

## Webinar Report

### "Generating, promoting and applying research results"

Virtual Forum prior to the IX Central American University Congress  
Co-organised by CSUCA, OBREAL GLOBAL and the EU-LAC FOUNDATION

**13 April, 2021**

Time: 9:00 am (Guatemalan time) // 17:00 CEST

#### Agenda

TIME	ACTIVITY
09:00 - 09:10 (Guatemala) 17:00-17:10 (CEST)	<b>Opening of the webinar</b>  Dr Francisco Herrera, President of CSUCA
09:10 - 09:15 (Guatemala) 17:10-17:15 (CEST)	<b>Welcome from OBREAL Global</b>  Elizabeth Colucci, Project Director, OBREAL Global
09:15 - 10:25 (Guatemala) 17:15-17:25 (CEST)	<b>Welcome by the EU-LAC Foundation and introduction to the subject matter</b>  Dr Adrián Bonilla, Executive Director, EU-LAC Foundation
09:25 - 10:25 (Guatemala) 17:25-18:25 (CEST)	<b>Interactive panel</b> , moderated by <b>Dr. Adrián Bonilla</b> , Executive Director, EU-LAC Foundation  Dr Marisa De Giusti, National University of La Plata, Argentina  Dr Peter Birle, Scientific Director, Ibero-American Institute Berlin, Germany  Ruth Velia Gómez and Ernesto Correa, National Agrarian University, Nicaragua  Alejandra Marcela Nardi, National University of Córdoba, Argentina
10:25 – 10:30 (Guatemala) 18:25-18:30 (CEST)	<b>Conclusions and closure</b>  Dr Francisco Alarcón Alba, Deputy Director and Deputy Secretary General, CSUCA

#### Introduction

An important issue for the development of research in Central America is not only capacity building, but also the consideration of policies, tools, and strategies for communicating, evaluating and leveraging research results in order to generate greater societal impact. How can research results be managed for publication, transfer and use with respect to performance and quality assessment, accountability and the delivery of effective services to society, but also to provide visibility, strengthen relationships and highlight the value of the work generated in a university? In these considerations, aspects such as open science, repositories Institutional issues, bibliometrics,

the evaluation of academic merit, the editorial policy of scientific books and journals, intellectual property and actions for the transfer of knowledge to society play an extremely important role.

This virtual seminar sought to foster the exchange of views, experiences, good practices and proposals aimed at strengthening Central American regional collaboration and bi-regional collaboration between Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean in this field.



## Opening remarks

### Dr Adrián Bonilla, Executive Director, EU-LAC Foundation

Dr Adrián Bonilla opened his intervention by indicating the importance of the topic of the seminar since it is related to research from the point of view of the university and since it raises substantial questions regarding the generation of knowledge. Moreover, scientific knowledge is socially and historically constructed, and as a consequence the concepts of science and scientific knowledge and the practices that surround them are very dynamic. According to Dr Bonilla, the idea of scientific knowledge basically consists of two elements: a body of knowledge and the process by which that knowledge is produced.

He went on to indicate three variables on which we should focus:

1. The language of publication: while the universally known language of publication is English, there are other equally global languages, such as Spanish and Portuguese.
2. The issue of access: it revolves around contemporary concepts such as open science.
3. The content of research.

In conclusion, he urged the development of innovative practices based on scientific knowledge that have a positive impact on a reality that is characterised by non-conclusion or uncertainty, poverty and all the problems we are familiar with.

## Interactive Panel

### Dr Marisa De Giusti, National University of La Plata (UNLP), Argentina

Dr Marisa De Giusti focused her intervention on the presentation of two programmes: PREBI-SEDICI and CESGI. The Library Link Project (*Proyecto de Enlace de Bibliotecas* - PREBI, in Spanish) started in 1997 as a bibliographic provision service and arose out of the need in Argentina to obtain access to scientific information, documents, chapters, articles, theses, proceedings, etc. It was founded thanks to the support of the Ibero-American Consortium for Science and Technology Education (ISTEC, for the acronym in Spanish), which in 1990 began its mission to address some of the weaknesses in science and technology in Latin America. Today, the project contains more than 40,000 scientific documents.

The Service for the Dissemination of Intellectual Creation (*Servicio de Difusión de la Creación Intelectual* - SEDICI) began its work in 2001, as a result of a meeting of ISTEC with the creation of the repository of the three universities of the State of São Paulo, Brazil. The UNLP thus started to run the central institutional repository, the first repository of the Argentine Republic, which to this day contains, disseminates and preserves the scientific and intellectual production of the University through books, articles, presentations, theses, papers, multimedia and data, with almost 110,000 items in the repository.

She then presented the Information Management Service Centre (*Centro de Servicios en Gestión de Información* - CESGI), which is particularly dedicated to studying, implementing and optimising the systems linked to the generation and management of the academic and technological scientific production of the Scientific Research Commission of the Province of Buenos Aires.

The UNLP also manages an institutional repository, called CIC DIGITAL, which stores the scientific information produced by the different centres that constitute the Scientific Research Commission. In addition, a data repository has been created for the La Plata Environmental Observatory, which is a repository belonging to the National University of La Plata, the CIC and the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research of Argentina (CONICET).

In conclusion, Dr Guisti stated that the university's vision, from the beginning, has been to promote open access and open science, collaborative science and joint work at the national level, in the Americas and Europe as a whole. In fact, the university works with LA Referencia, a network of open access science repositories in Latin America, with the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR) and also with OpenAIRE.

### Ruth Velia Gómez and Ernesto Correa, National Agrarian University, Nicaragua

Ruth Velia Gómez shared with the audience the experience of the SIIDCA-CSUCA Central American Repository, which started in 1994 with the following objectives:

- To promote mechanisms for library cooperation between member universities;
- To facilitate the (lifelong) training of human resources;
- To foster the development of the libraries' collections;
- To strengthen interconnectivity between library systems in the region.

According to Ruth Velia Gómez, at the Central American level, SIIDCA is one of the most important collaborative works through which scientific work generated in the region has been disseminated. In this process, it was important to extend training to university library staff to raise their awareness on open access. Subsequently, in 2016, at the CSUCA Congress, the official launch of those two very important products, the Central American catalogue and the Central American repository, took place.

Ernesto Correa then highlighted the importance of the Central American repository due to the collaborative effort of the many institutions involved. He indicated that to date the Central American repository has 19 indexed repositories, more than 98,000 digital documents available in full text, of which more than 26,000 are scientific articles, 37,000 are theses and 438 are complete books. Finally, he commented that the repository is made available to the international community for the development of research and scientific production in the region and that it contributes to the visibility of scientific production.

#### **Dr Peter Birle, Scientific Director, Ibero-American Institute Berlin (IAI), Germany**

Peter Birle started his intervention by presenting the Ibero-American Institute (IAI) and its efforts in the direction of open science and open access. The IAI is an extra-university institution founded 90 years ago that includes a Library (knowledge archive), a Research Centre and a Cultural Centre.

With regard to the idea of open science, Dr Birle referred to the preparation of a new strategy that includes four elements:

1. a digitisation strategy;
2. an open publishing strategy;
3. an institutional repository, which has been operational since 2016; and
4. open research data.

Finally, he highlighted the importance of cooperation strategies as the Institute is a German institution that conceives itself as a bridge between Germany and Europe and Latin America. For the IAI, the connection and collaboration with different partners in Europe and in Latin America and the Caribbean is very important. In this respect, and in order to take into account the perspectives of Latin American and Caribbean countries, the Institute also contributes to the Regional Online Information System for Scientific Journals in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal - Latindex, promoting its ideas, as well as to collaborative projects with Latin American partners, such as the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre (Mecila), thus strengthening the strategy of open science.

#### **Alejandra Marcela Nardi, National University of Córdoba (UNC), Argentina**

Alejandra Marcela Nardi focused her intervention on the creation of the Open Knowledge Office (*Oficina de Conocimiento Abierto* - OCA, in Spanish) at the National University of Córdoba (UNC) in 2014, - the first in Latin America. It was established with the purposes of:

- creating a culture favouring open access and knowledge and raising awareness in the academic community;

- promoting the publication of quality open access scientific journals that meet accessibility standards to address issues related to editorial standardisation, management, visibility and the peer review process;
- launching the University's digital publications pact; and
- fostering collaborative work between national and international researchers.

On November 7th 2017, after an intense debate, the Higher Council unanimously approved the collaboration of the OCA with the entire National System of Digital Repositories that depends on the Ministry of Science and Technology in Argentina.

In addition, an important issue was the need to migrate this information, so a tool was developed to facilitate the migration of the metadata stored to the Integrated Management and Evaluation System (*Sistema Integral de Gestión y Evaluación* - SIGEVA). In addition, due attention is given to the training of librarians.

To conclude, Nardi emphasised that open access to scientific knowledge allows for growth, evolution and sharing, but that, in practice, this concept still faces many obstacles.

### Links of Interest

**Video of the Webinar in Spanish:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnGkxwVA72I>

**Video of the Webinar in English:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNaiMYXu0X4>

**Presentations by the panellists:** <https://eulacfoundation.org/es/generando-promocionado-y-aplicando-los-resultados-la-investigacion>

**PREBI - National University of La Plata:** <https://prebi-sedici.unlp.edu.ar/prebi/>

**SEDICI - National University of La Plata, Argentina** <http://sedici.unlp.edu.ar/>

**CESGI - Information Management Service Centre of the province of Buenos Aires:**  
<https://cesgi.cic.gba.gob.ar/>

**CIC Digital - Argentina:** <https://digital.cic.gba.gob.ar/>

**LA Reference:** <http://www.lareferencia.info/es/>

**COAR:** <https://www.coar-repositories.org/>

**OpenAIRE:** <https://www.openaire.eu/>

**SIIDCA Central American Repository:** <http://repositoriosiidca.csuca.org/>

**Ibero-American Institute Berlin:** <https://www.iai.spk-berlin.de/es/home.html>

**Latindex:** <https://www.latindex.org/latindex/inicio>

**Open Knowledge Office - National University of Cordoba, Argentina:** <http://oca.unc.edu.ar/>

*The organisers of the webinar and their representatives, Dr Carlos Alvarado Cerezo, Secretary General of CSUCA, Dr Adrián Bonilla of the EU-LAC Foundation, and Dr Ramón Torrent of the Obreal Global Observatory, thank the participants for their contributions and attendance.*

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