

# FLING OPEN THE DOORS

**E**asy access to information is the lifeblood of a community in which as many people as possible can benefit from the dissemination of that information. JAYSHREE MAMTORA reports on Charles Darwin University's commitment to make as much scholarly information as freely available as possible.

The 10th International Open Access Week was celebrated worldwide last year from 23 to 29 October. The week was first established by Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), a global coalition committed to making 'open' the default access status for research and education.

'By "open access" ... we mean its free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search or link to the full text of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software or use them for any other lawful purpose ...'<sup>1</sup>

The graphic below shows the many advantages of open access:



CC-BY Danny Kingsley & Sarah Brown

This was the 2017 theme for Open Access Week:

'This year's theme is an invitation to answer the question of what concrete benefits can be realised by making scholarly outputs openly available. "Open in order to ..." serves as a prompt to move beyond talking about openness in itself and focus on what openness enables – in an individual discipline, at a particular institution, or in a specific context, then to take action to realise these benefits.

'Open in order to increase the impact of my scholarship. Open in order to enable more equitable participation in research. Open in order to improve public health. These are just a few examples of how this question can be answered.'<sup>2</sup>

Charles Darwin University (CDU) Library in Darwin, Northern Territory, marked the week by organising a panel session of key researchers at the university, who each



Shirley Donnelly won the 2017 ALIA NT Achievement Award



Jessica Lightowler won the 2017 CDU Library Encouragement Award



L to R: Michaela Spencer, Lindsay Hutley, Jayshree Mamtara, Peter Morris, Sue Carthew, and Anthony Hornby

recounted their experiences in relation to the theme. The organising committee included Anthony Hornby (Director, Office of Library Services), Kate Elder (Associate Director, Client Services), Prashant Pandey (Associate Director, Resources) and Jayshree Mamtara (Research Services Coordinator). It was agreed that a different approach would be taken this year, and rather than the usual stand-and-deliver presentations, it was envisaged that the event could be made more engaging by organising a panel session.

The committee also sought sponsorship for the awards and introduced an additional award for the highest number of citations for an open access publication.

The panel consisted of CDU speakers Professor Sue Carthew, Provost and Vice-President; Professor Lindsay Hutley, School of Environment; Professor Peter Morris, Menzies School of Health Research; and Dr Michaela Spencer, Northern Institute.

The annual CDU Library Open Access Award was presented this year as two separate awards: the 2017 CDU Library Open Access Award for the Highest Number of Publications, won by Professor Ric Price of CDU's Menzies School of Health Research; and the 2017 CDU Library Award for Most Cited Article – won by Professor Lindsay Hutley of the CDU School of Environment. Speaker presentations can be seen at ([bit.ly/2A6sEqJ](http://bit.ly/2A6sEqJ)).

See more about open access at ([bit.ly/2yiR8uk](http://bit.ly/2yiR8uk)).

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<sup>1</sup> [bit.ly/2AfmALP](http://bit.ly/2AfmALP)

<sup>2</sup> [bit.ly/2pdEom4](http://bit.ly/2pdEom4)

Love letters to libraries

**LIBRARY LOVERS' DAY**  
14 FEBRUARY 2018

[alia.org.au/libraryloversday](http://alia.org.au/libraryloversday) #libraryloversday

Australian Library and Information Association