



# XXV CLACSO's General Assembly

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## **CLACSO's Declaration on open access to knowledge managed as a commons by the scholarly community**

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Latin American Council of Social Sciences – CLACSO

*Medellin, Colombia - November 9 to 13th, 2015*



CLACSO

Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales  
Conselho Latino-americano de Ciências Sociais  
Latin American Council of Social Sciences

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## **CLACSO'S DECLARATION ON OPEN ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE MANAGED AS A COMMONS BY THE SCHOLARLY COMMUNITY<sup>1</sup>**

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### **BACKGROUND**

In a large part of the world a significant portion of scientific research and the production of knowledge within the academic environment are publicly funded, and the means for scholarly communications are managed and funded by the scholarly community.

In some parts of the world, mainly in Europe and North America, for decades the scientific and academic sector has outsourced to commercial publishers much of the scholarly communications published in journals and books, and also the production of indicators necessary for evaluating research, resulting in an enclosure which makes access difficult to these services managed with commercial priorities.

The disproportionate increase in prices and the embargoes of these international services to access publications whose contents, authors and reviewers are largely financed with public funds, together with the opportunities provided by Internet and the Web to have open and participatory scholarly communications, have contributed to the raise of the international open access movement, which over the past 20 years has achieved significant progress in the number, quality and editorial strength of freely available publications in the web, as well as progress in national and institutional policies that require that the outcome of publicly funded research be available in open access.

Concerned about this situation that requires us to ask ourselves about the public role of scientific and academic knowledge in our societies, and about the negative impact of the commercialization of knowledge and its indicators, CLACSO members gathered at its triennial Assembly in Medellín, Colombia, on November 10th, 2015, support the agreement signed by CLACSO with UAEM-Redalyc to provide open access to a collection of more than 700 Iberoamerican social science journals and support the promotion of the following principles for scholarly communications.

### **CLACSO'S XXV GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARATION ON OPEN ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE MANAGED AS A COMMONS BY THE SCHOLARLY COMMUNITY**

In order to contribute to the democratization of production and access to knowledge necessary for the development of our societies, we recommend governments, agencies and institutions that fund and/or perform research and researchers who manage research project, to promote policies, actions and funding necessary to implement the following principles in scholarly communications:

#### **PRINCIPLES:**

1. Provide open access to publicly funded research results, both texts and data (open access and open data).
2. Promote and fund projects and working groups aimed at improving the quality of scholarly editorial processes; as peer-review and internationalization (e.g.: publication in local language and in English when research is of international interest) in the contents of open access digital repositories, publishing platforms and journals.
3. Encourage editors of scholarly journals to retain control, experience and knowledge of the editorial processes and its products, regardless of the platforms of visibility and indexing with which they share metadata and content.

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<sup>1</sup> Declaration in Spanish at: <http://www.clacso.org.ar/conferencia2015/documentos/asamblea/declaraciones/4-Declaracion-de-CLACSO-sobre%20el-acceso-abierto-al-conocimiento-gestionado-como-un-bien-comun.pdf>

4. Ensure that open access repositories, publishing platforms and publications are interoperable with national, regional and international systems and portals to achieve a multiplying effect on the visibility and access to research results by local, regional and international public.
5. When evaluating researchers and institutions, consider indicators provided by open access repositories, publishing platforms and publications, as well as other measures of impact and relevance in local and regional contexts, to complement traditional international bibliometric indicators that poorly reflect the production and impact of research from developing countries.
6. Support and promote worldwide access to knowledge as a human right, and its management as a commons by the scholarly community.

Approved by CLACSO's XXV General Assembly Medellin, Colombia, November 9-10, 2015



The **Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO)** is a non-governmental international organization with UNESCO associate status, established in 1967. We currently bring together 481 research centers and postgraduate schools in the field of the social sciences and humanities in 37 countries from Latin America, North America (United States and Canada), and Europe (Germany, Spain, France and Portugal).

- [http://www.clacso.org.ar/institucional/que\\_es\\_clacso.php?s=2&idioma=ing](http://www.clacso.org.ar/institucional/que_es_clacso.php?s=2&idioma=ing)
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