

ASREN's Strategy on Open Science



Raed Al-Zoubi

Open Science Definition

Open Science * is defined as an inclusive construct that combines various movements and practices aiming to make multilingual scientific knowledge openly available, accessible and reusable for everyone, to increase scientific collaborations and sharing of information for the benefits of science and society, and to open the processes of scientific knowledge creation, evaluation and communication to societal actors beyond the traditional scientific community.

It comprises all scientific disciplines and aspects of scholarly practices, including basic and applied sciences, natural and social sciences and the humanities, and it builds on the following key pillars: open scientific knowledge, open science infrastructures, science communication, open engagement of societal actors and open dialogue with other knowledge systems.

* *UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science*

Open science increases scientific collaborations and sharing of information for the benefits of science and society



OPEN SCIENCE



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ASREN Strategy/efforts to Support Open Science

- LIBSENSE initiative: Workshops & activities
- Collaboration with Datacite & Orcid
- Collaboration with LA Referencia
- Collaboration with UNESCO
- Collaboration with EOSC
- Collaboration with AArU
- Arab Science Cooperation to achieve UN SDGs - UNGA76

LIBSENSE initiative

<https://spaces.wacren.net/display/LIBSENSE/Home>

- LIBSENSE Initiative was launched in 2016 to bring the research and education networks (RENs) and academic library communities together to build sustainable and relevant approaches for open access and open science.
- The West and Central African Research and Education Network (WACREN) leads the LIBSENSE initiative in collaboration with sister regional African RENs (ASREN and UbuntuNet Alliance).
- Other participating partners include several national RENs, libraries, library associations, universities and research communities, in conjunction with COAR, EIFL, University of Sheffield, National Institute of Informatics (Japan), GEANT, and OpenAIRE.

Outcomes of the LIBSENSE initiative

- Terms of Reference for NREN-Library collaboration.
- Metadata guidelines for repositories.
- Plans for a regional repository hosting service.
- National and institutional policy templates.

ASREN Contribution to LIBSENSE Initiative



- LIBSENSE III Workshop (Tunisia April 2019) , Priorities surfaced:
 - A federated discovery system for the region.
 - Increasing the value of Arabic content.
 - Shared content hosting platform.
 - Advocacy, training, and communities of practice.
- LIBSENSE Virtual Workshop (October 2020) addressed Open Science/Open Access in Arabic region.
- Third ASREN - LIBSENSE workshop entitled “Next steps” (Dec 2020) discussed supporting Open Knowledge through an initiative for harvesting data repositories in the Arab region with focus on Arabic content and language.
- Promoting the Open Access trends and practices.

ASREN mailing lists :Librarians & Scientific Research communities.

ASREN always contributes/builds on LIBSENSE WGs:

- Infrastructure - OA journals, repositories, and discovery services activities.
- Co-designing Open Access publishing infrastructures
- Capacity Building Priorities: Open repositories, Open access publishing, Research data management, Open learning and open educational resources.

Collaboration with DataCite & ORCID

- LIBSENSE WGs always address the Importance of PIDs
 - Technical awareness sessions/Trainings for RREN staff and for libraries/research communities.
- ASREN with the other LIBSENSE partners; WACREN & UbntoNet have continuous discussions with DataCite & ORCID , each RREN aims to be PIDs provider/enabler in its region.
- ORCID and ASREN have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to facilitate the adoption of ORCID iDs and use of ORCID's Registry amongst members of ASREN's community, which in turn should reap long-term benefits for researchers and research-related organizations in the pan-Arab community.

Collaboration with LA Referencia

- Trieste, Italy, 16 June 2022 - After rounds of discussions and extensive technical evaluation sessions, LA Referencia/RedCLARA, the Latin American Cooperation of Advanced Networks, and ASREN, the Arab States Research and Education Network, have signed an agreement within the framework fostered by COAR, the Confederation of Open Access Repositories and the LIBSENSE Initiative, for ongoing information and infrastructure sharing between the two organisations.
- The aim of the collaboration is to advance open science policies, services and infrastructure that reflect the unique needs and conditions of each continent within a framework of international cooperation.
- ASREN will start to adopt and contribute in LA “Referencia setup” internationalization.

Collaboration with UNESCO

- Contributing to UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science:
- LIBSENSE Statement on Open Science in Africa.
- ASREN always show the commitment towards achieving an Open Science platform for the Arab region and highlight the activities in this perspective.
- Discussions with UNESCO to support :
 - Developing national roadmaps
 - Arab States Open Science Cloud
 - Policy development workshops

Collaboration with EOSC

- The European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) is an environment for hosting and processing research data to support EU science.
- EOSC ultimately aims to develop a Web of FAIR Data and services for science in Europe upon which a wide range of value-added services can be built. These range from visualisation and analytics to long-term information preservation or the monitoring of the uptake of open science practices.
- ASREN became Observer member at EOSC Association in March 2021.
- ASREN team started to participate in EOSC Advisory Groups/Task Forces.
- ASREN is counting on the collaboration with EOSC to initiate an Arabian Open Science Cloud setup

Collaboration with AArU

- Recently The Association of Arab Universities (AArU) and the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) towards cooperation in scientific areas, especially in research and education infrastructures and services.
- The MoU included several pillars that mostly focus on:
 - Supporting the developments of the pan Arab dedicated research and education network to connect universities and research centers with other universities around the world through this network.
 - Sharing knowledge with research and education communities in the region especially on using the research and education infrastructures and services to enhance their research and education outcomes.
 - Cooperation in Open science and Open Access.

Arab Science Cooperation to achieve UN SDGs - UNGA76

- ASREN had contributed to the United Nations General Assembly (Science Summit at UNGA76) with a session on “Arab Science Cooperation to achieve UN SDGs”.
- The session had discussed Science as a mean for development in the Arab region and how cooperation in science at national, regional, and global levels will support the efforts towards achieving the UN SDGs.
- We will explore and present efforts and plans on achieving the UN SDGs through Science with focus on
 - SDG3: Good Health and Wellbeing
 - SDG13: Climate Action
 - SDG14: Life below Water. Furthermore, the session will cover more aspects in Science Cooperation.
- A main outcome of the session, was the aim to open a dialogue on cooperation in science between the Arab countries and other regions (with focus on Europe) and call for cooperation projects with the regions around us with focus on Science, Open Science, Open Access and supporting science, research and education communities.

Thank you

Any questions?

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