



Global Summit
Diamond Open Access
BENGALURU 2026

REPORT OF THE 3RD GLOBAL SUMMIT
ON DIAMOND OPEN ACCESS

Event Report of the
**3rd Global Summit on
Diamond Open Access**

Collaboration for Equitable Digital Infrastructures and Knowledge Commons in Agriculture and Broader Scientific Research Systems

Bengaluru, India | 2-6 February 2026

Preamble

The 3rd Global Summit on Diamond Open Access was convened in Bengaluru, India from 2 to 6 February 2026. This Event Report summarises the five days of plenary deliberations, thematic tracks, workshops, multilingual breakouts, and field visits etc.

Discussions during the Summit reaffirmed the view that scholarly knowledge is a public good and that scholarly communication should remain governed by the scholarly communities that create and sustain it. Diamond Open Access is a community-governed model that enables equitable participation in global knowledge production, operating on a no-fee basis for both authors and readers.

The Summit built on the Toluca Conclusions and Way Forward (1st Global Summit, México, 2023), the Manifesto on Science as a Global Public Good (2023), and the Toluca–Cape Town Declaration (2nd Global Summit, 2024). The Bengaluru edition translated these shared principles into the draft Bengaluru Roadmap, marking the transition from declarations to coordinated action.

The programme drew 347 participants from 36 countries — 168 in person and 179 online — with strong representation from both the Global South and Global North. India led participation, followed by Mexico, Angola, France, Argentina, and the United States. Across five days, the programme delivered an inaugural plenary, six plenary sessions, four thematic tracks, six concurrent workshops, multilingual breakouts, a poster session, a high-level working meeting, the launch of the Bengaluru Roadmap framework, and field visits.

1. Inaugural Plenary

Global Commitment to Diamond Open Access

The opening session united governments, research funders, intergovernmental organisations, and scholarly networks around the principle that publicly funded research is a public good, equitably accessible to all.

- ◇ Agriculture was framed as a public good demanding open knowledge sharing to address climate change and food insecurity, with criticism of paywalls that block farmers, extension workers, and entrepreneurs from accessing publicly funded research.
- ◇ Diamond Open Access was anchored in Articles 19 and 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and positioned within a broader vision of open data, open educational resources, and open-source software as digital public goods.
- ◇ National strategies were presented from France, Quebec (Canada), Angola, and Mexico, illustrating how Diamond Open Access is being integrated into science policy through bibliodiversity support, freemium and subscribe-to-open models, recognition of the constitutional right to science, and the reform of evaluation systems.
- ◇ Global networks highlighted progress toward non-profit, community-owned models that recognise ancestral and traditional knowledge holders as co-producers of science, with the recent launch of a European Diamond capacity hub presented as a concrete step toward shared global ambitions.

2. Policy Convergence and Capacity Needs

Global and Regional Roundtable (UNESCO Plenary)

A regional and global roundtable mapped how national policies are converging on Diamond Open Access, identifying shared capacity needs across diverse contexts and the role of intergovernmental coordination. Participants emphasised that equitable access to knowledge is fundamental to inclusive digital transformation, democratic decision-making, and sustainable development, aligning with the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science (2021) and the UN Global Digital Compact (2024).

3. Reimagining Scholarly Publishing for Equity & Inclusion

This plenary interrogated the underlying value system of commercial publishing and proposed alternative frameworks rooted in equity and care.

- ◇ A 'C3 Open Access' framework was advanced, grounded in Community Governance, Commons-Based infrastructure, and Care-Centred scholarship.
- ◇ Participants warned against reframing structural inequities as technical compliance issues, noting that seemingly neutral tools can act as mechanisms of governance enforcing alignment with commercialised ranking regimes.
- ◇ Diamond Open Access was positioned as a cornerstone of the global knowledge commons, with calls to shift from a 'service logic' to an 'investment logic' that secures long-term funding for shared open science infrastructures.
- ◇ The session called for stronger community governance, trans-national alliances, capacity building for librarians and researchers, and rooting the Diamond Open Access agenda in the principles of open access, shared commons, and care-centred practices.

4. Thematic Tracks

Disciplinary Perspectives Across Four Domains

Four thematic tracks addressed Agriculture and Food Systems; Engineering, Technology and Applied Sciences; Medicine, Public Health and Life Sciences; and Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. A unifying theme emerged across all four: that knowledge in these domains is a global public good and, in the case of health, a fundamental human right.

- ◇ Article Processing Charges (APCs) discriminate against researchers in low- and middle-income countries publishing on locally relevant problems, and force authors to pay exorbitant fees even when research is conducted in resource-constrained settings.
- ◇ Eliminating APCs significantly accelerates the dissemination of vital agricultural and engineering technologies to local, operational levels.
- ◇ Embargo-based or 'delayed openness' models can balance openness with national security in some engineering contexts, with eventual release into the public domain.

- ◇ Industries that benefit from translational academic research should fund publication infrastructures.
- ◇ Knowledge Graphs and FAIR-compliant outputs can move scholarly communication beyond static PDFs toward machine-actionable scholarly contributions.
- ◇ Building awareness to distinguish credible Diamond Open Access platforms from predatory outlets was identified as urgent.

5. High-Level Working Meeting

A closed-door meeting convened senior officials from organising institutions, the International Overseeing Committee, intergovernmental organisations, and government delegations. The meeting provided focused space to deliberate on the governance, financing, and policy commitments necessary to advance Diamond Open Access at national and international levels, directly informing the government-facing sections of the Bengaluru Roadmap.

6. Building, Supporting and Sustaining Infrastructure

This plenary examined funding models, governance structures, and shared infrastructure across regions, including national perspectives from Indonesia, France, Quebec, India, Japan, and Latin America.

- ◇ Core global Diamond Open Access infrastructures cost only a small fraction of what individual countries spend each year on APCs and subscriptions; redirecting these flows is a major opportunity.
- ◇ Long-term structural funding (multi-year grants), recognition of in-kind academic labour, and cross-border policy coordination are essential.
- ◇ Research funding organisations should prioritise support for editorial teams, technical staff, and community coordinators, recognising the invisible, in-kind labour of editors and reviewers.
- ◇ The 'human integrity filter' — editorial and peer-review labour — must be protected against paper mills and citation cartels, as economic equity does not automatically guarantee academic integrity.
- ◇ Stakeholders should prioritise interoperability and shared standards over duplicative, isolated solutions.
- ◇ Governments and institutions should reform research evaluation criteria to recognise Diamond journals, platforms, and local-language publishing.

7. Poster Session

The poster session highlighted innovative platforms and grassroots initiatives advancing the open knowledge ecosystem:

- ◇ Overlay-journal platforms bridging Green and Diamond Open Access through preprint-based workflows, integrated with major open repositories.
- ◇ Collaborative biodiversity and entomology data initiatives in Latin America.

- ◇ Indexing services with capacity-building partnerships in Asia, Latin America, and Europe, supporting the visibility of Diamond journals — including a notable presence of fee-free journals in directories serving Asia and the Global South.
- ◇ Experimental publish-review-curate platforms exploring contribution-based authorship and graph-theory-based scientometrics.
- ◇ Critical analyses of the political economy of institutional publishing and the evolving relationship between publishing communities and service providers.

8. Responsible Research Assessment

A Pathway to Diamond Open Access

Reform of research assessment was identified as an absolute prerequisite for Diamond Open Access to thrive.

- ◇ A study of 532 assessment policies across 121 countries found that 97% rely heavily on quantitative output metrics; contributions linked to society, open science, and reproducibility remain consistently undervalued.
- ◇ Researchers are incentivised to publish on Global North priorities rather than local societal needs, creating a stark mismatch with disease burdens and developmental needs in their own contexts.
- ◇ The unit of assessment should shift from the static PDF article to the 'full research package', including code, data, models, protocols, and plain-language translations.
- ◇ Institutional examples demonstrated how narrative CVs, qualitative assessment, and the cancellation of major bibliometric subscriptions can enforce cultural change.
- ◇ A Latin American manifesto on responsible research assessment was presented as a regional framework linking evaluation reform to open, non-commercial, and socially relevant knowledge ecosystems.
- ◇ Institutions that sign declarations on research assessment must be held accountable, and the extensive time researchers spend on peer review, editorial board service, and community governance must be integrated into workload models and career progression.

9. Multilingual Breakout Discussions

Six language tables — English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Hindi, and Kannada — provided a unique multilingual space to reflect on the role of language in scholarly publishing, reaffirming linguistic diversity as a fundamental pillar of scientific inclusion and sovereignty.

- ◇ Regional Indian languages, including the 22 official scheduled languages, must be encouraged through policy and explicitly included in research assessment; Diamond Open Access uniquely facilitates translation without copyright barriers.
- ◇ With over 600 million speakers worldwide, languages such as Hindi require dedicated grants and systemic support for science publishing.

- ◇ Multilingualism is a pillar of epistemic justice and scientific sovereignty, ensuring that local communities retain control over and benefit from their scholarly outputs.
- ◇ Connecting open access infrastructures across Portuguese-speaking territories was identified as a priority for Lusophone scientific networks.

10. Diamond Open Access Initiatives

Key Characteristics that Make it Work

Implementation experiences from Australasia, India, Africa, Europe, Canada, and elsewhere converged on several common success factors:

- ◇ Shared, open-source technical and social infrastructures that reduce costs and lower technical barriers, supported by hubs offering guidelines, training, and community spaces.
- ◇ Strong communities of practice, continuous training, and peer mentorship to professionalise volunteer editors and prevent burnout.
- ◇ Clear legal community ownership to prevent successful Diamond journals from being acquired by commercial publishers.
- ◇ Stable institutional and government funding to transition publishing from short-term projects to permanent academic infrastructure.
- ◇ Reformed assessment systems that reward open publishing and explicitly recognise the invisible labour of peer review and editorial work.
- ◇ Adherence to flexible quality standards, structured self-assessment tools, the Diamond Open Access Standard, and complementary editor and reviewer training.

11. Early Career Researchers Advancing Diamond Open Access

Early Career Researchers (ECRs) were identified as both the demographic most affected by current publishing inequities and the future stewards of the Diamond Open Access ecosystem.

- ◇ Today's academic culture was characterised as 'pay or perish' rather than 'publish or perish', with APCs forcing ECRs — who lack large grants — to deplete fellowship funds simply to meet assessment requirements.
- ◇ The 'Matthew effect' compels younger scholars to publish under senior peers' prestige and grant money, perpetuating exclusion; lived experiences from Latin America, Africa, and Asia underscored systemic bias against locally relevant research.
- ◇ Diamond Open Access journals serve as pedagogical spaces and training grounds for the next generation of scholars, often providing more thorough and constructive peer-review feedback than commercial venues.

- ◇ Recommendations: reform research assessment, recognise invisible labour in hiring and promotion, redirect funding from APC reimbursements to community-governed infrastructures, and improve visibility and awareness of Diamond Open Access journals in the Global South.

12. Concurrent Workshops

Six concurrent workshops generated focused recommendations that fed directly into the Bengaluru Roadmap.

Publishing Platforms and Services

- ◇ Shared, non-commercial platforms are foundational, community-governed infrastructure — not neutral technical tools.
- ◇ Trust and visibility must be built through transparent editorial practices, shared quality standards, and alternative signals of credibility, given that current indexing systems disadvantage high-quality Diamond journals.
- ◇ Coordinated, evidence-based advocacy is needed against commercial capture, and capacity-building is essential, particularly for publishers in the Global South.

Metadata, Interoperability and Persistent Identifiers

- ◇ Metadata and Persistent Identifiers are 'instruments of equity' and the 'digital glue' of the open access ecosystem; removing paywalls is insufficient if research cannot be globally found, indexed, or connected.
- ◇ Decentralised, identifier-agnostic infrastructure using public-good alternatives, multilingual semantic discovery, and rich metadata across grants, authors, and research objects were prioritised.
- ◇ Open infrastructures must be resilient to AI scraping and geopolitical instability, with mirroring across multiple jurisdictions.

Repositories and Preprints

- ◇ Repositories and preprint servers are the structural backbone of Diamond Open Access, inherently enabling equitable participation and shifting governance back to the academic community.
- ◇ The Publish-Review-Curate paradigm aligns preprints, open peer review, and Diamond journals into a coherent model with citable, transparent reviews.
- ◇ Continental, multilingual preprint networks and rigorous moderation processes were highlighted as community-led infrastructures.

Beyond Articles: Data-Driven Research for Early Career Researchers

- ◇ In a data-intensive era, Diamond Open Access must rethink what counts as a research output (data, code, software, workflows), not merely change who pays.
- ◇ Persistent Identifiers must connect all intermediate research outputs; well-resourced regions have established repositories, while many countries in Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East lack specialised data repositories.

- ◇ Recommendations: realistic and flexible minimum standards for data sharing; funded data steward roles; investment in repositories; and recognition of non-article outputs and ECR labour in assessment.

Standards, Capacity Building and Strengthening Scholarly Societies

- ◇ Standards must be flexible and layered, not one-size-fits-all: lightweight global requirements complemented by regional or discipline-specific criteria.
- ◇ Continuous mentorship, 24/7 peer-support communities, and formal academic credit for editorial labour are critical to address volunteer turnover and quality decline.
- ◇ Legal community ownership is one of the most difficult standards to meet but is crucial to prevent commercial buy-out of successful Diamond journals.
- ◇ Artificial Intelligence is a double-edged sword: it can automate quality checks but also threatens to harvest open content; mirror servers and Creative Commons licensing of metadata are defensive measures, in line with the Roadmap's call for responsible AI governance frameworks.
- ◇ Cascade funding mechanisms can help scholarly societies transition their operations to Diamond Open Access.

13. The Bengaluru Roadmap and Action Plan

The Summit launched the draft Bengaluru Roadmap and Action Plan on Diamond Open Access, finalised and published in May 2026. The Roadmap is a 'living document' that builds directly on the Toluca Way Forward and the Cape Town Declaration, marking the transition from shared declarations to concrete, adaptable actions.

Cross-Cutting Commitments

Three commitments are integrated across the Roadmap as cross-cutting threads: equity, the meaningful inclusion of Early Career Researchers, and the protection of community-governed publishing from commercial control.

Six Action Areas for Coordinated Action

Based on the Summit's discussions, the Roadmap identifies six priority Action Areas in which coordinated action can strengthen Diamond Open Access at global, regional, national, and institutional levels:

◇ Action Area 1 — Foster policy recognition and public interest governance

Lead Stakeholders: Governments and policy makers; research funding organisations. Diamond Open Access is to be recognised as a core, community-governed component of national and global scholarly communication systems, anchored in human-rights and public-interest frameworks.

◇ Action Area 2 — Provide sustainable and predictable funding

Lead Stakeholders: Research funding organisations; governments; research performing organisations. A progressive redirection of subscription, APC, and Transformative Agreement expenditure toward

community-governed, non-commercial infrastructures, with multi-year structural funding for editorial teams, technical staff, and scholarly societies.

◇ Action Area 3 — Reform research assessment

Lead Stakeholders: Governments; research funding and performing organisations; universities; evaluation bodies. Move beyond journal impact factors toward qualitative, narrative-based, context-sensitive approaches that recognise the full research package and align with DORA, CoARA, and FOLEC.

◇ Action Area 4 — Strengthen public-interest infrastructure, standards, and interoperability

Lead Stakeholders: Community-led infrastructure providers. Invest in interoperable open-source publishing platforms, persistent identifier ecosystems, open multilingual metadata as a public good, Publish-Review-Curate workflows, and inclusive, non-exclusionary quality assurance.

◇ Action Area 5 — Build capacity and recognise scholarly contributions

Lead Stakeholders: Universities; scholarly communities; research funding organisations. Integrate Diamond Open Access governance, ethical publishing, and open peer review into doctoral and post-doctoral training; recognise editorial and peer-review labour in hiring and promotion; empower Early Career Researchers.

◇ Action Area 6 — Advance multilingualism, bibliodiversity, and inclusion

Lead Stakeholders: All stakeholder groups. Support scholarly communication in multiple languages alongside English, embed bibliodiversity in evaluation frameworks, and acknowledge ancestral, Indigenous, and traditional knowledge-holders as legitimate co-producers of knowledge.

Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence

The Summit and the Roadmap together call for responsible AI governance frameworks that ensure transparency in data use, protect open scholarly resources from enclosure within proprietary systems, recognise authorship and intellectual contribution, and uphold the values of Diamond Open Access and the global knowledge commons.

Monitoring and Continuity

The Roadmap fulfils its purpose only when its orientations are translated into measurable actions. Governments and institutions are invited to publish periodic reports on Diamond Open Access progress; regional and national coordination mechanisms are encouraged to anchor monitoring of journal development, quality standards, and training; intergovernmental organisations are called on to support Member States; and all stakeholders are invited to ensure that the monitoring framework for the UNESCO 2021 Recommendation on Open Science adequately captures and reflects the role of Diamond Open Access.

14. Closing Plenary

Commitments and Next Steps

Senior representatives from national governments, intergovernmental organisations, and the scholarly communication community endorsed the draft Bengaluru Roadmap and reflected on commitments for the next phase.

- ◇ Diamond Open Access was reaffirmed as a political choice rather than a technical option — a deliberate commitment to knowledge as a commons, cultivated through shared responsibility.
- ◇ Government representatives reaffirmed commitments to public, interoperable infrastructure, reformed evaluation systems, and dedicated funding mechanisms; concerns were raised about the cost disparities embedded in APC-based publishing.
- ◇ Indian institutional perspectives emphasised that Diamond Open Access succeeds when treated as essential academic infrastructure — akin to laboratories or libraries — supported by policy clarity and stable institutional funding.
- ◇ Concerns were raised about AI systems re-appropriating openly accessible data into proprietary platforms; specific assessment systems and recognition awards for Diamond journals were proposed.
- ◇ The session closed with a clear message that collaboration and capacity building remain the most critical levers for implementing the Roadmap, alongside the recognition that true success will be measured when these discussions are carried back to policymakers.

15. Field, Cultural and Research Infrastructure Visits

On the final day of the Summit, participants were offered field, cultural, and research infrastructure visits to institutions in and around the host city. These excursions enabled delegates to engage with India's rich scientific and cultural heritage and fostered deeper connections within the international scholarly community.

Conclusion and Call to Action

The 3rd Global Summit on Diamond Open Access affirmed that Diamond Open Access is a necessary structural transformation of scholarly communication, already practised globally across thousands of journals, repositories, platforms, and research communities. Its successful implementation depends on the alignment of policy, funding, and evaluation systems, and on the governance needed to enable Diamond Open Access to function as the primary model for disseminating publicly funded knowledge.

Organising and supporting institutions, governments, research funding organisations, and scholarly communities are invited to engage with the Bengaluru Roadmap and Action Plan, to translate its orientations into concrete initiatives within their respective contexts, and to collaborate across regions toward a coherent and resilient global knowledge commons.

The Global Summit on Diamond Open Access continues to be the principal gathering of the community. The 4th Global Summit on Diamond Open Access will be convened in Bali, Indonesia, where the implementation of the Bengaluru Roadmap and Action Plan will be further examined and refined.

About the Summit

The 3rd Global Summit on Diamond Open Access was the third in a series of pivotal global gatherings advancing equitable, sustainable, and community-driven scholarly communication. The first edition in Toluca, México (2023) produced the Toluca Conclusions and Way Forward; the second edition in Cape Town (2024) produced the Toluca–Cape Town Declaration on Diamond Open Access; and the Bengaluru edition (2026) delivered the Bengaluru Roadmap and Action Plan, published in May 2026.

A scholarly publishing infrastructure that is equitable, community-driven, and academic-led and -owned will enable the global research community to take charge of a scholarly communication system by and for research communities.

Organising Institutions

- AmeliCA / Redalyc
- cOAlition S
- Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA)
- CSIR–National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR–NIScPR)
- Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
- DST–Centre for Policy Research, IISc (DST–CPR)
- French National Research Agency (ANR)
- Gates Foundation
- German Centre for Research and Innovation, DWIH New Delhi
- ICAR–Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture (ICAR–DKMA)
- ICAR–Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (ICAR–IIHR)
- IndiaBioscience
- Indian National Young Academy of Science (INYNAS)
- Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR)
- Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre, India
- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
- JPN National Centre of Excellence in the Humanities, IIT Indore
- Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO)
- O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU)
- Open Access India
- OPERAS – European Diamond Capacity Hub
- Oscar Ribas University (UOR), Luanda, Angola
- Science Europe
- Society for Promotion of Horticulture (SPH), Bengaluru
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, India (UASB)
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