

PRESS RELEASE

Knowledge Unlatched and partners launch Open Research Library

With the ambitious goal to host the world's Open Access book content in one place

Berlin, 16th May 2019. Free access to scientific content is often limited due to the fragile technical infrastructure around it: content is stored in a variety of versions at various locations and without any uniform search functionalities. The Open Access initiative Knowledge Unlatched has addressed this growing problem and is now launching the Open Research Library together with several international partners. Its goal is to unite all Open Access (OA) book content over the coming months. To this end the Open Research Library is working with publishers and libraries worldwide and is open to all providers and users of quality-assured research content.

Around 15,000 to 20,000 books have been published Open Access worldwide to date, freely available to users all over the world, and about 4,000 more are added every year. Currently these titles are offered for use by scientists on numerous different publishing and distribution websites. The aim of this new initiative is to combine all available book content under one search and hosting interface and to ensure that the provision of corresponding catalogue data is made available to library systems. The hosting of all book content is free of charge. In order to finance the ongoing technical costs Knowledge Unlatched will initiate a partner project to secure the necessary funding.

"With the Open Research Library we want to make a significant contribution to the further development of Open Access," says Dr. Sven Fund, Managing Director of Knowledge Unlatched. "It is important to us to create a modern infrastructure with as many different like-minded people as possible, thus making it easier for researchers to find and use relevant content".

In addition to Knowledge Unlatched, the following infrastructure partners are contributing different services: BiblioLabs (hosting, app & technology), the North American consortium LYRASIS, EBSCO (indexing in EBSCO Discovery Service), ProQuest (indexing in the Ex Libris Primo and Summon library discovery services), the Internet Archive, Google (indexing in Google Scholar), Digital Public Library of America, OCLC (Creation of MARC records and indexing in WorldCat and WorldCat discovery services), Researcher App (further distribution covering 950,000 researchers) and numerous publishers.

Interested parties are invited to register at joinus@openresearchlibrary.org and visit the beta version at www.openresearchlibrary.org.

About Open Research Library: The Open Research Library is a hosting platform run by Knowledge Unlatched that makes all freely accessible scientific book publications available to anyone for free use.

About Knowledge Unlatched: Knowledge Unlatched (KU) offers free access to scholarly content for every reader across the world. Our online platform provides libraries worldwide with a central place to support Open Access models.

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