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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BALANI GROUP OF COMPANIES

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LIS Corner

Role of Open Science

Open Science is a movement aimed at making scientific research, data, and dissemination accessible to all levels of society, from researchers to the general public. It promotes transparency, collaboration, and reproducibility in science, fostering innovation and accelerating discovery.

Key Roles of Open Science:

• Enhancing Transparency & Reproducibility

Open access to research methods, data, and findings allows for independent verification, reducing errors and fraud.

Encourages replication studies, strengthening scientific credibility.

• Accelerating Scientific Progress

Openly shared data and publications reduce duplication of efforts.

Enables faster collaboration across disciplines and institutions.

• Increasing Public Engagement & Trust

Makes science more accessible to policymakers, educators, and citizens.

Builds public trust by demystifying research processes.

• Promoting Equity & Global Collaboration

Reduces barriers for researchers in low-resource settings.

Encourages international cooperation on global challenges (e.g., climate change, pandemics).

• Supporting Innovation & Economic Growth

Businesses, startups, and nonprofits can leverage open research for new technologies and solutions. Governments can use open data for evidence-based policymaking.

• Improving Research Efficiency

Open-source tools and platforms reduce costs and improve workflow.

Pre-registration of studies and open peer review enhance research quality.

• Challenges in Open Science:

Sustainability: Funding models for open-access publishing.

Data Privacy: Balancing openness with ethical concerns (e.g., medical data).

Incentives: Academic reward systems often favor traditional publishing over open practices

Conclusion

Open Science plays a crucial role in democratizing knowledge, improving research integrity, and addressing global challenges more effectively. By fostering collaboration and transparency, it helps science serve society better.

New Report: The Current State of Academic e-Book business models

The report considers the areas of alignment and disconnect between the library and publisher communities on academic monograph publishing.

While the two communities have come together on a variety of important initiatives, including new models for open access publications, they are facing different challenges and do not necessarily share the same priorities. University presses and other academic book publishers are experiencing an enormous squeeze in the transition to digital production and distribution, while libraries are concerned that digital distribution is resulting in acquisition models that are unsustainable or unreliable to manage.

Understanding this landscape of existing business models for scholarly monograph publications and the extent to which it meets the needs of academic libraries and authors is critical in identifying how publishers can further evolve e-monograph business models.

With flattening or decreasing budgets, academic libraries often struggle to determine where they should allocate their limited resources to meet the demands of their researchers while aligning strategic priorities with their parent institutions. The continuously evolving landscape of business models, which may include big deals or multiyear, comprehensive contracts, hybrid deals which bundle print and digital content, transformative agreements, and flip to open models, often leave overleveraged libraries trying to understand which models best align with their budgets.

Key findings of this research include:

- For some libraries, a major challenge to acquiring e-monographs is having experienced staff
- who understand how to navigate the complexities of acquisitions across publishers and aggregators.
- The majority of librarians interviewed believe that evidence-based acquisition models provide
- an especially efficient way to allocate money.
- New business models introduce new challenges—both pragmatic and ideological—for publishers
- · and libraries.
- Consortia are viewed as increasingly critical by publishers in equalizing opportunities for readership and publication.

Please view the full report: https://sr.ithaka.org/publications/the-current-state-of-academic-e-book-business-models/.

Credits: https://librarylearningspace.com/

Face to Face

Biginfo spoke on a range of issues to eminent library professional, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, currently serving as University Librarian, Dr. BR Ambedkar University, Delhi.

Some excerpts:



BI: Please describe your professional journey and vision for a transformative librarianship.

SK. After earning my degree in Library Science from Delhi University in 1987, I had the privilege of joining the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) as one of its founding members—embarking on a transformative 36+year journey that redefined my vision of what a library could and should be. From the ground up, I built NIFT's library into a dynamic, innovation-driven hub that seamlessly connected academia, industry, and creative research.

Beyond traditional collections, I curated fashion archives, trend forecasts, digital fabric repositories, and immersive VR/AR experiences, turning the space into a living laboratory for design and sustainability. From 2014 to 2022, I also held the additional charge of Director IT, leading NIFT's digital transformation across its campuses. I concluded my tenure as Director, National Resource Centre (NRC), steering strategic initiatives in knowledge management, resource sharing, and capacity building. During this period, I also served as Project Coordinator for "Creating Repository of Indian Textiles and Crafts", a landmark project inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 7 August 2023.

My approach has been shaped by rich global exposure—ranging from a UNDP fellowship, advanced studies at the University of Aberystwyth (UK), and training at AIT Bangkok, to professional visits to leading institutions in the USA. These experiences instilled in me the importance of blending social consciousness with technological innovation in librarianship.

Now, as University Librarian at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi since 2024, I carry forward this legacy with renewed purpose. My mission remains to democratize knowledge, foster interdisciplinary research, and integrate emerging technologies—whether through AI-assisted research tools, open-access advocacy, or collaborative learning spaces. Fashion taught me that libraries must be visually engaging, experientially rich, and industry-relevant; these principles now guide my work in a broader academic landscape. As I continue this journey, I am committed to ensuring libraries evolve as inclusive, future-ready ecosystems that empower scholars, bridge gaps, and ignite lifelong curiosity.

I believe that libraries must be engaging, experientially rich, and relevant to their communities. These principles now guide my work in a wider academic landscape. As I continue this journey, I am committed to shaping libraries as inclusive, future-ready ecosystems that empower scholars, bridge divides, and ignite lifelong curiosity. For me, the story has never been just about collections—it has always been about connections.

BI: Please share your vision for strengthening research eco system of an academic institution and role of a library.

SK: A robust research ecosystem is essential for fostering innovation, academic excellence, and industry relevance in higher education. To strengthen this ecosystem, institutions must prioritize interdisciplinary collaboration, cutting-edge resources, and researcher support systems. Libraries play a pivotal role by serving as the intellectual backbone—providing access to global academic databases, rare collections, and emerging technologies like AI-driven research tools. By curating specialized repositories, facilitating open-access publishing, and hosting research workshops, libraries empower scholars to push boundaries in their fields. Additionally, partnerships with industry and other academic institutions can enhance knowledge exchange, ensuring research remains impactful and aligned with real-world challenges.

The library's role extends beyond being a passive repository; it must evolve into an active research facilitator. This includes offering data analytics support, research methodology training, and digital literacy programs to enhance scholarly output. By integrating institutional repositories and promoting open educational resources (OERs), libraries ensure wider dissemination of research. Furthermore, dedicated spaces for collaborative research, innovation hubs, and connections with global networks can transform the library into a dynamic research incubator. Through these efforts, the library not only supports individual researchers but also strengthens the institution's reputation as a leader in knowledge creation and thought leadership.

BI: What is your take on the role of transformative agreements in improving research facilities?

SK: Transformative Agreements (TAs) are pivotal in reshaping the scholarly communication landscape by transitioning from traditional subscription-based models to open access (OA) publishing. These agreements, negotiated between institutions and publishers, aim to combine reading access to paywalled journals with mechanisms to cover article processing charges (APCs), thereby removing financial barriers for authors and democratizing knowledge dissemination. For academic institutions, TAs serve as a strategic tool to align with global OA mandates (such as Plan S), reduce redundancies in subscription costs, and amplify the visibility and impact of their research. By ensuring that publicly funded research is freely accessible, TAs foster greater equity, interdisciplinary collaboration, and societal engagement with science and scholarship.

Libraries play a central role in implementing and optimizing transformative agreements. As stewards of institutional knowledge, they negotiate terms with publishers, educate researchers on OA policies, and track compliance to maximize ROI. Beyond cost management, libraries leverage TAs to curate institutional repositories, promote author rights retention, and integrate OA outputs into broader research support services—such as bibliometrics and altmetrics tracking**.

In developing economies, where paywalls often hinder research access, TAs can be game-changers, enabling local scholars to contribute to global conversations while accessing cutting-edge findings. However, challenges like publisher monopolies, inequitable fee structures, and hybrid journal loopholes require libraries to advocate for transparent, sustainable models. Ultimately, TAs are not just contracts but catalysts for systemic change, advancing a future where knowledge is a shared public good rather than a commodified asset.

BI: How do you see the future of librarianship in the neo-information environment?

SK. The neo-information environment—characterized by AI-driven analytics, decentralized knowledge networks, and immersive digital interfaces—is redefining the role of librarians from custodians of collections to curators of dynamic, intelligent learning ecosystems. Future librarians will leverage generative AI, semantic search tools, and blockchain-based authentication to organize and disseminate knowledge while combating misinformation.

Libraries will evolve into hybrid physical-digital hubs, offering VR/AR learning spaces, real-time global collaboration platforms, and personalized research assistants powered by machine learning.

Emphasis will shift from access to contextualization, with librarians guiding users through complex data landscapes, ethical AI use, and digital literacy. Sustainability and open science will be central, as libraries adopt green technologies and advocate for equitable knowledge-sharing models like transformative agreements and citizen science archives.

In this paradigm, librarianship will prioritize interdisciplinary innovation, bridging gaps between academia, industry, and community needs. Libraries will serve as nodes in a global knowledge web, integrating IoT-enabled smart collections, predictive analytics for trend mapping, and crowdsourced digital repositories.

In neo-information environment, librarians will become "meta-knowledge architects," designing adaptive systems that anticipate user needs while preserving cultural heritage through decentralized digital preservation.

The profession's core mission—democratizing knowledge—will expand to include algorithmic transparency, AI ethics training, and co-creation of knowledge with users.

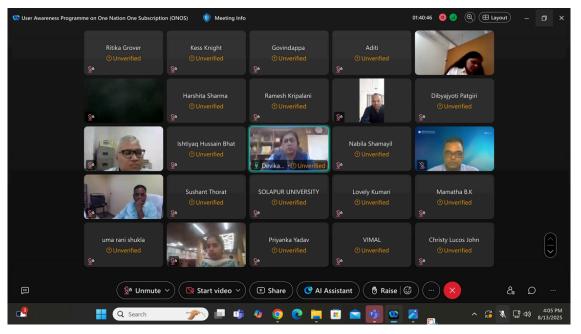
As the neo-information environment blurs boundaries between creators and consumers, librarians will be the human stewards ensuring technology enhances—not replaces—critical inquiry, creativity, and equitable access.

Conferences & Webinars

User Awareness Webinar on ACS & AAAS Products Under "One Nation One Subscription".

A power- packed webinar showcasing the American Chemical Society (ACS) and AAAS/Science offerings, accessible to Indian institutions under the "One Nation One Subscription" (ONOS) initiative was organised by INFLIBNET, Ahmedabad in association with Balani Infotech & iGroup on August 13, 2025 in an online format.

The session aimed to promote awareness and utilization of these premium resources among researchers, faculty, and librarians.



Prof. Devika Madalli Director, INFLIBNET, inaugurated the webinar, stressing the transformative potential of ONOS for India's research ecosystem. She urged participants from 6,500+ eligible institutions to actively explore these resources to accelerate academic and scientific output.

The webinar consisted of the following two presentations:

1. ACS Publications: Powering Cutting-Edge Research

Speaker: Mr. Piyush Gupta, Market & Business Development Manager, ACS Publications.

Mr. Piyush Gupta in his valuable presentation emphasized the high impact factor and global reputation of ACS journals. and demonstrated tools for researchers to navigate ACS's interdisciplinary content.

2. AAAS/Science: Advancing Global Knowledge

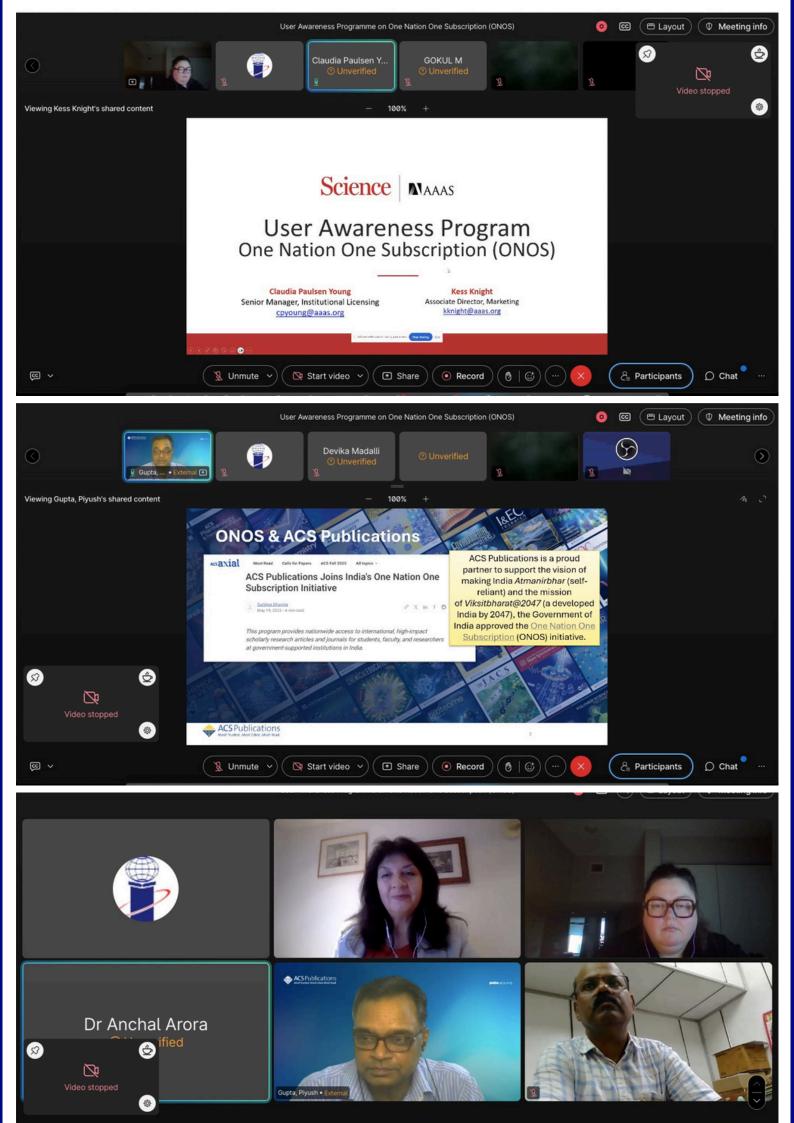
Speakers: Mr. Kess Knight, Associate Director, Institutional Licensing, AAAS, & Ms. Claudia Paulsen Young, Senior Manager, Institutional Licensing, AAAS.

Ms. Claudia in her insightful presentation. provided an overview of Science journals, archives, and interactive platforms. and case studies on how AAAS resources support multidisciplinary research.

The well attended webinar drew nearly 350 attendees from premier institutions and was followed by a lively Q&A session addressing access protocols, advanced search features, and institutional onboarding.

The webinar was also attended by Ms. Megha Balani, Executive Director, Balani Infotech & Mr. Tristan Barter, Head, iGroup India.

Some Glimpses:



Exploring Digital Resources: Workshop for Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts



We are pleased to announce that an online workshop on Project MUSE and Taylor & Francis was successfully conducted on Saturday, August 23, 2025, from 4:00-5:00 PM (IST) for the Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts. The session was led by Dr. Tariq Ashraf, Director — Product, Training, Research & Communication, who shared valuable insights on effectively navigating and utilizing Project MUSE and Taylor & Francis resources for academic and research purposes. The workshop provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of the platforms, their key features.

The interactive format allowed students and faculty to engage directly with the speaker, making it an enriching and informative session for all attendees.





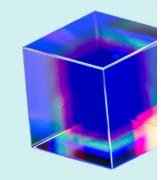
Deep dive into the human element in AI-enhanced publishing: SciFlow

The future of publishing is not just about technology. It is about people first.

Hosted by SciFlow, we are bringing together researchers, authors, and innovators for a roundtable

We often hear from our researcher, institutional, and publisher communities about concerns, developments, and opportunities happening in an AI-enhanced world. We want to give you a space for open discussion with diverse opinions, all in one place.

- Share your voice
- Learn from peers
- · Shape what comes next



Speakers



Prof. Manish Kumar Department of Biophysics, University of Delhi South Campus, India



Chief Partnership Officer, Global Publishers and Societies, Cactus Communications

Nikesh Gosalia



Prof. Nausikaä El-

Mecky Member, Falling Walls Female Science Talents Intensive Track 2025, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain



Sophie Braun Founder ReportAssistant, former researcher and VC

Dr. med. vet. Hannah-

More Information

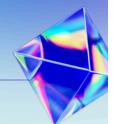
Check out our full list of speakers here

If you have something to say about Al in publishing, now is the time. Can't make it? Register and receive a link to the recording.

Event Details

4th September, 2025 05:30 PM IST **Duration: 90 Minutes**

Registration Link



E- Book Exhibition at IIT Mumbai During August 18-24, 2025

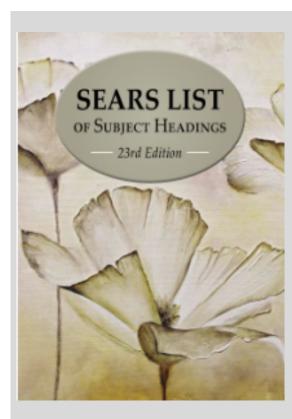












Sears List of Subject Headings

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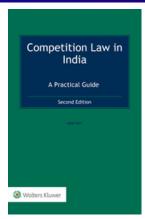
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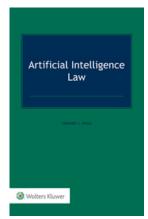
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Share your ideas, observations, news & events related to the libraries, publishing, and information industry on info@balaniinfotech.com. We will be happy to publish these in the Newsletter.





Thank you for reading!





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