

Implementación de las publicaciones de Acceso Abierto. Una experiencia de la Universidad de Guantánamo

Open Access publications implementation. An experience of Guantanamo University

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RESUMEN: El presente trabajo tiene como propósito exponer la experiencia de la Universidad de Guantánamo de la Ciencia Abierta, específicamente en la implementación del modelo de publicaciones de Acceso Abierto para la difusión de las producciones científicas. Para ello se emplearon métodos de investigación científica con un enfoque cualitativo tales como el análisis-síntesis, inducción-deducción, histórico-lógico, análisis documental. Entre las conclusiones más relevantes se destacan la importancia de los aspectos teórico-metodológicos abordados en la ponencia para el proceso editorial que se lleva a cabo en este tipo de publicación.

Palabras clave: Acceso abierto; Producciones científicas; Revistas académicas; Visibilidad; Divulgación; Universidad.

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this paper is to expose the experience of the Guantanamo University of Open Science, specifically in the Open Access publication model implementation for the dissemination of scientific productions. For this purpose, scientific research methods were used with a qualitative approach such as analysis-synthesis, induction-deduction, and historical-logical, documentary analysis. Among the most relevant conclusions, the importance of the theoretical-methodological aspects addressed in the paper for the editorial process carried out in this type of publication stands out.

Keywords: Open access; scientific productions; Academic journals; Visibility; Dissemination; University.

Introduction

The international "Open Science" movement, which originated in the world scientific community, has advocated, since its emergence, greater accessibility to knowledge, efficiency, collaboration and transparency in the research developed, advocating that these have a greater

relationship with the social needs that are currently faced and that the results can be disseminated as widely as possible.

The scientific output of higher education institutions is one of the main indicators for measuring quality. The more visibility and accessibility a work has, the greater its impact will be and, therefore, the more it can be cited by other authors.

This is why Open Access publications have a close relationship with the Visibility-Dissemination and Impact of the scientific productions of universities. In this purpose, scientific journals play a great role, specifically during the realization of a transparent and objective editorial process of each of the scientific articles that are received.

In this sense, universities, at the international level, have to correctly manage knowledge, clearly identifying the most prepared human resources, so that they can, with the greatest possible precision, transmit their knowledge of virtuality to the rest of the teachers, without forgetting educational quality.

EduSol Journal is a publication of the Guantanamo University which has among its main objectives the dissemination of the results of research work carried out not only by academics but also by students who are receiving postgraduate and doctoral programs in different universities at home and abroad in the form of original research articles and other modalities such as reviews and scientific essays.

The systematization of the main theoretical-methodological aspects referred to the Open Access Policy of EduSol Journal is analyzed in the present compilation by ordering each of the ideas presented in order to facilitate their practical value.

The essential methods applied for knowledge management were documentary analysis to identify how the Open Access policy has been carried out in EduSol Journal since its inception. Synthesis was applied to integrate the contents analyzed during the review and systematization of the literature related to the topic under investigation.

The aim of this paper is to analyze the benefits for universities and other sectors of society of the triad Visibility-Dissemination-Impact of scientific productions in those institutions of higher

education that have Open Access publications, whether periodical or continuous. For this purpose, scientific research methods were used with a qualitative approach such as analysis-synthesis, induction-deduction, and historical-logical, documentary analysis.

Development

The scientific productions of universities reflect the research activity of this type of institution, which facilitates the evaluation by experts in this area. It also allows for a faster transfer of the scientific knowledge addressed.

It is therefore of great importance to design and implement policies that recognize academic research and its dissemination. It is useless for a university to have a large amount of information as a result of the research carried out if it is not possible to access it with the speed required for its use, thus avoiding its obsolescence.

This is one of the ways to reduce the gaps that may exist in the access to information among the nations of the world. The University of Guantánamo is immersed in a series of transformations that have focused all its processes, hence the promotion of undergraduate and graduate training based on virtuality.

One of the processes that are being transformed is the conception, elaboration and evaluation of final works. With this element in mind, a computer system has been deployed to ensure the complete management of this process. This facilitates the interaction between all the actors in an orderly manner and the realization of all the activities related to the final works in a virtual way.

In the aspect related to quality, this computer system allows the visualization of its scientific journals where the results of the work of students and professors of the university can be published.

According to the criteria of several authors, both nationally and internationally, the philosophy of "Open Access" is known as the dissemination, without restrictions of any kind, of scientific productions related to different areas of knowledge, whether educational, academic, scientific or other.

This way has been recognized as one of the most useful tools to provide free access to scientific information contextualized in a knowledge society, marked by deep digital divides.

In this regard, UNESCO states

Open access offers unlimited access to scientific information and makes it possible for anyone to use digital information without restrictions. Thanks to this access, high costs and copyright are no longer an obstacle to the dissemination of scientific information. Anyone is free to add information, modify the content of a text, translate it into other languages or share the full version of a digital publication (UNESCO (S/f), p. 1).

And further on it refers:

Adopting an Open Access Policy means for UNESCO to open the doors to thousands of free publications and make them available to a much wider public. Open access is also a new way of offering a transparent perspective on the work UNESCO is doing, which can now be discovered and shared by everyone (UNESCO (s/f), p.1).

The Open Access philosophy takes on a special connotation in the area of the speed with which scientific research articles can be transferred. The background of the Open Access movement dates back more than 30 years, when in 1971, Michel Hart elaborated the Gutenberg Project, whose essential objective was the creation of a library of electronic books free of charge, from the works in physical existence.

By the end of the 1980s, the first online open access journals began to appear, and one of the postulates that identifies this movement gained momentum: "What is not visible, is not shared or disseminated".

However, in 1991 Paul Ginsparg launched ARXIV, which he defined as "an automatic distribution system for research articles without the editorial operations associated with peer review". (Ginsparg, 1991)

These textual productions constituted a set of several articles that the authors authorized for free access before sending them for editorial evaluation and their subsequent evaluation in specialized journals in different areas.

In this regard, UNESCO has stated that:

For knowledge to continue to develop, people need access to the relevant sources. But without dissemination, such knowledge remains invisible. More than a way to contribute to improving the quality of scientific research, open access is an educational tool of vital importance as it reinforces the knowledge of each person and helps to awaken their creativity. (p. 1)

To achieve this purpose, it is necessary to design communicational strategies that allow the transmission, information and communication of knowledge. In this context, at the University of Guantánamo, several magazines are published periodically. At this moment, the referred institution of Cuban higher education has a total of 4 journals, 2 of them positioned in Group II, in correspondence with their impact.

In addition, the Virtual Institutional Repository was created, which allows the visibility of information through its decentralization, and there are libraries that provide access to academic publications.

EduSol Journal. Experience in Open Access publishing.

EduSol Journal, periodical publication of the Guantanamo University, guarantees open access to scientific productions and their rapid dissemination based on the policy of free availability and visibility of manuscripts received by its editorial committee.

This means that the journal registers preserves and disseminates the scientific productions that are approved during the editorial process that includes, in addition to scientific articles, other modalities of publication such as Reviews and Essays, always with a pedagogical profile.

In this sense, any author will have the right and the opportunity to have access to read them.

The open access policy assumed by this journal provides a better exchange with the international scientific community as well as the exchange of knowledge in each of the areas of science that are addressed in the scientific productions published and that the manuscripts can be reused (share, copy and redistribute the scientific production in any medium or format) in accordance with the provisions of the Creative Commons Attribution NonCommercial 4.0 license.

Taking into account the above, EduSol Journal assumes the Open Access criteria of the Budapest Open Access Initiative which understands as such "to [peer-reviewed scientific literature], meaning its free availability on the public Internet, allowing any user to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search or use them for any legal purpose without any financial, legal, technical barriers, other than those that are inseparable from those involved in accessing the Internet itself" (BOAI, Budapest Open Access Initiative). (BOAI, Budapest Open Access Initiative, 2023, p.1)

Hence, by publishing an article in EduSol Journal, the author is giving his consent to its use as a basis for the elaboration of EduSol Journal:

- Be used as a basis for the elaboration of other articles in the future.
- Authorizes or allows other teachers or students to freely or freely show their research work.
- Use a copy so that it can be distributed among students.

The evolution it has undergone has positioned it in Group II taking into account its impact.

The electronic record of daily visits accumulates between 2000 and 2200 daily users from various countries around the world and a total of 45 download per day on average,

These indicators are an indication of the visibility and positioning of this periodical.

In its database there are more than 1000 scientific productions in 8 years that have had the opportunity to be visualized in the world.

Good practices in EduSol Journal as an Open Access publication

One of the essential elements that characterize the editorial policy of EduSol Journal, indexed in recognized international databases such as SciELO, with respect to the scientific productions received by its committee is the rigorous verification of each of the manuscripts with the aim of respecting copyright and intellectual property.

The supervision in question lies in ensuring that the research is not redundant or duplicated and, on the other hand, that copyright is respected by making appropriate reference to the contributions made by other researchers.

Precisely, one of the ethical criteria on which EduSol Journal is based is the originality of the scientific articles sent to its Editorial Committee for processing.

In correspondence with the previous idea, the authors must guarantee that the information provided, the data provided or other results are original and that they have not been invented, copied, manipulated or distorted.

In this regard, the editorial board of the EduSol Journal has the prerogative to disavow those scientific articles that have already been published, or that the application of bad practices such as manipulation, plagiarism of texts, redundant publication, omitting bibliographical references of sources that have been consulted as well as the use of contents of other authors without their prior authorization or reference.

To detect plagiarism, this journal has the Plagiarisma plagiarism detector and other complementary ones that will be used if necessary, such as Small SEO Tools and PlagScan, and if a level of similarity higher than 25% is detected, the origin of the sources marked as plagiarized will be thoroughly reviewed.

Among the good practices implemented by EduSol Journal is the assumption of the following errors within its plagiarism policy:

- **Redundant or duplicate publications:** This refers to the irresponsible behavior assumed by some authors when they send the manuscript to several scientific journals simultaneously, which often results in the publication of the article in two or more journals. This behavior is sanctioned by the editors who warn, not only the acceptance of articles that are original, but also that if they detect redundant publication, the author will not be able to send other scientific articles with the purpose of carrying out the editorial process.

With respect to the subject, it is reminded that this journal receives original articles, so they should not be postulated or have been previously published in another format. We also receive papers as a result of participation in scientific congresses and events, which must be up to date and must inform the editorial team of our journal of their origin.

- **Plagiarism:** It is considered as such when the author uses criteria, ideas or data from others assuming them as his own, that is, without citing the original source from which it was taken. Also, when a text of more than 250 words has been used again to elaborate a new article, this behavior is considered as **self-plagiarism**, which, in correspondence with the level of seriousness, is penalized by law as illegal.

In this sense, it is suggested that the authors keep the draft for a reasonable period of time as a good practice in case they need to corroborate that the article was written by them. The same applies to the data and results obtained in the research carried out.

- **Fabrication or falsification of the data provided:** This malpractice is considered as such when the authors provide manipulated, altered or fabricated data to meet a certain objective.

To detect this malpractice in the editorial process, the editors of EduSol Journal corroborate the date on which the article in question was published, and will check the date of acceptance by the journal's editorial board and notify the authors.

On the other hand, within the file containing the documents that accompany the scientific article, a letter of originality is required, which implies the commitment of the authors that the content is unpublished and that the manuscript has not been sent to another journal for evaluation as part of the preventive work so that they become aware and this behavior does not happen.

- **Use of materials without prior authorization of the authors:** This aspect takes into account the unauthorized disclosure of e-mails or personal addresses of other people. It also includes the disclosure of interview results, which must have the informed consent of the persons who participated in the research, as well as the authorization of the researcher who originally issued the data.
- **Modification of digital images:** This behavior is related to changes made to original images, cut them, change them, and the author must also state whether the image is his/her own or was taken from other sources and reference them appropriately.

- **Replacement of other authors:** This behavior is related to the exclusion of an author without his or her consent or the making of any modification to the written text without prior consultation with the rest of the authors of the research.

That is why the editorial board of EduSol Journal during the evaluation process of scientific articles ensures that there are no redundant publications, that possible plagiarism, scientific fraud and other faults considered as serious ethical violations are detected.

Benefits of Open Access Publications implementation at the Guantanamo University Bay

The policies designed jointly with the Ministry of Science and Technology of Cuba (CITMA), allowed the Open Access Publications implementation in an effort to increase the visibility, dissemination and impact of the results of the scientific community at institutional, national and international level.

With respect to this topic, the Guantanamo University has reported great benefits to the Guantanamo University. Among them, the following stand out:

- A better international positioning of the institution.
- Greater visibility of the results of the research carried out at the university and at other universities in the country.
- A greater exchange with other authors both nationally and internationally.
- The University of Guantánamo has been selected as an advisor in the creation of new journals and as an advisor to those incipient ones.
- Several international authors have requested to publish in the University's journals, essentially EduSol Journal, taking into account the level of impact achieved.
- Authors can share experiences with other researchers who have ventured into similar topics.
- Another element, no less important, is the fact that Open Access publications offer a greater guarantee to the author with respect to the virtual preservation of the results of his research in the long term.

- Open Access gives the possibility that the proposals presented can be applied in other contexts to corroborate or refute a given hypothesis.
- Other people can evaluate the works and be susceptible to improvement.
- From the social point of view, it guarantees accountability to the different factors with respect to the problem detected, the possible solutions and the way in which policies could be designed for it.
- On the other hand, there is a great possibility that the author may have access to certain resources for the development of his research based on the interest shown by other people.

Conclusions

The study carried out confirms the role that a scientific journal can play as a periodical publication that periodically updates its content. The Open Access Publishing philosophy implementation allows breaking down the barriers between scientific knowledge and people.

The model has not only contributed to the dissemination of the scientific productions of national and foreign authors but also to the positioning of the university at the international level.

In addition to the Open Access Journals, the University of Guantánamo has other modalities that implement this philosophy such as the Virtual Institutional Repository and the digital libraries.

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