

10th International Open Access Week - Celebrating Freedom

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The 10th International open access week was celebrated from 22nd - 28th October, 2018 with the theme - "Designing equitable foundations for open knowledge" [1]. The history of open access week dates back to 2007, where it was celebrated as a single day event. However, from the year 2009, the event was recognized globally and a whole week was dedicated to it [2]. Since then the dates were finalized and it was decided to conduct the open access week every year in the last full week of October [3]. Each year various events are planned in different universities around the globe to celebrate open access.

One of the important milestone in the history of open access movement was the Berlin Declaration in 2003 [4], where they defined open access elaborately and pledged to make efforts towards achieving open access for all. The Royal Society journal also made their whole archive (from 1665 - 1941) public in the year 2011 [5].

Open access to the various articles is empowering research scholars around the world to such an extent that novel ideas are coming forward which might not have been possible due to sheer lack of resources. It gives access to already published work, starting from the bottom of the food chain i.e. from students to the research funding agencies and universities alike. With open access we can make a change in society where all the members can come forward to collaborate and share ideas for development of mankind.

However, open access comes with its own challenges which needs to be addressed by pondering upon this year's theme. The inequalities in open system, standard of articles, giving due importance to eminent personalities and whether open access infringes upon confidential subject matter due to security reasons still needs to be looked out for. Various forums and events were organized in the past one week and the conclusion for the same is still to come. But we can surely say that we have come a long way in providing open access to information, and there is still a very long way to go. The dialogue must continue, and progress should be made to build equitable foundations for open knowledge.

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