



# THE OPEN SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE (OSI)

AND ITS IMPACT ON GLOBAL RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT EQUITY

Research and development have long been recognized as key economic drivers. Globally, however, most R&D spending comes from just a few of the world's largest economies, as does most of the world's published research, patents, government spending on research, and industry investment in research. Despite this fact, it is not lost on countries everywhere that increasing their internal capacity for R&D is vital for their economic success. Indeed, UNESCO recently issued a call for countries everywhere to increase their R&D spending to at least 1% of GDP. Doing this is entirely infeasible for many less developed countries, though, as is being able to actively participate in the global research ecosystem as it is currently structured, with the richest countries alone having the necessary dollars to conduct modern research that requires huge spending on infrastructure. Also due to this concentration, global R&D budgets are primarily focused on issues of importance to the Global North, and research knowledge is managed through systems that work for wealthy countries but not for countries with more modest resources. To this end, OSI has been working with UNESCO since 2015 to devise a workable, sustainable means of improving the ability of researchers everywhere to more easily participate in the global research ecosystem, including devising globally workable, equitable, sustainable systems for improving access to published research, and systems that will improve the ability of research from the Global South to be more visible in the Global North. Improving access and visibility will allow researchers everywhere to more actively and effectively participate in the global R&D ecosystem, and in doing so, will directly benefit the economies of participating countries in terms of R&D investment overall, particularly R&D investment in issues and projects of immediate relevance to the people in these countries. Creating a more robust R&D environment in these countries will also have a synergistic effect on improving domestic opportunities for scholars, improving educational institutions and investment in these institutions, and improving the expertise available in these countries for industry and government policy, which in turn will attract more investment, more stability, more opportunity, and improved wealth, growth, and quality of life.

HOW

**The key innovation of OSI is that we work together, sharing ideas and perspectives across stakeholder and regional diversity, and developing policy recommendations based on solid evidence and common goals. This collaboration and cooperation has allowed OSI to make unique insights and recommendations that no other organization has been able to make.**

WHO

**OSI's policy innovations target the research ecosystems in participating countries—researchers, industry, publishers, education systems, funders and policy makers. By increasing the ability of researchers to participate in and access research, and by increasing the visibility of domestic research, R&D investment into these countries will increase and will focus on more issues of relevance. Over time, this investment will mean stronger educational systems, faster economic growth, and improved quality of life.**

TOC

**OSI is the only policy body in the research reform space that has built a Theory of Change model for its proposed reforms. OSI's model holds that the best way forward for the global research community is to first identify our common goals, and then develop the strategies, methods, and tools to achieve these goals. By working together, we can reach an "Open Renaissance" in the near future where our global research ecosystem grows more powerful, innovation is catalyzed, and widespread improvements happen in science.**

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