Open Access publishing across tertiary vocational education in Aotearoa New Zealand

Publications and Dissemination Group, Rangahau Research Forum, Te Pūkenga

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The 16 Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics (ITPs) in Aotearoa New Zealand are key providers of vocational education from pre-degree through to doctoral level. The ITPs and other providers are currently being amalgamated into Te Pūkenga through the Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE). This is creating challenges, but also revealing opportunities for further developing Open Access publishing.

Open Access Publications

Peer-reviewed Journals: Five ITPs collectively publish 14 journals across diverse fields. Of these, 12 are diamond OA and another is currently transitioning. These face the typical challenges of low-volume academic publications.

Research Reports & Symposium Proceedings: Seven ITPs publish OA research reports, books of abstracts, and/or full proceedings of local, regional, and national activities, meetings and symposia.

Books: Unitec’s ePress publishes peer-reviewed diamond OA ebooks, monographs, and eMedia. Otago Polytechnic and MIT publish OA ebooks, and Whitireia has a publishing programme.

Existing Collaborative Initiatives

Research Bank: An OA repository of staff and student research outputs. Hosted by Unitec and also used by SIT, Otago Polytechnic, EIT and Toi Ohomai.

Joint Communications: Including a joint webpage featuring all journals and a monthly newsletter about publishing opportunities.

Digital Object Identifiers (DOI): Registered by Unitec and Otago Polytechnic, plus collaborative agreements with other ITPs.

Networks & Working Groups: To boost efficient communication across ITPs. This helps pool expertise, align strategy, share work, and facilitates peer-review processes.

Opportunities

- Strengthen collaboration and sharing of expertise across the network
- Establish new policies underpinned by Open Access principles
- Create an umbrella publishing house to oversee and develop publications

Reform of Vocational Education

The RoVE (2019-) aims to create a unified and sustainable network of regionally accessible vocational education across Aotearoa New Zealand. The creation of Te Pūkenga will merge ITPs into four new regional divisions overseen by national operating structures.

Challenges

- Maintain continuity of publishing and good practice during restructuring
- Retain local flexibility and character in a large, unified national institution
- Improve equity of publishing opportunities across the network