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International Open Access Week 2021, October 25–31

by Caroline Winter | 22 October 2021 | Community News, English, Observations, Observations and Responses | 0 comments



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At a glance:

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The 14th annual International Open Access Week runs from October 25–31, 2021, and this year's theme is "It Matters How We Open Knowledge: Building Structural Equity." This theme was chosen to align with

the [UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science](#) (see “[UNESCO’s Recommendation on Open Science](#)”), which “powerfully articulates and centers the importance of equity in pursuing a future for scholarship that is open by default” (Fandel 2021).

Open Access Week is organized by [SPARC](#), a global organization that advocates for open access, open education, and open data. It began in 2008 as a single-day event and has since transformed into a week-long celebration with global reach. The organizers emphasize that OA advocacy happens year round, however, as should the advancement of diversity, equity and inclusion:

“International Open Access Week is an important opportunity to catalyze new conversations, create connections across and between communities that can facilitate this co-design, and advance progress to build more equitable foundations for opening knowledge—discussions and actions that need to be continued, year in and year out.” (Fandel)

Tweets about International Open Access Week can be found at [#OAweek](#).

OA Week 2021 and the INKE Partnership

SPARC organizes Open Access Week in consultation with an international advisory board that includes INKE Partnership members Lise Brin, Program Officer with the [Canadian Association of Research Librarians \(CARL\)](#), and Juan Pablo Alperin, Associate Director of Research with the [Public Knowledge Project \(PKP\)](#) at Simon Fraser University (SFU).

[SFU Libraries](#) is offering a workshop for graduate students about publishing online, and their online portal includes links to materials from past years’ Open Access Week celebrations, including a link to the film *Paywall: the Business of Scholarship* (see “[The Film Paywall: The Business of Scholarship](#)”), a keynote presentation by Jessie Loyer from 2019 called [Can we Decolonize Open?](#), and a panel discussion from 2018 called [Open But Not Free: Invisible Labour in Open Scholarship](#).

CARL is hosting a series of webinars about its collaboration with OpenAIRE, a European open scholarship infrastructure initiative, which focuses on integrating and identifying Canadian content. The first webinar, to be held on October 26, is [Looking for a Needle in a Haystack: Increasing the International Visibility of Canadian Research through the CARL-OpenAIRE Collaboration](#).

The University of Windsor’s Leddy Library is hosting the online event on October 26 featuring INKE Partners [Érudit](#) and [PKP](#): [Open Access Publishing and Coalition Publica: Perspectives from Érudit, the Library, and a Journal Editor](#).

The [Electronic Textual Cultures Lab \(ETCL\)](#) and the University of Victoria Libraries are hosting an online talk by UVic’s 2021–22 Honorary Resident Wikipedian, Nastasia Herold, with Thérèse Ottawa, on [Ethics and Responsibilities of Open Access and its Realization in the Atikamekw First Nation’s Wikipedia](#). The talk will be held on Wednesday, October 27 and is free and open to all.

In Australia, [Open Access Australasia](#), one of INKE’s partners in the [Canadian–Australian Partnership for Open Scholarship \(CAPOS\)](#), is hosting a series of online events to celebrate OA Week:

- [Growing the Value of Research by Nurturing the Open Knowledge Ecosystem](#), October 25
- [Shaking up the Culture of Research Assessment](#), October 26
- [Open Across the Research Spectrum: What Different Disciplines can Learn from Each Other](#), October 27
- [How to Address Global Challenges with Open Science](#), October 27
- [Indigenous Voices: Research Principles and Practice through a First Nations Lens](#), October 28
- [Another Kind of Open: Exploring the Benefits and Barriers to the Creation and Use of Open Education Resources](#), October 29
- [Making Research Truly Accessible: Insight Unshared is Thwarted Potential](#), October 29

Canadian and International OA Week Events of Interest

In Canada, the [University of British Columbia \(UBC\) Library](#) is presenting a series of OA Week events:

- [Indigenous Knowledges and Open Education Symposium](#), October 22
- [Open and Equitable Publishing: Get to Know ICER Press!](#), October 26
- [Open 101 Workshop](#), October 26
- [OA Myth Busting Workshop](#), October 27
- [UBCO OER Grant Project Showcase](#), October 28
- [Creative Commons and Open Licensing in Practice](#), October 29

The UBC Library is also hosting several events in November as part of its [Open Scholarship in Practice](#) series:

- [Creating Digital Exhibits: A Survey of Tools](#), November 2
- [Publishing in the Open: A Discussion on Open Access in Canada](#), November 2
- [Creative Commons and Copyleft Trolls](#), November 3
- [Open Scholarship in Practice – Faculty Lightning Talks](#), November 3
- [An Introduction to OSF](#), November 3
- [Past, Present, and Future: A Conversation on Open Access with Leslie Chan](#), November 4
- [Preparing and Preserving Your Research Outputs: Basics and Beyond](#), November 4

In the UK, the British Library is holding an online Open and Engaged 2021 conference on October 25 as part of OA Week, [Understanding the Impact of Open in the Arts and Humanities Beyond the University](#).

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), held in Glasgow, is hosting an [Open Access Virtual Book Showcase](#) featuring more than 150 books related to sustainability and climate change, available from October 28–November 22.

International Open Access Week and Open Scholarship

Open Access is an important component of open scholarship and forms part of SPARC's Open Agenda, which also includes Open Data and Open Education. As an international event that raises awareness about open access and the Open movement more broadly and an opportunity to celebrate its successes, International Open Access Week is an important annual milestone for open scholarship.

Works Cited

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