

The access to information divide: breaking down barriers

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Abstract

The “access to information divide” between the developed countries and the developing countries is growing wider. This growing divide, due to barriers to access to information, stifles the growth and development of developing countries. Opening access to information and breaking down those access barriers become an absolute necessity.

The presentation analyses the economic impact of Open Access, and describes scenarios to improve the accessibility of knowledge and the role libraries could play in this.

Dr Bas Savenije graduated in philosophy in 1977. Since then, he has held a range of positions at Utrecht University, among which director of Strategic Planning and director Budgeting and Control. From 1994 until 2009 he was university librarian of Utrecht University, managing the comprehensive university library. He has initiated a pervasive innovation program for the library aimed at implementing and continuously improving electronic services. One of the results is an e-press within the university library of Utrecht for electronic publishing and archiving services.

Since June 2009 Savenije is Director General of the KB, National Library of the Netherlands.

He is member of the board of FOBID (the Dutch Federation of Organisations in the Field of Libraries, Information and Documentation), member of the board of LIBER (Association of Research Libraries in Europe) and chairman of the board of Directors of SPARC Europe.

