CLACSO and Open Access

CLACSO supports open access to knowledge as a commons, managed by the scholarly community

In Latin America and the Caribbean, two thirds of research is publicly funded. However, access to the results of that research is hampered by limitations in traditional scholarly communication systems. CLACSO-Latin American Council of Social Sciences, a non-governmental network of 380 research institutions and 650 postgraduate programs in 25 countries, partners with universities and governments of Latin America and the Caribbean in the promotion and development of strategies and initiatives that provide open access to research results in the region.

CLACSO works together with the regional initiatives Latindex, Redalyc, SciELO, La Referencia, UNESCO-GOAP, and with institutional repositories and university journal portals, to give visibility to research output from the region. All these initiatives are non-commercial and managed by the scholarly community. The Council renews its support to those non-commercial institutional and regional scholarly initiatives mentioned above to give visibility and open access to research output from Latin America and the Caribbean, and hopes that governments in the region will continue giving their full support to strengthen these initiatives.

CLACSO promotes a model of open access to knowledge as a commons, managed in cooperative and inclusive models by the scholarly community, and defends this position in the international debate on a renewal of scholarly communications. In a region where open access initiatives mentioned above are managed by the scholarly community, the Council sees with great concern proposals from international commercial publishers to manage open access of Latin American journals.

Pablo Gentili, Executive Secretary
Fernanda Saforcada, Academic Director
Dominique Babini, Open Access Program Coordinator

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CLACSO´s Latin America and the Caribbean social science digital repository started in 1998. Today, it provides open access to 35,000 full-texts, including CLACSO´s peer-review journal collection in redalyc.org, and receives a monthly average of 850,000 requests. It is in 31st. position in the the world Ranking Web of portals.

1,000 editors and librarians are members of the digital repository community which receives weekly communications on open access trends, initiatives and best practices.
Today, 68% of the 400 social science and humanities journals published in CLACSO´s network are open access.

CLACSO´s editorial catalog includes 900 social science&humanities books offered in open access in CLACSO´s repository, and available for sale in print-on-demand.

CLACSO´s Campaign in support of Open Access started in 2009

The Council has signed

- The Berlin Declaration on Open Access [Access the declaration in English, Spanish, Portuguese]
- The Declaration of San Francisco on Evaluation of Research- DORA
- The Declaration COAR-Confederation of Open Access Repositories, in support of reducing or eliminating embargo for immediate open access to scientific literature

CLACSO is a member of

- the Open Policy Network
- SHARE-Shared Access Research Ecosystem
- Electronic Publishing Trust for Development

- CLACSO´s research Working Groups Program organized a competition in 2013 for the creation of a regional research group on the topic of the commons, where open access to knowledge as a commons is included. The working group is coordinated by Eduardo Aguado López (UAEM) and Elena Lazos Chavero (IIS-UNAM) with researchers from diverse countries in the region. Contact: eal123@gmail.com ; lazos@unam.mx

- CLACSO´s Scholarship Program organized in 2011 the contest "Common Goods: space, knowledge and intellectual property" and awarded 16 research grants in the region.

CLACSO promotes national and institutional open access policies. E.g. open access legislation was approved by Congress in Argentina in May 2013. The Council participates in the Experts Committee of the National System of Digital Repositories, at the Ministry of Science and Technology, where the bill was drafted.

CLACSO was selected by UNESCO to:
Coordinate collaborative CLACSO-UNESCO-SciELO-REDALYC-PKP-AJOL research project “Open Access indicators: Assessing growth and use of OA resources from developing regions — the cases of Latin America and Africa” (2013) and edit book with results

Prepare the contents of Section Latin America and the Caribbean, for UNESCO-Global Open Access Portal


Contribute in First Latin American and Caribbean Regional Consultation on Open Access to Scientific Information and Research, Kingston, 4 to 8 March 2013 and in recommendations for the Final Report

Recent CLACSO´s Open Access Program publications and presentations in English

- Voices from the Global South on Open Access in Social Sciences. In: Open Access Perspectives in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Open Access Conference Booklet, London School of Economics Public Policy Group & SAGE.
- “On the state of Open Access: Where we are, what still needs to be done” Interview por Richard Poynder (UK). (25-7-2013).
- Open access initiatives in the Global South affirm the lasting value of a shared scholarly communications system. In: London School of Economics and Political Science Impact Blog, October 23rd, 2013.
- Open Access in Latin America presentation in panel “Research without borders: Open Access in the Americas” organized by the Scholarly
Communication Program and The Digital Humanities Center, Columbia University, April 29th, 2014.


- Open access in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Presentation at UNESCO Regional Latin America and the Caribbean Consultation on Open Access to Scientific Information and Research. UNESCO, Kingston, Jamaica, 5-8 March 2013.

Open Access week events in CLACSO’s network

Contact:

CLACSO Open Access:  Dominique Babini  babini[at]clacso.edu.ar