Global Open Access to Scholarly Literature: Progress and Evidence of African Leadership

Speaker: Prof Cameron Neylon

Date: 20 October 2020
Time: 10:00 – 11:00 SAST
Venue: Virtual via Zoom
RSVP: Register at http://bit.ly/oaweek2020. A link to the meeting room will be sent to all registered participants closer to the date.

There is accumulating evidence of large-scale global progress towards open access, with most current estimates placing the proportion of scholarly content that is freely available to read at around 50%. This progress has been accompanied with significant debate on the most efficient, most affordable, and most equitable routes towards a goal of 100%. Relatively little attention has been paid to how different regions and countries are achieving open access and the different routes they are taking. In this talk I will discuss global progress, and evidence that far from following that progress, many African institutions are leading it, with measured open access levels amongst the highest in the world. What are the policy implications for scholarly communications from Africa and how can we build greater visibility for African research on a global scale?

Cameron Neylon is Professor of Research Communication at the Centre for Culture and Technology at Curtin University and well known agitator for opening up the process of research. His current work focusses on how the cultures of research affect and effect change in research communications. He speaks regularly on issues of Open Science including Open Access publication, Open Data, and Open Source as well as the wider technical and social issues of applying the opportunities the internet brings to the practice of science. He was named as a SPARC Innovator in July 2010 for work on the Panton Principles and was a co-author of the Altmetrics manifesto and the Principles for Open Scholarly Infrastructures. He is a proud recipient of the Blue Obelisk for contributions to open data. He writes regularly at his blog, Science in the Open.