

**"OPEN ACCESS INITIATIVE IN ONE OF THE
PALESTINIAN UNIVERSITIES: BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY"**

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OUTLINE

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DEFINITION of OPEN ACCESS

Wikipedia encyclopedia:-

Open access (OA) is free, immediate, permanent, full-text, [online](#) access, for any user, web-wide, to digital scientific and scholarly material, primarily [research](#) articles published in [peer-reviewed](#) journals. OA means that any individual user, anywhere, who has access to the Internet, may link, read, download, store, print-off, use, and data-mine the digital content of that article. An OA article usually has limited copyright and licensing restrictions.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_access

US Association of Research Libraries:-

Open Access: Digital works that are made available often at no cost to the reader on the public Internet for purposes of education and research.

<http://www.arl.org>

Western Carolina University:-

Open access (OA) is worldwide movements wherein full-text scholarly articles are completely free and unrestricted to all users to read, copy, download, and distribute over the World Wide Web. See Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

www.wcu.edu/1613.asp

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE:

- Library Associations and Organizations conferences and meetings: e.g.: eIFL, IFLA, ALA, ACRL ...etc.
- Internet, emails, mailing lists.
- Readings: books, research & conference papers ...etc.
- Partners and colleagues.

OBJECTIVES:

General objective:

To establish an online database to host the theses and scientific publications of the Palestinian Universities with main focus on Birzeit University at this stage.

Other objectives:

- To join the A2K (Access to Knowledge) movement.
- To encourage scientific research.
- To keep an archival record of the institutions' publications
- To make services available from anywhere at anytime.
- To share knowledge with others on "GIVE & TAKE" basis.

- To make materials esp. thesis and dissertations available to researchers locally where geographical barriers, walls, checkpoints are a restriction to movement.
- To reduce the problem of financial constraints in regard to purchase of materials.
- To avoid duplication of work & themes among universities.
- To prevent plagiarism.
- To create cooperative programs nationally and internationally.

WHY OPEN ACCESS??

- Removal of access barriers such as cost, restrictive intellectual property law, geographical & political barriers.
- Enhance research and enrich the learning processes esp. in Higher Education.
- Make Palestinian heritage, literature, spread widely
- Provides better, easier, and quicker results.

- Enables the wide sharing and use of knowledge and information globally. (Globalization Movement)
- Accessibility to various websites and databases working with open access. (As DOAJ, High Wire, MIT Theses ...etc.)
- Overcome Space problems.
- Overcome financial problems.

ADVANTAGES OF OPEN ACCESS

- OA largely advocates for the removal of price and legal barriers which inhibit the free access and use of knowledge and information generated by different researchers everywhere.
- It empowers readers to find and make use of relevant literature from anywhere at anytime.
- It gives authors and their works vast and measurable new visibility, readership and impact.

MATERIALS TO BE DIGITIZED

- Master thesis: resulted from different graduate programs offered at BZU.
- Doctoral dissertations of the university faculty & staff.
- Research, Conference papers written by faculty & staff.
- Institutes & centers publications; reports, research, pamphlets, articles ...etc.
- University journal and Newsletters

REQUIREMENTS:

- Allocate budget; look for fund to implement the project.
- Infrastructure: equipment (server, scanner, computers ...etc.)
- IT background and Knowledge.
- Training.
- Technical processes; cataloging, indexing & abstracting are crucial if the content is to be used effectively.

■ Software; is it:

- Open Source
- DSpace, developed by (MIT) *the Massachusetts Institute of Technology*
- The VT software, designed for e-theses by *Virginia Technical Graduate School & the Computer Science Department.*

MAJOR CONCERNS WITH E-PUBLISHING of THESES:

- The Copyright & Intellectual Property Issues.
- Willingness, Approval & Acceptance of the Institutions to Publish on Open Access Platforms.
- Co-operation and sustainability among the different partners & parties involved

OPEN ACCESS TEAM:

- Faculty of Graduate Studies
(To help update the collection)
- Library Technical Services Units
- Digitization Project Team
- The Computing Unit or Center

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!!!!
ANY QUESTIONS??**

