Wits has officially committed to the Berlin Declaration on Open Access in the Sciences and Humanities

On 9th Nov 2012, Wits signed the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities (http://oa.mpg.de/files/2010/04/berlin_declaration.pdf). This decision, taken at the Senate meeting of 14 June 2012, commits Wits to:

- Placing copies of all scholarly outputs in Wits Institutional Repository, WIREDSPACE
- Amplifying the range of channels for dissemination of groundbreaking knowledge in niche areas
- Optimising the international visibility and impact of Wits research, and its reputation for teaching
- Widening the global footprint of access to knowledge produced at Wits through extensive scholarly networks
- Contributing to society’s access to knowledge
- Further promoting a distinctive focus and reputation for ground-breaking research and scholarship in science, engineering and technology (SET) disciplines

What is WIREDSPACE?

It is Wits Open Access Institutional Repository & Research Archive. (http://libguides.wits.ac.za/WIREDSPACE)

What is Open Access (OA)?

Open-access (OA) literature is digital, online, full-text, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions (Source: http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm).

What is Open Access (OA) Scholarly Communication/Publishing?

It is the dissemination of peer-reviewed scholarly research via an open access platform which provides full-text, unrestricted access to the works and ancillary documentation and data.

Open access will increase the research impact of Wits academics

Academics will have a larger potential audience than any subscriber-restricted journal can give, even the most prestigious. This will result in better impact, increased citations, global and cross-disciplinary exposure, more collaborative projects, more scholarly productivity and possible funding options. Your scholarly works will be harvested by major search engines and made accessible to anyone using the Internet, including researchers and scientists in your own field, and in new emerging interdisciplinary fields. For those scientists working on future commercialisation of research, the publications will also be more easily accessible to private firms seeking commercialisation partnerships.

Open Access will enhance Wits research reputation

Open access publishing will aid in showcasing Wits research on the global stage and provide knowledge to researchers, educators, librarians and other information users who do not have the resources to access closed subscription-based journals, particularly in rural areas of South Africa and in other developing countries around the world.

7 ways to ensure Open Access to your scholarly works:

- Deposit pre-prints and post-prints (manuscripts) in Wits Institutional Repository (WIREDSpace) (http://wiredspace.wits.ac.za). For assistance contact Denise Nicholson, Scholarly Communications Librarian at Denise.Nicholson@wits.ac.za or your Faculty Librarian.
- Attach Wits’ Author’s Addendum to the Publisher’s Agreement (see under Author’s Rights at: (http://libguides.wits.ac.za/openaccess_a2k_scholarly_communication), when publishing, so that you retain some of your rights, and in the process, also protect access rights of your readers.
- Publish your works in peer-reviewed OA publications, e.g.

DHET Accredited Journals:
- http://libguides.wits.ac.za/DHETaccreditedjournals;
- http://www.scielo.org.za:

Directories of Open Access Works:
- http://www.doaj.org;
- http://www.doabooks.org

- Publish your next paper in an accredited OA journal.
- Publish your next book as an OA Book under a Creative Commons licence.*
- Deposit your conference papers, presentations, reports, newspaper articles and other 'grey material' relevant to your discipline/research in WIREDSpace.
- Encourage an open access culture within the journals you publish, edit or review.