Summary of Open and Engaged 2020, "Inequities in Scholarly Communications".

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The third annual British Library Open and Engaged conference (see #OpenEngaged2020) was held online for the first time in October 2020. The conference theme of 'Inequities in Scholarly Communications' addressed the annual international Open Access Week 2020 theme of 'Open with Purpose: Taking Action to Build Structural Equity and Inclusion'. 260 people were welcomed by Liz Jolly, the Library's Chief Librarian.

Keynote

Charlotte Roh from the University of San Francisco, presented the keynote "Inequities in Scholarly Communications" speaking from a US context exploring issues of diversity, equity and representation in scholarly communications. Charlotte also highlighted a lack of diversity in the publishing industry and a lack of representation of non-white peoples in children's books. A similar lack of diversity is also found within higher education library professionals.
https://doi.org/10.23636/1223

The first of three sessions examined how to create a more equitable scholarly publishing ecosystem.

Reggie Raju, University of Cape Town, proposed that the philanthropic origins of the open access movement have been hijacked by commercial publishing enterprises, resulting in the marginalisation of voices from the Global South. He advocates that the African open access movement needs to be driven by social justice imperatives to create an equitable and inclusive medium for the sharing of scholarship, resulting in the growth and development of society. https://doi.org/10.23636/1224

A Latin American perspective was given by **Arianna Becerril-García** who outlined the approaches behind Redalyc and AmeliCA. Both being underpinned by very active communities of University and academic institutions and are running article processing charge free publications which allow multilingual functionalities and are leveraged by technology. https://doi.org/10.23636/1225

The value of small and medium sized academic publishers in meeting locally focussed needs was provided by **Elea Giménez Toledo**, Spanish National Research Council. Elea highlighted their importance for local language publishing and maintaining bibliodiversity in Humanities and Social Sciences publishing. https://doi.org/10.23636/1231

Janneke Adema, Coventry University, gave a UK perspective, introducing the work of the COPIM project which is working to deliver major improvements to the infrastructure for open access book publishing. Scaling Small is an approach advocating that scale can be nurtured through intentional collaborations between community-driven projects. Janneke's examples illustrated many facets of this approach. https://doi.org/10.23636/1227

The second session looked at interventions beyond libraries, focussing on approaches to decolonising archives.

Melissa Bennett, National Trust, reflected on her work with photographic archive materials connected with the West India Regiments, which is dispersed across the Caribbean, the UK and the US. She stressed the importance of language, to challenge the use of phrases reflecting colonial attitudes within archival and library systems. https://doi.org/10.23636/1226

Subhadra Das is Curator of the Galton Collection at UCL. She presented the problematic issues of the naming of spaces and buildings at UCL, focussing on Francis Galton and his links with the history of eugenics. Subhadra considered how to bring this story to a wider public and in 2017 the 'Bricks and Mortals' exhibition achieved this. The project told this history through the buildings themselves, with explanatory panels in buildings and more in-depth podcasts. Subhadra stressed the importance of acknowledging the past that museums are not neutral and that museums are spaces for activism. https://doi.org/10.23636/1229

Majd Al-Shihabi quoted Abu Sitta "An essential part of the colonial process was mapping the colonies: to know their historical and spatial characteristics as a prelude to conquering them". The maps produced through those processes now sit in various archives, and often serve as a snapshot of the spatial layout of those regions during the colonial period. Majd described the Palestine Open Maps project which uses the collaborative tools of OpenStreetMap to extract data from historical maps in mapathon events, and explores the liberatory power of open data by engaging the people represented by those maps in the mapping process. https://doi.org/10.23636/1228

The final session looked at the barriers to participation in open research.

Josie Caplehorne and **Ben Watson**, University of Kent, discussed how open access could lead the way to 'open accessibility', how the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines legislation is impacting the work of public sector bodies to improve accessibility, and what more could be done to place responsibility on the private sector to create accessible content at point of creation. They addressed questions such as "what happens when open access content can't be meaningful engaged with by those who rely on alternative formats?", "What if the structures of these outputs mean that, for many people around the world, open articles may as well remain behind a restrictive paywall". https://doi.org/10.23636/1232

Kira Allmann, University of Oxford, challenged the assumption that digital spaces are more equitable, representative and accessible than 'offline' spaces detailing examples where this can be seen. Kira spoke about her work with Whose Knowledge and the importance of knowledge justice and the centering of the knowledges of marginalized communities and individuals in our archives, our scholarship, our syllabi and also the internet at large. https://doi.org/10.23636/1230

The final speaker was **Leslie Chan** who invited us to consider the uncritical acceptance of openness, proposing that there is no universal concept of open as the concept does not address how knowledge is created, shared and circulated in different communities and different contexts. Leslie advocates for a need to decenter whiteness in both academic institutions and publishing, arguing that the standards of white patriarchal structures continue to exclude many voices from the scientific record and raising questions such as "who is deciding whom to include?" and "Inclusion into what?". https://doi.org/10.23636/1233