



Caribbean Libraries, Users and Future of Directions of Open Access

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Abstract:

Some twenty years ago the concept of Open Access was taking shape in response to public statements which were drawn up in Budapest in 2002, Berlin in 2003, and Bethesda in 2003. These public statements were responding to increasing prices of journals, and other restricting factors. Open Access is increasingly becoming evident to users as a means of obtaining and sharing information and knowledge. Peter Suber's definition of Open Access highlights free availability on the public Internet, without financial, legal, or technical barriers.

This paper will examine the developments in Open Access provision and use in selected Caribbean libraries, archives and museums; the adoption of services facilitated by the Internet, particularly creation, and upkeep of Open Access journals, and institutional repositories; and the strategies and policies instituted by governments, universities, and research centres in support of information users.

Keywords: Open Access—Caribbean Libraries.