



Session Outcome Document

WSIS Action Line: C3 Access to information and knowledge: “Investing in Equitable Knowledge Access: Diamond Open Access” Thursday, 10 July 2025 (9:00 – 9:45)

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/388>

Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025 (5–8 bullet points highlighting achievements, emerging trends, challenges in 20 years, figures, success stories and opportunities for WSIS beyond 2025)

Access to Information Laws:

- Since 2019, UNESCO has conducted an annual global survey using a validated methodology approved by the UN Statistical Commission. The survey, sent to Member States each year, collects data through an 8 question self-assessment tool covering key principles of ATI, including legal frameworks, oversight and appeals mechanisms, record keeping, and the scope of exemptions. Each response is scored, contributing to a global aggregate that illustrates implementation trends without assigning national performance levels.
- In addition to monitoring and reporting on SDG 16.10.2 UNESCO continued its engagement through strategic support to national legal reform, capacity building, and awareness-raising initiatives, particularly the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAL) as key instruments to promote access to information worldwide. The monitoring framework under SDG 16.10.2 also serves as a fact-based tool to inform and guide Member States in advancing their legal and institutional frameworks.

Libraries

- The role of libraries is rapidly evolving due to the global rise of AI, affecting how information is accessed, organized, and used by students, learners, and professionals.
- IFIP is exploring how library systems and classification methods must adapt, emphasizing the need for updated policies that respond to AI-driven changes.
- AI's impact extends beyond library staffing to issues of equitable access, digital inclusion, and the responsible use of library resources.

Diamond Open Access Model

- Libraries play a central role in scholarly communications by negotiating with publishers, managing journal subscriptions, and leveraging research grants to support and advance open access initiatives.
- Equity, cost savings, and accessibility are key benefits of Diamond Open Access (DOA), making it a valuable model for inclusive scholarly communication.
- Sustainable funding and infrastructure are among the biggest challenges facing DOA implementation and scalability.



- Institutional engagement plays a critical role in promoting DOA, from policy development to supporting community-led publishing models.
- Respondents call for a more inclusive global framework, with libraries actively negotiating with publishers, managing subscriptions, and leveraging research grants to support open access initiatives.

Intersection of Action Line C3 – Access to Information

- This Action Line intersects with others, including **Action Line C8: Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content**, which emphasizes the protection of Indigenous knowledge and other sensitive content, and **Action Line C7: ICT applications – e-learning**, which highlights the role of digital tools in education and knowledge sharing.

Tangible Outcomes of the session

Announcement of Key Achievements

- **Access to Information Laws:** With regard to ATI implementation, the 2024 survey findings reflect both encouraging progress and persistent gaps. Participation in the monitoring process has steadily increased, with 126 countries responding in 2023 and 125 in 2024. As of 2025, 139 countries have adopted ATI legislation, an increase from just 14 in 1990. Notably, 27 countries enacted ATI laws after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.
- **Diamond Open Access:** Launched in September 2024 and disseminated via stakeholder networks by email and made available in 4 languages It reached more than 2,900 respondents from 92 Member States. Some 3600 qualitative multilingual comments collected were collected. Results underscore the shared understanding that Diamond OA advances equity by removing financial barriers for authors and readers, Shared infrastructure and public investment are vital for sustainability.

Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Action Plan for the WSIS+20 Review and Beyond (2–5 bullet points presenting concrete actions and guidance to inform the WSIS+20 Review by UNGA and build the multistakeholder vision of WSIS beyond 2025)

- **Access to Information Laws:** With only five years remaining to achieve the 2030 Agenda, UNESCO underscores the urgent need to intensify advocacy efforts and improve not only the adoption but also the quality and implementation of ATI laws, using IDUAL as a primary platform for mobilization and progress and UNESCO SDG 16.10.2 monitoring reports as a source of best practice.
- **Libraries:** Better harnessing of the central role of libraries in the age of AI is key to ensuring inclusive, quality access to information.
- **Open Access to Scholarly Communications – Diamond Open Access:** global collaboration is key to its inclusive governance and implementation of Diamond Open Access.