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Overview

1. The Access Principle
2. The Digital Revolution
3. Open Access Publishing
4. Open Access and the Knowledge Economy

The Access Principle

- 'a commitment to scholarship carries with it a responsibility to extend the circulation as far as possible, to all who are interested and all who might profit by it' (Willinsky, 2006)
- Centuries old principle: Alexandria, mosque libraries, *Nature* etc.
- Inherent in the scholarly enterprise

Digital revolution and publishing

- 'death of the p-book'?
- Four levels impact:
 - Operating systems
 - Content management
 - Marketing and service provision
 - Content delivery

Technological Fallacy

“technological view of the world, a view that is preoccupied with the latest developments in technology and tends to assume that technology is the pacesetter of social change”

Thompson (2005)

Access principle in the digital age

- Access declining
 - Digital control
 - Commercialization
 - Pricing models

Open Access Publishing

- Public funding = Public benefit
- Commitment to scholarship = Commitment to dissemination
- Intellectual property belongs to the 'commons' – products you pay for
- Technologies must be appropriate for the socio-economic context of use

Challenges in Open Access Publishing

- It is the new 'silver bullet'
- The 'field of dreams' phenomena
- Publishing is no longer confined to the product
- Attention scarcity and information abundance
- Information pollution
- Sustainable business models

Open Access and the Knowledge Economy

- Part of the knowledge economy as a sector
- Provides the material base for a knowledge economy
- 'Open' leads to great rates of **innovation** and **engagement**
- Opens access to Mode 2 sites of knowledge production
- Greater economic efficiency, which permits greater local production

African Knowledge Commons

- Commons: resource held in common
- Outside of capitalist logic
- Public funded = public benefit
- Dominant copyright regimes not useful for 'development'
- Enable innovative potential of scholarship for Africa
- Based on the Access Principle
- Symbolic capital remains relevant

Thank you!