

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Australasian Society for Computers in Learning In Tertiary Education (ASCILITE)

And

Open Access Publishing Association (OAPA)

Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) provides a framework for areas of joint working between ASCILITE and the Open Access Publishing Association (OAPA). It sets out how the two organisations will work together to ensure that shared objectives are taken forward and provides a platform on which to build joint working. This MoU is not a statutory or contractual document and is not intended to be legally binding. Nonetheless, ASCILITE and OAPA agree to abide by its terms.

About ASCILITE	About OAPA
<p>ASCILITE was formed in 1983 and currently has over 1,900 individual members representing over 100 institutions and organisations. Its vision is to be Australasia's foremost community, leading and advocating for excellence in the use of digital technologies in tertiary learning and teaching. ASCILITE's mission is to promote and recognise exemplary innovation, evidence-based practice and research, in the sustainable use of educational technologies to progress pedagogical practice. See www.ascilite.org for further information. ASCILITE has individual and Institutional categories of membership. The annual ASCILITE conference is held in a different location each year in the Australasian region, including most Australian capital cities, regional cities, New Zealand and Singapore. Some of the ASCILITE community engaging activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Mentoring Program – for targeted skills and knowledge transfer• TellAll blog – updates on a range of contemporary topics from different perspectives• TELAS – accreditation scheme for online units/subjects/courses• WiAL (Women in Academic Leadership) networking and mentoring for promotion and awards• Grants, awards and bursaries – opportunities for supported professional and scholarly development• SIGS (Special Interest Groups) – 7 groups on a range of topics• Different membership categories – individual and a range of attractive institutional packages.	<p>The Open Access Publishing Association was founded in 2023 to challenge the current model of publishing. Founding members of OAPA established the association in defiance of a pay-to-publish and pay-to-read model in favour of open science. The Association has a mission to build safe and secure locations for journals, conferences, and other knowledge dissemination methods to be housed to grow. OAPA has developed a funding model to enable hosting our own and other OA journals by providing high quality education opportunities in the areas of editing and reviewing, as well as hosting seminars on high-interest topics, led by high-reputation academics. Membership of the OAPA is a way scholars and supporters of open knowledge can support the aims and mission of the organisation. OAPA has two categories of membership: individual and institution. Individual members receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Free access to the Association's seminars.• The opportunity to shape the Association with voting rights at the Annual General Meeting.• Eligibility to nominate for the Board or Committees. <p>Institutional membership is an opportunity for higher education institutions, peak bodies and other interested parties to purchase spots in course and access to the seminar series. Standard, Premium and Custom institution membership is available. Partnership with the OAPA is established by an MOU which sets out areas of mutual interest that form the basis of a collaborative and cooperative relationship. Partnership can involve agreement to purchase standard or premium institutional membership. OAPA maintains a list of partners (their logos and a link to their website) on its Partners webpage, linked from the OAPA home page.</p>

Working Together

This MoU sets out to establish and consolidate a good relationship between ASCILITE and OAPA. Possible avenues for collaboration or mutual engagement include:

- Spring into Research School
- Cross-promotion of events
- Discounted access to events
- Block of spots for OAPA courses – for ASCILITE members (e.g., reimburse or pay for).

ASCILITE propose seminar topic and seminar practices:

- TELAS - ASCILITE (<https://www.telas.edu.au>) accreditation of online courses (OAPA courses could either self-accredit using the free tools or pay for accreditation and obtain the certified badge).
- Explore the option of in-kind payment [instead of charging \$/course for accreditation, ASCILITE get x spots in a OAPA course].
- Training for Associate Editors for AJET at reduced price.

Mutual Benefits to be Derived Through Partnership

This MoU sets out to establish a mutually beneficial relationship between OAPA and ASCILITE since both organisations share a common commitment to open access publishing to advance learning and improve access to it. We agree to collaborate in the following ways, subject to the agreement of the two governing bodies:

1) Initiate joint projects and activities:

a) Investigate areas of common interest with a view to conducting joint activities that involve the participation of members from both societies.

b) Conduct joint activities which are mutually beneficial to both societies and which involve the active participation, implementation, and promotion from members of both societies.

These joint activities to include, but not be limited to:

- a. Educational webinars and seminars;
- b. Educational courses

2) Promote shared knowledge, resources, and services

- a. Support each other in facilitating the enhancement of evidence-based research and practice in higher education, particularly in respect to conferences and journals.
- b. Promote each other's undertakings, e.g. conferences, workshops and online seminars and courses.
- c. Collaborate, where appropriate, on each other's committees and panels.

3) Engage each other's memberships

- a. Encourage members to prepare, submit and work together on research and capacity building projects and disseminate information of activities.

The potential benefits of the proposed relationship include:

- Broader influence on policy and practice in higher education at international, national, regional and local levels
- Effective use of resources including better use of the time of our members and representatives
- Informed decision making using shared information and expertise; and
- Enhanced outcomes from events through cooperation and collaboration.

The ultimate beneficiaries of this agreement will be all staff and students of higher education institutions.

Mechanisms for Collaboration

To achieve these benefits OAPA and ASCILITE agree to:

- Exchange relevant information, data and expertise
- Undertake cooperative projects
- Develop joint submissions, when appropriate, to government enquiries and funding bodies
- Negotiate the holding of combined workshops; and
- Mutually promote the activities of each organisation, such as ASCILITE-convened workshops, conferences, and other such events, and OAPA-convened seminars and courses.

Cooperative Activities

OAPA and ASCILITE agree to actively seek ways to jointly contribute to and derive member benefits from collaborative activities that can include, but are not limited to the following:

- Investigate areas of common interest with a view to conducting joint activities
- Agree on approaches to practices and standards which apply in common to the two groups
- Collaborate and provide mutual support on national programs of common interest
- OAPA to invite ASCILITE members to contribute ideas and practical examples for OAPA seminar topics
- Investigate methods of communication and collaboration that could be utilised between memberships

Management of the Partnership

The Presidents will meet either face to face or virtually at least twice a year for the purpose of reviewing progress on joint activities and the benefits of the alliance.

The Presidents of OAPA and ASCILITE will each nominate an officer who will be responsible for the administration of day-to-day activities to fulfil the agreement.

OAPA and ASCILITE will be individually responsible for any costs incurred by their representatives and members when participating in joint activities, unless otherwise agreed.

Duration of the Agreement

The President or the nominated officer from each organisation will meet at least once a year online for the purpose of reviewing this Memorandum of Understanding to analyse the relevance and progress of joint activities and to plan a set of achievable goals for the upcoming year to be approved by the two governing bodies.

Signed by lead contacts

SIGNED on behalf of

Open Access Publishing Association



OAPA President

Joseph Crawford

April 3rd, 2024

SIGNED on behalf of

**The Australasian Society for
Computers in Learning in Tertiary
Education**



ASCILITE President

Michael Cowling

April 3rd, 2024