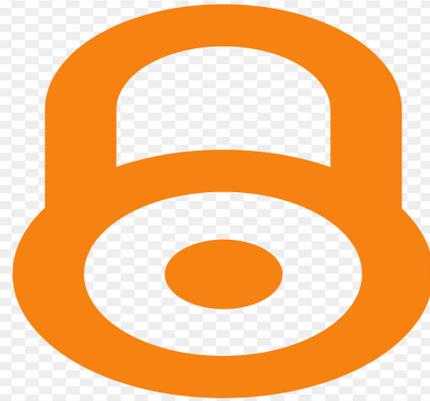
Industry income (knowledge transfer)



Covenant University Open Access Initiative 1

❑ RESEARCH

Subscription to credible and relevant online databases



Subscription Model



Make contents freely available to faculty to improve quantity and quality of research

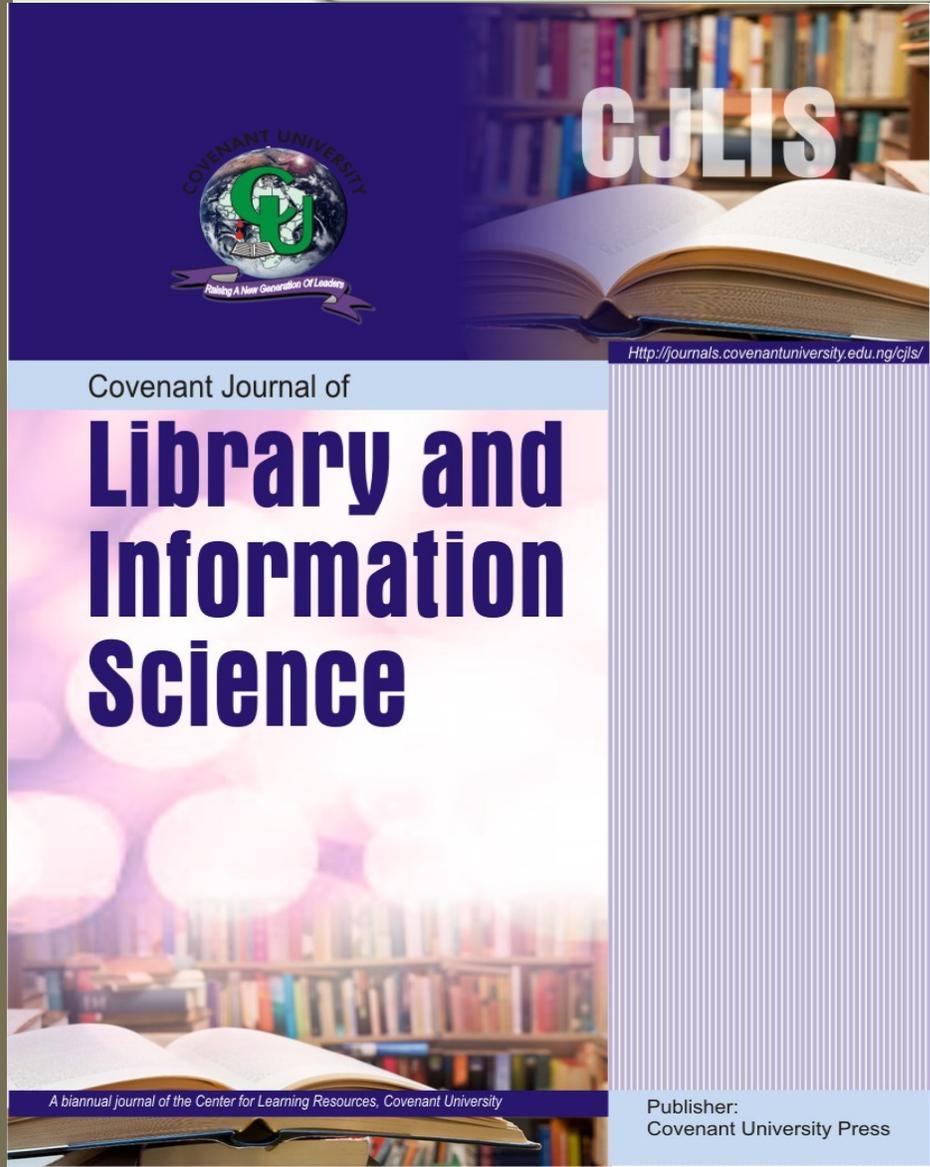
Covenant University Open Access Initiative 2

❑ CITATION



- ❑ Increased
- Research output
- Discoverability
- Visibility
- Impact

Covenant University Open Access Initiative 3



❑ **CJLIS: Covenant Journal of Library & Information Science**

- The university library, like other academic departments of the University, floated an online journal in 2018, published biannually (June & December).
- It is an online journal that meets all OPEN ACCESS standards.

□ Advocacy Campaign

The library creates awareness on the benefits of Open Access publishing through fora such as:

- ✓ Friday Faculty Fellowships
- ✓ Faculty advance
- ✓ Research clinic for fresh postgraduate students
- ✓ Liaison Library services



Covenant University Library and Open Access Initiatives 5



□ Advisory

The library encourages faculty publication support (i.e. Payment of Article Processing Charge--APC) from the University for greater discoverability and visibility thereby increasing **citation—one of the parameters for ranking world universities.**

❑ Institutional Repository (IR)

This is a major platform through which the library promotes Open Access:

- Collects
- Archives
- Publishes/disseminates digital and scientific contents
 - ✓ Preprint and postprint of e-journals
 - ✓ Dissertation
 - ✓ Theses
 - ✓ Research reports
 - ✓ Data, etc.

The IR Contents policy allows:

- ❖ working drafts
- ❖ submitted versions (as sent to journals for peer-review)
- ❖ accepted versions (author's final peer-reviewed drafts)
- ❖ published versions (publisher-created files)

Integrity of content

□ Preservation policy

Deposited works are immediately withdrawn from the repository for the following reasons:

- Legal requirements and proven violations
- National Security
- Falsified research
- Proven copyright violation or plagiarism

Enabling factors

- Institutional policy
- Availability of technical infrastructure
- Computer literacy level of staff



Challenges

- Reluctance of new staff to turn in publication for upload as they are published—**Affects the University's Webometric ranking**
- Mass submission of publication during appointment and promotion exercises—**unnecessary pressure on IR staff of the library**
- Copyright issues which hinders uploading of some of the full articles written by Faculty and Staff
- Reluctance to self-archive works of low quality
- high cost of making articles freely available in the subscription model
- The high cost of running and maintaining the repository in terms of infrastructure and human resources

Coping Mechanisms

- University Management has made it mandatory for all faculty to deposit their scholarly and other intellectual outputs in the repository—proof of deposit required for promotion
- CUCRID support for publication
- All CU repository transactions and operations are cloud-based with the aid of a remote server hosted over the internet—back up in the event of a disaster or data loss.
- Consistently advocacy programs geared towards encouraging timely deposit of published works in the repository.
- Funding for the CU repository is provided for in the library budget and augmented by Covenant University research grant

Thank
you!