


Open Access and Post-Secondary Education and Training (PSET) in Samoa: A Case Study of the National University of Samoa

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ABSTRACT

Although Open Access is a relatively new concept to the South Pacific region, the National University of Samoa (NUS) has been unofficially advocating and practising open access as early as the 1990s due to its limited resources. It was not until 2005 that the NUS officially adopted open access when it launched the Journal of Samoan Studies (JSS) as a multidisciplinary academic open-access journal devoted to the study of Samoa. Since the establishment of JSS, it took the NUS 16 years to develop and adopt an Open Access Policy as part of the Samoa Knowledge Society Initiative project funded by the India South-South Corporation and the United Nations group. This presentation briefly covers the development of Open Access within Samoa in the context of NUS. The presentation also touches on other elements such as copyright and intellectual property rights.

1. PRESENTATION DETAILS

Presented at the Training of Trainers (TOT) on Open Access and Access to Information in Samoa Public Sector, 26 – 27 October 2021, Office of the Ombudsman, National Human Rights Institution.

Venue: Taumeasina Island Resort, Apia Samoa



2. PROJECT BACKGROUND AND RELEVANCE TO PACIFIC PROJECTS DIGEST

This presentation was delivered on behalf of the [Samoa Knowledge Society Initiative](#) (SKSI) Project | Digital Library Project, funded by UNDP and the South-South Indian Corporation and implemented by the National University of Samoa on behalf of the Government of Samoa. The Samoa Knowledge Society Initiative is a rights-based initiative that acknowledges the right to access information to all Samoans contributing towards an enabling environment for enhanced digital development. The Samoa Knowledge Society Initiative is made up of three components:

- (1) **Digital Library**- provides access to information locally and globally through local and external repositories.
- (2) **Life Long Learning**- provide access to Open Educational Resources (OERs)
- (3) **Open Access Research**- provide free & unrestricted access to research outputs.

The presentation mainly accounted for component three (3) Open Access Research.

3. COPY OF ORIGINAL PRESENTATION

OPEN ACCESS AND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING (PSET) IN SAMOA: A CASE STUDY OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SAMOA

Training of Trainers (TOT) on Open Access and
Access to Information in Samoa Public Sector, 26
– 27 October 2021, Office of the Ombudsman,
National Human Rights Institution

PRESENTERS: Eric Clem Groves, Manager Planning
Avalogo Togi Tunupopo, University Chief Librarian



National University of
Samoa

OUTLINE



- OVERVIEW – WHAT IS OPEN ACCESS TO NUS?
- HISTORY OF OPEN ACCESS AT NUS
- INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS & COPYRIGHTS
- NUS OPEN ACCESS POLICY & PROCEDURE
- CHALLENGES
- OPPORTUNITIES
- Q & A

OVERVIEW – WHAT IS OPEN ACCESS TO NUS?



Background on NUS:

- Technical, Vocational, Education and Training (Maritime, Engineering, Plumbing etc.)
- Higher Education (Humanities, Science, Business and Health etc.)
- Micro-qualifications, Continuing and Community Education (capacity building, community outreach & short-term trainings)

Definition:

Open Access allows scientific publications of Universities to be globally accessible...

Professor Stab Gielen, Radboud University, Netherlands

What does this mean to NUS?

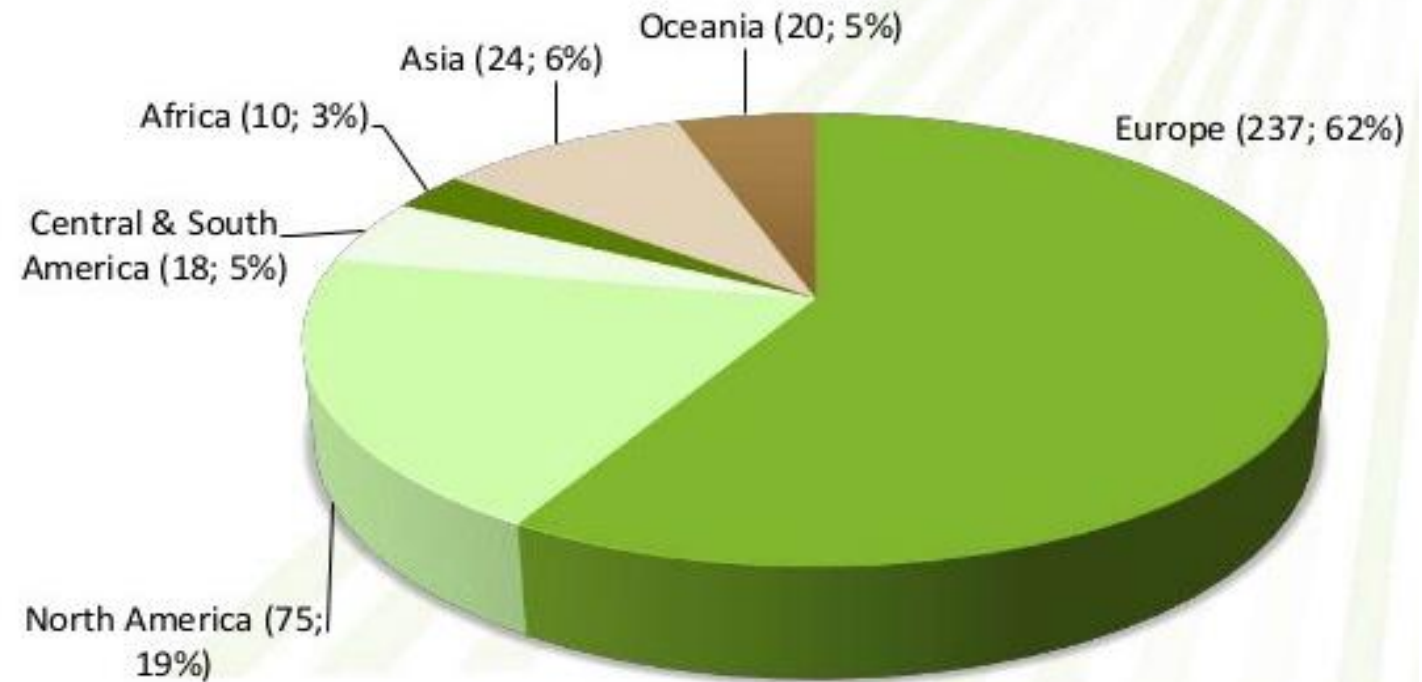
- ***Inclusive Education*** – Everyone despite economic or physical ability will be able access information
- ***Increased Impact and Reach*** – Research findings will reach a wider audience therefore increasing potential to influence general thought, decision making, policy development and the outcomes of similar research.
- ***Transparency*** – Open access increases scrutiny and audit of results outside of the peer review process.
- ***Increased Resources*** – Local academics will be able access more resources in their field to inform their teaching and research.



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Ghosh, Monali, 2021, 'Open Access Mandates in Universities: Challenges and Opportunities', Typeset Resources. Published by Ghost and Auden.

Open Access mandates worldwide



Swan, Alma, 2015, 'Open Access Policies: policy effectiveness', SPARC Europe Workshop, LIBER 2015, London.



HISTORY OF OPEN ACCESS AT NUS



Established on the 14th of February 1984 by a Act of Government, the National University of Samoa as a newly established institute in a developing nation was already in disadvantage in terms of accessibility to resources.

The other concern visible in the founding year of the university was the lack of course materials...

This left the university with no choice but to consider developing its own curriculum and materials...

the University relied heavily on satellite lectures from the USP main campus in Suva, notably from Dr. Malama Meleisea and Dr. Jacqueline Leckie...

Tau'ili'ili Uili Meredith, 1985

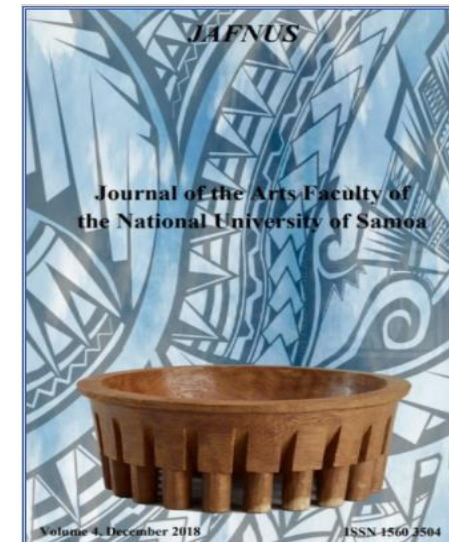
Founding Vice Chancellor, First Annual Report of the National University of Samoa, cited in Groves, Eric Clem, 2019, 'Five Tala University-Higher Education in Developing Countries: A Case Study of the National University of Samoa, http://samoanstudies.ws/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Groves-.E-2019-Five-Tala-University_Higher-Education-in-Developing-Countries-A-Case-Study-of-the-National-University-of-Samoa-MDS-Thesis.pdf

NUS struggles remained consistent throughout the first 20 years of its operation.

HISTORY OF OPEN ACCESS AT NUS



- **NUS has come a long way since its establishment:**
 - Increased its access via partnerships
 - Increased generation of local knowledge
 - Increased resources from Government and developing partners.
- **Learning Resource Centre (Library)**
 - Largest subscriptions to academic journals and online resources within Samoa
 - MOU's with various Library to enable open-access
 - Links to various Open Access Journals and resources
 - Practitioner of Open Access, Creative Commons, Intellectual Property Rights and Copyrights since the early 1990's
- **Journal of the Arts Faculty of the National University of Samoa - JAFNUS**
 - Established in 1997 initially as a subscription based Journal but is now Open Access
 - Non Peer-Reviewed
 - Humanities
 - Published Six Volumes between 1997 - 2020.
- **Journal of Samoan Studies (JSS)**
 - Established in 2005 as a Open Access Journal
 - First Journal to publish in the Samoan language
 - Internationally Peer-Reviewed
 - Multidisciplinary on topics based on Samoa
 - Published Twelve Volumes between 2005-2020.



Journal of Samoan Studies



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ABOUT JSS

The Journal of Samoan Studies (JSS) is a multidisciplinary academic open-access online journal devoted to the study of Sāmoa. It is published by the [National University of Samoa](#) through its [Centre for Samoan Studies](#).

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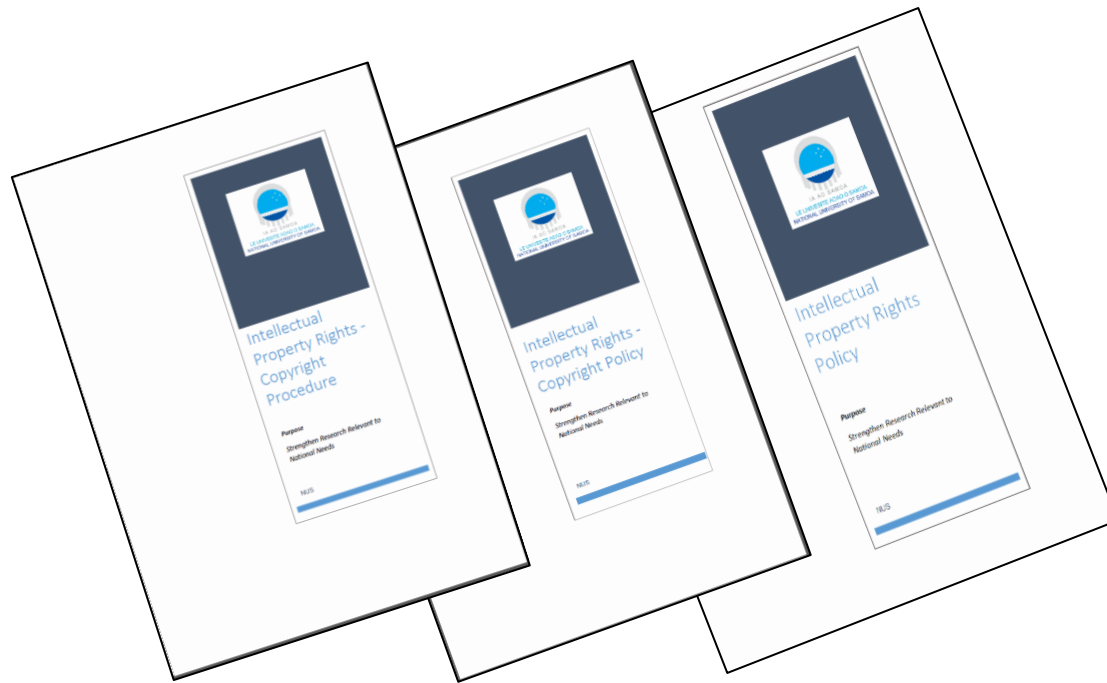
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Fui Le'apai Tu'ua Ilaoa Asofou So'o

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Intellectual Property Rights and Copyright



Total of eight (8) Intellectual Rights Policies and Procedures pertaining to Copyright, Open Access

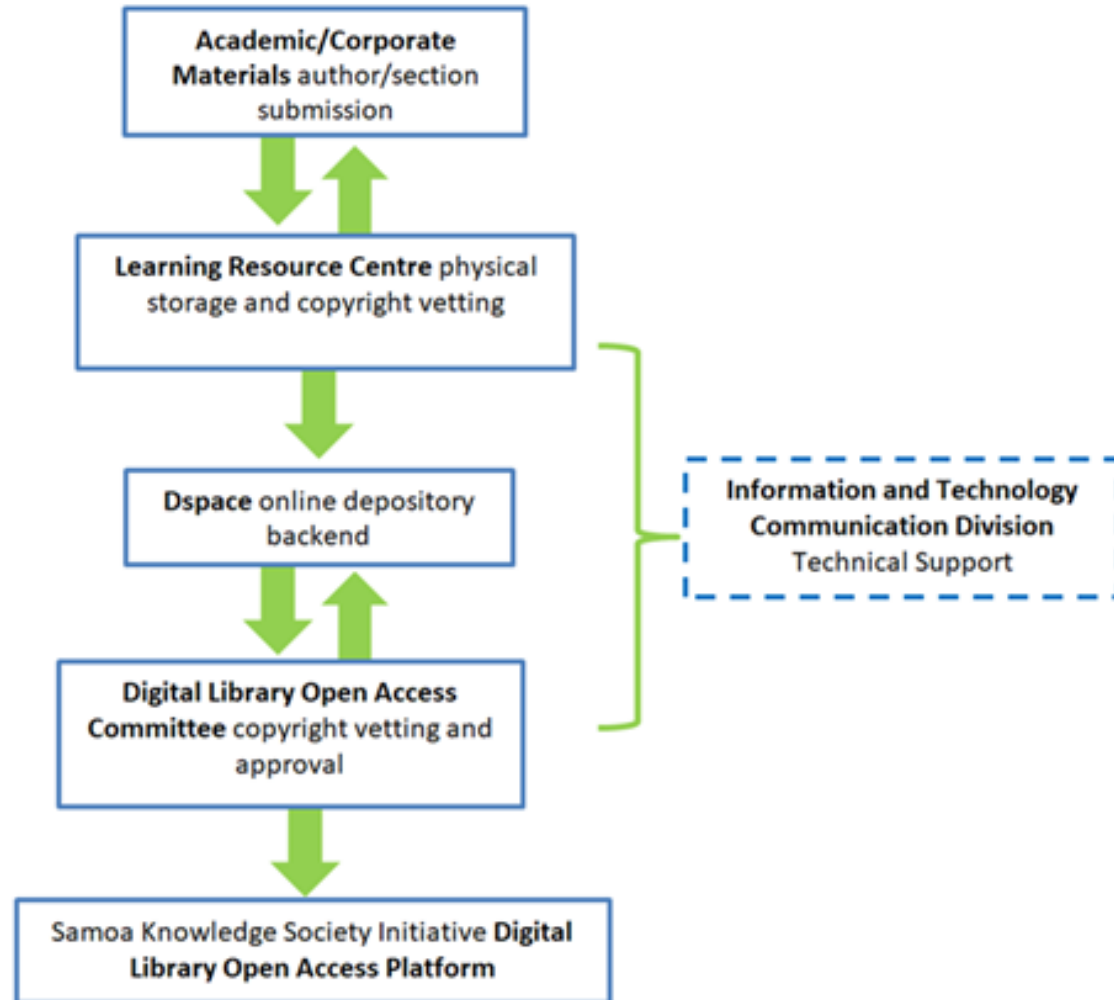
- Intellectual Property Rights Policy (& Procedure)
- Intellectual Property Rights – Copyright Policy (& Procedure)
- Intellectual Property Rights of Graduate Research Students Policy (& Procedure)
- Intellectual Property Rights – Open Access Policy (& Procedure)

NUS OPEN ACCESS POLICY & PROCEDURE



- Interconnected and informed by existing regulation and guides:
 - UNESCO Policy Guide for the Development and Promotion of Open Access
 - Copyright Act 1997 and Amendment Act 2011
 - Intellectual Property Act 2011
 - Public Records Act 2011
 - NUS Policy for Documenting Research and Academic Outputs
- Creative Commons
- Digitisation Guideline
- Editorial Guideline

NUS OPEN ACCESS AND REPOSITORY SYSTEM



Challenges



- Goes against the principles of ACADEMIC FREEDOM
 - Academics refuse to be regulated on where and how they should publish.
- Most of the top ranked Journals and Publishers in the world are subscription or at least hybrid (partially open access) based
 - Publications ranking systems encourages academics to publish in the most prestigious journals.
- Elimination of a potential revenue stream for the University
 - Many of the top Journals survive on subscription fees
- Publisher restrictions (contractual and legal barriers)
- Unfair playing field: Metropolitan Universities vs. Developing Universities.

Opportunities



- Increase in Hybrid and flexible publishing systems (e.g. Practice of Samoa Observer Subscription system for aged articles)
- Better Awareness and Advocacy
- National Regulation
- Increase in locally available knowledge and resources
- Narrowing of the knowledge gap between Metropolitan and Developing Universities

QUESTIONS?

