Digital Library Services

Background

The Library was created in 1972 as a physical library to serve the information and knowledge needs of the UNEP personnel in support of UNEP's work. In 2013, the transition of the UNEP Library to a digital library is a paradigm shift in the way the library conducts business.

The UNEP Library is no longer an information gatekeeper exercising ownership of its collections. It is an information and knowledge enabler that not only serves the information needs of UNEP personnel, but also facilitates access to information in developing countries through the Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE) partnership.

The Publications and Knowledge Management Unit, situated in the Big Data Branch of UNEP's Science Division, provides the Digital Library Services of UNEP.

Digital Library Activities and Resources

Delivering Information Research and Access Services

The Library provides documentation and research support to UNEP personnel through various mechanisms: (i) regular alerts on the latest knowledge on subjects of interest to UNEP, (ii) specialized on-demand research assistance from users, and (iii) access facilitation through institutional knowledge repositories and bibliographic databases.

Cataloguing, Indexing and Providing Access to UNEP's Institutional Knowledge

To increase the discoverability of and access to UNEP's institutional knowledge, the library thoroughly catalogs and indexes UNEP publications and reports, and uploads them to the UNEP Knowledge Repository. This activity involves:
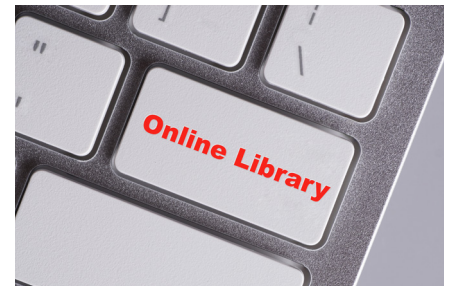- The definition of metadata and the application of international cataloguing standards.
- Training divisional focal points in the initial submissions to the Knowledge repository for the Library review.
- The development and periodic update of the Knowledge Repository Standard Operating Procedures to guide submitters.

To further increase the reach of UNEP's institutional knowledge, the Library performs analytical cataloguing of UNEP flagship reports such as GEO, Frontiers, the Emissions Gap Report, whereby in addition to the report, individual chapters are also catalogued as separate entities.

Supporting UNEP Publication and Outreach Processes

The Library supports the UNEP publishing process in many respects:
- Referencing and citation oversight: To reinforce the credibility of UNEP publications, the Library has developed and periodically updates the UNEP guidelines on citations and referencing to guide authors.
- Support to publication outreach and launches: Uploading content to the knowledge repository results in the generation of a unique universal resource locator (URL) that is used to communicate and promote documents during launches, and in various web-based platforms (UNEP website, World Environment Situation Room, relevant external platforms).

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Library Information Resources[1]

The Library subscribes to a number of electronic resources to serve the information needs of its patrons.

Climate Change and Law Collection	Nature*	ScienceDirect
EBSCO Environment Complete	Nature Climate Change*	UN Comtrade*
EIU Economist Intelligence Unit	New Scientist*	UN iLibrary
Foreign Affairs	OARE	UNEP Knowledge Repository
Foreign Policy	OECD iLibrary	Wiley Online Library
IMF Economic Review 2021[2]	Oxford English Dictionary	World Bank eLibrary
ITU iLibrary 2021	Proquest Central	WTO iLibrary
JSTOR	Science Online	

Access to electronic databases is usually via IP address. However, in view of the COVID-19 situation, most of the vendors have granted login credentials. The Library must be contacted for more information about access to the resources.

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Providing developing countries access to scientific information through the Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE) partnership

What is OARE?

OARE is an access to information initiative that provides developing countries access to free or low-cost peer-reviewed journals, books and databases in the environment and related fields. It is led by the United Nations Environment Programme in partnership with major scientific publishers.

OARE is part of the Research4Life partnership, together with four other sister programmes with similar objectives: Hinari led by WHO, AGORA led by FAO, ARDI led by WIPO, and GOALI led by ILO.

What is available?

- More than 85,000 Scientific journals, e-books and databases
- Full-text content that can be read, printed, saved, etc.
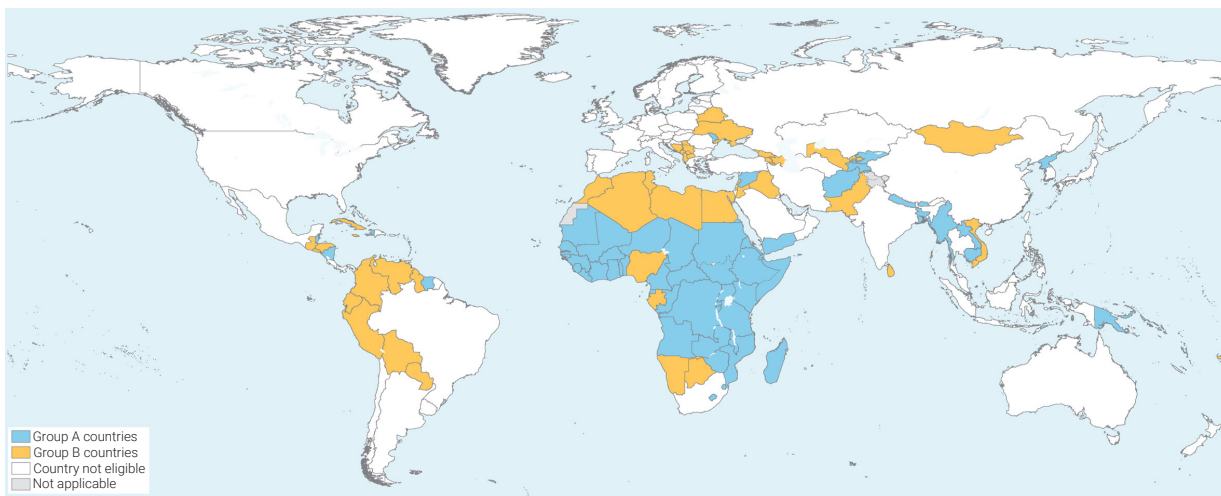- Training on information literacy

Who can access OARE / Research4Life?

Researchers, students, policymakers, environmental experts and librarians through their institutions in eligible countries

Who is eligible?

- 115 eligible countries grouped into two groups: Group A countries have free access to content, whereas Group B countries have low-cost access to information.
- Eligible institutions within eligible countries include government offices, research institutions, universities, non-profit organizations, etc.
  - Eligible institutions must register in order to access the resources. To date, 8,700 institutions have registered.

Countries, areas and territories eligible for Research4life

- Group A countries
- Group B countries
- Country not eligible
- Not applicable

Visit https://www.research4life.org/access/how-to-register/ to register
Visit www.unenvironment.org/oare for more information on OARE

https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/1

Contact: unep-library@un.org or angeline.djampou@un.org

UN environment programme

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research4life | Hinari Research for Health | AGORA Research in Agriculture | OARE Research in the Environment | ARDI Research for Innovation | GOALI RESEARCH FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE