

Comprehensive diagnostic synthesis on Open Access and Open Data in Angola

Trabajo derivado del proyecto de colaboración entre Redalyc UAEM, AmeliCA, MESCTI y U. Óscar Ribas financiado por UNESCO para el desarrollo de una estrategia de Acceso Abierto en Angola

Project managers

Arianna Becerril-García, Eduardo Aguado-López, Alejandro Macedo-García, Eurico Wongo-Gungula

> March, 2022 Vol. 10







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Comprehensive diagnostic synthesis on Open Access and Open Data in Angola. Work derived from the collaborative project among Redalyc UAEM, AmeliCA, MESCTI and U. Óscar Ribas funded by UNESCO for the development of an Open Access strategy in Angola. Vol. 10.

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March, 2022

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Suggested citation: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Ministério do Ensino Superior, Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação de Angola, Redalyc-Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México, AmeliCA & Universidade Óscar Ribas (2022). Comprehensive diagnostic synthesis on Open Access and Open Data in Angola (Vol. 10). Zenodo. <u>https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6350479</u> This piece is the result of work carried out in 2021 as part of a collaborative project between UNESCO and the Redalyc Scientific Information System. The project had the collaboration of the Government of Angola through the Ministério do Ensino Superior, Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação (MESCTI), the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México (Mexico), AmeliCA and the Universidade Óscar Ribas (Angola), and its objective was to carry out a comprehensive diagnosis of scientific communication in Angola, a critical roadmap for the development of Open Access in the country and a series of technological developments in favor of non-commercial open scientific communication. The project resulted in a set of 38 works that are made public with the aim of contributing and influencing a technological, legal and knowledge infrastructure of non-commercial Open Access in Angola.

Project managers:

Arianna Becerril-García (D), Eduardo Aguado-López (D), Alejandro Macedo-García (D), Eurico Wongo-Gungula (D).

Working teams:

Mexico Redalyc Scientific Information System Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México		
Research: Sheila Godínez-Larios Liliana González-Morales Marco Antonio Estrada-Medina Pedro Villegas-Hernández Brenda Uribe-Martínez Software development: Alma Rosa Segundo Escobar Daniel Mejía Antolín Edgar Juárez Escamilla Thania del Carmen Colín Álvarez Jonatan E. Montes de Oca Ríos Jorge Juan Díaz Carbajal Domingo Anzaldo Bibiano Art and design: Bernardo Bernal-Gómez Priscila Dávila-Morales Nayeli Lara-Martínez Abril Carmona Ochoa	Editorial Diagnosis: Lidia Abigail Villagómez Beltrán Ana Lilia Aladín Díaz Daniel Francisco Flores García Communication: Pamela Amarillas Nava Translation: Cristell Rubí Hernández Cruzaley Jessica Mireya Trujillo Zúñiga Martha Paulina Ibarra Quintana Nancy Verónica Derbéz Cruz Paola Andrea Carbajal García	

	Angola
	Universidade Óscar Ribas
Research:	
Carla Santana	
Josefina Castillero	
Inês Portugal	

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I. Introduction

This document is a synthesis of the undertaken activities in the comprehensive diagnosis on Open Access and Open Data in Angola. The synthesis presented here seeks to succinctly show the aspects addressed in the comprehensive diagnosis carried out in Angola around different axes: the knowledge generation tendencies of Angolan scientific communities and their circulation channels (in the mainstream and on Open Access platforms), the editorial practices of their journals and the internationalization they have built. In addition, the instrumental infrastructure of Open Access in Angola generated from institutional policies, the state of university publishers and book publishing; as well as the perspectives of academic, scientific, student and governmental authorities on Open Access and the needs they identify from two participatory and integrative mechanisms: a series of focus groups and a digital survey.

II. Summary: Report on Open Access and Open Data for Angola

The first part of the diagnostic was the identification of key and relevant stakeholders in Angola: academic authorities, researchers, research centers and institutes together with universities, as well as political authorities. The *Key stakeholders report to undertake an Open Access strategy in Angola* were identified in conjunction with Oscar Ribas University. The identification of these stakeholders was accompanied by an invitation to participate in two project objectives: the series of focus groups that took place in the months of September, October and November 2021 (*Qualitative Analysis on Open Access and Open Data in Angola*), and the digital survey distributed during the month of November 2021 (*Demoscopic study on Open Access and Open Data addressed to the Angolan academic-scientific community*); both with the objective of knowing the needs and perceptions of Angola around Open Access and Open Science.

Another element of the diagnostic is a focus group study of key stakeholders in government and higher education institutions, beneficial to establish Angola's needs for Open Access and Open Science. In addition, the design and implementation of a survey as well, targeting the academic and research community to ascertain the understanding and perspectives of Angola's research community on Open Access and Open Data.

In order to characterize the knowledge generation tendencies of Angolan scientific communities and their circulation channels, two bibliometric analyses were carried out: one on the visibility of Angola in two databases usually considered as mainstream (*Visibility and impact of Angola in commercial circuits of scientific communication*); and the other focusing on Open Access platforms (*Visibility and impact of Angola in Open Access scientific communication circuits*). These analyses were also accompanied by a diagnosis of the scientific production that addresses Angola as an object of study. The results show the main characteristics of the scientific production (such as publication periods and citations obtained), the main author institutions, and the journals and thematic areas in which they are most published. Subsequently, a series of recommendations

were developed regarding basic considerations aimed at consolidating Angola's capacity to generate scientific knowledge.

In turn, the perspective of analysis of Open Access in Angola shown in the *Diagnosis of the editorial quality of Angolan scientific journals for their consolidation and strengthening*, was based on the principle of characterizing Angolan scientific journals based on their formal editorial practices, and not on their indexing and position in world rankings structured on the basis of citation metrics. Instead, a diagnostic of Angolan journals is presented based on their own editorial practices, which ultimately offer the possibility of identifying their quality, their consolidation, and their capacity to promote and enhance exchange in a specific thematic area and academic community. In the report of this objective, a series of recommendations are put forward with a view to the editorial professionalization of the journals. A binding role with the editors was assumed to give them an adequate basis from which to begin to make changes and improvements in their editorial policies, perceive their strengths and, from there, work for greater editorial quality.

The Internationalization of publication and collaboration of Angolan scientific journals presents the characterization of Angolan scientific journals based on their internationalization, specifically from the dynamics of international publication and international scientific collaboration of their authors. In this element of the diagnostic, internationalization is considered as the diversity of actors that participate in the generation and communication of scientific knowledge published in scientific journals. From this perspective, the internationalization of Angolan scientific journals was analyzed from three elements: 1) the identification of scientific production coming from countries other than Angola, 2) the identification of countries that have published in Angolan journals, and 3) the characterization of international co-authorship networks with scientific production published in Angolan journals.

This part of the comprehensive diagnostic carried out on Angola documents that scientific journals and platforms do not have adequate metadata management that allows for comprehensive and exhaustive bibliometric analysis. Therefore, it was suggested to establish strategies to retrieve information at the metadata level of Angolan scientific journals.

On the other hand, the *Diagnosis of Open Access institutional policies in Angola as a background for a proposed Law for the country* presents a diagnostic on Open Access Policies in Angola, where the initiatives formulated from the institutional frameworks regarding access to research financed with public funds and the practices implemented on Open Data in this country were identified. The diagnosis made an approach to the governmental sphere related to the field of Science and Technology, which is why the Ministerio de Educación Superior, Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (MINCYT) was approached. The analysis also sought an approach to the main institutions of higher education and universities in Angola. The analysis is followed by a series of recommendations for the development of the main institutional Open Access with respect to scientific production, editorial production and the implementation of repositories.

Finally, the *Diagnosis of university presses in Angola* presents an analysis aimed at identifying and evaluating Angola's publishing activity, Angolan university publishers and the publication of scientific, informative and educational books and journals. This report seeks to be an input of

information that allows the identification of the diversity of Angolan publishing instances, as well as diagnosing which scientific products are published, under which scheme (Open Access or restricted), through which channels, publication formats and the period of activity of the scientific production. This report provides relevant information on the current situation of the publishing process in Angola to enhance scientific communication through Angolan communication channels.

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Table 1 Studies carried out for the comprehensive diagnosis on Open Access and Open Data in Angola

