

REPOSITORY PROFILE:

The World Bank Open Knowledge Repository



Open Development at the World Bank

Since 2010 the World Bank has had as an institutional priority the promotion of an Open Development agenda. Open Development is an 'umbrella' term for a series of strategic objectives that are aimed at making the World Bank more open, more modern and more accountable. The actions undertaken in support of this increase in transparency within the World Bank are:

- A new [Access to Information](#) policy
- The launch of the [Open Data](#) initiative
- The [embrace of Open Access](#)

Open Access...to be more transparent, more open, and to encourage the open exchange of ideas.

Embracing Open Access

In 2012, the World Bank became the first international organization to fully embrace Open Access by:

- implementing an Open Access (OA) policy for its research and knowledge,
- adopting the most liberal Creative Commons license (CC BY),
- developing and launching the Open Knowledge Repository (OKR), which is the most visible manifestation of the World Bank's embrace of Open Access.

These three key items act in unison to optimize the discoverability, accessibility and re-use of World Bank content thereby further promoting a public good, facilitating poverty reduction, and supporting shared prosperity.

Embracing open access was a major shift in the World Bank's publishing program's approach, which still relies on revenue from the sale of books, ebooks, and subscriptions to added-value services. In that sense, the World Bank may be considered a role model for those considering similar initiatives.



FAST FACTS about the Repository:

URL: <http://openknowledge.worldbank.org>

Launched in April 2012

As of August 2013: over 1.8 million downloads; over 45% of visits from developing countries.

Platform: DSpace 1.8 (Cloud hosted)

OKR currently hosts over 12,000 publications mostly in English (some PDFs available in other languages). Content is from 2004 – the present.

The Bank's Open Knowledge Repository was selected as one of the Best Free Reference Web Sites for 2013 by the American Library Association (ALA). The World Bank was recognized as a [SPARC Innovator](#) by the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) for its OKR and implementation of its OA Policy.

About the OKR

The OKR is a sophisticated online document repository that serves as the World Bank's official Open Access repository. Through the OKR, users of World Bank content, from researchers and academics through governments and journalists to Civil Society Organizations and the general public have rights to access, share and re-use over 12,000 publications without restriction (as long as the source is attributed).

These publications, from 2004 to 2013, are organized into collections and comprise:

- All books and reports published by the World Bank
- Peer-reviewed journal articles
- Serial publications
- Working Papers
- Economic and Sector Work Studies
- Knowledge Notes
- Some research available in other languages

The OKR is built using the DSpace platform, is hosted in the Cloud and is developed in partnership with an external vendor. In taking these technology decisions the World Bank ensured that the OKR met the requirements of the Open Access community (free and unrestricted access to the World Bank's knowledge content and complying with the OA community's OAI-PMH Interoperability standards) while ensuring the Bank could deliver the OKR quickly and also staying up-to-date with best practices in the OA community.

<http://openknowledge.worldbank.org>

Key Features of the OKR

The OKR incorporates all the standard navigational approaches and functional elements inherent in the DSpace platform. In addition the OKR incorporates a few additional key features and enhancements that enrich the site, including:

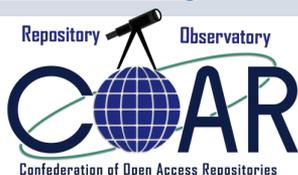
- **Publicly-available usage statistics** allowing anyone to see in real-time:
 - geo-coded global map of downloads
 - the most popular publications in the OKR (downloads and page views)
 - downloads by country
- All the usage data can be 'sliced and diced' in a number of ways related to date, content type, country and region, and is available both at the aggregate and the item level.
- **Custom OAI metadata feeds** enabling third party repositories to request specific OAI metadata outputs of OKR content. This enhancement allows the OKR to extend the OAI functionality beyond feeds of the whole repository or by collection to feeds that can be configured by topic, region, country, etc.
- **Author profiles** (currently almost 200 are available) collecting in one central location biographical and personal information, a listing of the author's publications, and usage statistics. They provide a quick snapshot of the author's contribution to the development literature during his or her time at the World Bank.
- **Citation information for each work** – including a permanent URI – which allows users to properly cite and link back to all World Bank works used in their research.
- **Links to Citations on Google Scholar** providing information on where and when OKR content has been cited (content on the OKR is also indexed by Google Scholar).
- **Links to World Bank data site** where research has been associated with specific World Bank data sets.

Through the OKR, The World Bank collects, disseminates, and permanently preserves its intellectual output in digital form. The OKR is interoperable with other repositories and supports optimal discoverability and re-usability of the content by complying with Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) standards and the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH).

The goal of the OKR: to become the world's most complete research and knowledge repository related to international development

About the World Bank

Founded in 1945 for the reconstruction of war-torn Europe, the World Bank has evolved into one of the world's largest sources of development assistance. Its mission—to end extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity—is a critically important one. In support of its mission, the World Bank conducts and publishes research on a broad range of social and economic development issues including development policy, finance, health, education, trade, aid effectiveness, and poverty. For more information about the World Bank Open Knowledge Repository, contact okr@worldbank.org.



Impact of the OKR

What have we achieved? How does it relate to the Bank's Open Development initiative?

Since its launch in April 2012, over 1.8 million publications have been downloaded from the OKR. Over 45% of visits/downloads come from developing countries and 12 of the top 20 visitors to the OKR are from developing countries (India, China and Vietnam rank in the top 5). This extremely wide reach coupled with the rights of users to re-use the research to develop solutions to development problems provides the potential that the OKR may improve the lives of poor people around the world and help with the Bank's mission to reduce poverty.



OKR on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/wb-okr-oa>

What's Next for the OKR?

The Innovation Roadmap

In the next few months, the OKR will be upgraded to DSpace 3.1 version. The development priority of the OKR will be to optimize the site for mobile device usage. The other major priority for the OKR over the next 6 months will be to add legacy content to the site going back from 2004 to 2001. In addition, over the next 12 months, the World Bank will be exploring the options around making the OKR multilingual and integrating with ORCID.

The ultimate goal is for the OKR to become the world's most complete research and knowledge repository on development. To that end, utilizing the custom OAI feed functionality recently developed, the World Bank launched a pilot program to explore interoperability with open access institutional repositories in developing countries, focused initially on Africa. Institutions that produce research on development and are interested in participating can contact okr@worldbank.org for more information.

COAR Repository Observatory

<http://www.coar-repositories.org/working-groups/repository-observatory/>