



Open Access Case Studies: a Look at Progress Internationally in Libraries and Other Industries

By John Atkin

Affiliation: Caribbean Manager,
Cranbury International

Abstract: There are many parallels in the area of open standards in the engineering, computer science, and architectural fields, to the need to manage open access in libraries. There have been a multitude of studies done worldwide that have set out to define open standards in these fields, and establish principles through a process made up of developers, manufacturers and users in the specific fields. Open standards are generically defined as standards that are independent of any single institution or manufacturer, and to which users may propose amendments. By various industries and countries coming to agreement as to a definition of open standards, and how to facilitate access to these standards by users, there is a smoother process in accessing this information.

This paper will examine the processes used by the engineering, computer science, and other industries and provide a correlation of these open standards to the ACURIL recommended theme of exploring the ongoing debate and discussion of open access in libraries. It additionally will provide the readers and participants with interpretations and different perspectives using this comparison.

The paper will be based on the international studies of open standards, publishers' experiences in open access, libraries' experiences in open access, and will examine the methods, resources, and initiatives that are being developed to achieve the goals of the institution's library.

Keywords: Open Access – Case studies; open standards; Open Access and the sciences – Caribbean.