

Providing access to online research literature - a guide for librarians

This guide has been produced to help librarians enable academics, researchers and students get **access to online research literature** (electronic resources) via access initiatives and other routes.

Academics, researchers and students in universities and research institutes in many developing countries now have access to **many thousands of electronic journals and books**, in **full-text**, and **free at the point** of use. This includes both the latest issues and extensive back-issue collections.

Access initiatives typically operate on an institutional or consortium level, such that the librarian of the university, research institute or other local non-profit organization must arrange access through the provider of the access initiative; or through membership of the national library consortium where this exists.

Access initiatives provide a mix of heavily discounted paid subscriptions and negotiated free subscriptions in addition to freely available Open Access content.

While there are many smaller or disciplinary-specific initiatives, some of the major initiatives are listed below.

Library websites should be set up to link into any of the resources below once the librarian has registered for access.

What is available?

INASP

INASP has negotiated for **significantly discounted, sometimes free**, access to online research literature for **eligible non-profit research and educational institutions** in many countries. Subscriptions, under a country-wide licence, are managed and funded through national library **consortia** or similar bodies, acting on behalf of their member institutions. Institutions may be required to join their consortium in order to offer these resources **free at point of use** to academics, researchers and students. Librarians are encouraged to register for access to research literature using their institution's **fixed, external IP address**, allowing **seamless access** for researchers.

To see what research literature is available in your country:

- Use the "Country" box at www.inasp.info
- Select your country
- Click "View research literature" to see the list of resources available
- There is also information about the national consortium, coordinating body or team on this page. These are the people to contact if an institution wishes to start accessing resources.

Access to these resources is via the respective publisher's platform. Librarians need to **register for access** through the INASP website:

- Register as a personal member at www.inasp.info/en/accounts/login
- Activate your account then add or select your institution
- Ideally use a fixed, external IP address for seamless access
- Once your institution has been approved, register for each resource you want access to in turn
- For further information on the registration process see www.inasp.info/en/accounts/register

If you have queries about these resources and their provision, please contact your **consortium chair or registration coordinator**, whose details are on your country page (use the “Country” box at www.inasp.info)

Consult the interactive troubleshooting guide at www.surveymonkey.com/s/INASP_troubleshooting
For more information about INASP [contact inasp@inasp.info](mailto:contact_inasp@inasp.info)

Research4Life (R4L)

Research4Life is the collective name for four initiatives, AGORA (**agriculture**), HINARI (**medicine and health**) OARE (**environmental science**) and ARDI (**technology and innovation**). These programmes provide access to peer-reviewed international scientific journals, books, and databases in these and cross-cutting thematic areas (such as **economics, public policy, anthropology, development** etc).

www.research4life.org

Publishers have the option to make their material accessible to specific countries and types of institutions under the Research4Life initiative.

Access to these resources is via a **dedicated password-controlled site**. Librarians or institutional representatives must **register** and are then provided with a password to distribute to all researchers in the institution. To find out whether your institution is already registered or still needs to do so free of charge please visit: www.research4life.org/institutions. If you confirm that your organization is registered but cannot get the username and password write to hinari@who.int or agora@fao.org or oare@unep.org.

If your institution is not already registered for access, please do so at registration.research4life.org/register/default.aspx and share the log on details with all bona fide members of the institution.

Only **one registration per institution** is accepted and the username and password can be shared with all members of the organization.

HINARI - Access to Research in Health

HINARI, run by WHO provides a collection of over **11,400 journals**, up to **18,500 e-books**, and up to **70 other information resources** in biomedical and health subjects. www.who.int/hinari/en

Training materials at www.who.int/hinari/training/en
Help/support at hinari@who.int

AGORA - Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture

AGORA, run by FAO provides a collection of more than **3,000 journals** in the fields of food, agriculture, environmental science, and related social sciences. www.fao.org/agora

Training materials at www.fao.org/agora/training
Help/support at agora@fao.org

OARE - Online Access to Research in the Environment

OARE, run by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Yale University provides over **4,000 resources** in environmental studies and related fields. web.unep.org/oare

Training materials at web.unep.org/oare/resources/training-materials
 Help/support at oare@unep.org

ARDI - Access to Research for Development and Innovation

ARDI, run by WIPO provides nearly 10,000 journals, books, and reference works on science and technology www.wipo.int/ardi/en

Other access initiatives

There are a number of access initiatives, each of which has its own criteria and registration process.

EIFL negotiates centrally with publishers to secure highly discounted prices and fair terms of use for libraries in more than 60 developing and transition countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Further details: www.eifl.net. Full list of resources: www.eifl.net/resources

JSTOR waives or offers a reduced participation fee for any academic or not-for-profit institution in developing countries (and all of Africa). Access is for all JSTOR Archive Collections: about.jstor.org/libraries/developing-nations-access-initiative

Oxford Journals: www.oxfordjournals.org/en/librarians/developing-countries-initiative/index.html

The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library (TEEAL) is a digital library, developed by Cornell University, and supplied on an external hard drive and DVDs with no need for internet access. African universities and research institutes can purchase this for an initial base cost and subsequent annual updates: www.teeal.org

Open Access

Open Access (OA) provides **unrestricted online access** to scholarly research. Open Access covers scholarly journal articles, theses, book chapters, and scholarly monographs and means that they can be freely accessed from **any computer** with an internet connection. Many subscription publishers also now have OA journals, which are usually indicated by the OA symbol of an **open padlock**. These can be fully OA (all articles available) or hybrid (a mix of locked and open articles)

More information and lists of multi-disciplinary and subject collections can be found at www.inasp.info/resources/openaccess

Below are some of the resources we recommend:

Directory of Open Access Journals: doaj.org. The aim of the DOAJ is to increase the visibility and ease of use of open access scientific and scholarly journals. It aims to be comprehensive and cover all open access scientific and scholarly journals that use a quality control system to guarantee the content. It allows for a **single search** across all the content of the **over 9,000 journals** included.

The Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB): www.doabooks.org contains over 1400 academic books from 35 publishers.

WorldWideScience: worldwidescience.org enables you to search across a number of national scientific databases and portals.

Bioline International: www.bioline.org.br is an aggregator of Open Access journals from across the world.

Repositories

Repositories are online spaces for **collecting, preserving, and disseminating**, in digital form, the **intellectual output** of an institution or larger entity. Many institutions have their own repository (institutional repositories, IRs), which can be searched. Sites which allow **cross-searching** (one search across multiple repositories) are the best starting place.

The INASP website maintains a list of resources which allow for **cross-searching** of collections: www.inasp.info/resources/institutional-repositories

OpenDOAR: www.opendoar.org/search.php based on the Google Custom Search engine, lets you search the contents of the repositories listed in OpenDOAR for freely available academic research information. This quality assured approach minimises (but does not eliminate!) spurious or junk results, and leads more directly to useful and relevant information. Full texts are available for most results.

National and regional online journal platforms

A number of regions and countries have developed their own online journal platforms. Many of the journals on these platforms are open access; for others it is possible to obtain copies of the articles on payment of a small fee. These include:

African Journals Online (AJOL)	www.ajol.info
Bangladesh Journals Online (BanglaJOL)	www.banglajol.info
Central American Journals Online (CAMJOL)	www.camjol.info
Mongolia Journals Online (MongoliaJOL)	www.mongolajol.info
Nepal Journals Online (NepJOL)	www.nepjol.info
Scielo (Brazil)	www.scielo.org
Sri Lanka Journals Online (SLJOL)	www.sljol.info
Vietnam Journals Online (VJOL)	www.vjol.info

Making sure online research literature is used

Add links to any resources your institution is registered with or eligible to use to your library webpage. Information from www.inasp.info/en/network/publishers can be used freely.

Register with a fixed IP address for seamless access from publisher platforms. See www.inasp.info/resources/ip-address-requirements for more information.

Set up a proxy server to allow off-campus use. See www.inasp.info/resources/proxy-servers for more information.

Engage in marketing and promotion activities. See workshop materials and templates at www.inasp.info/resources/electronic-resources-promo-course and readings at www.inasp.info/en/training-resources/external/library-resources