



भौतिक अनुसंधान प्रयोगशाला, अहमदाबाद

Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad

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PRL Ka Amrut Vyakhyaan-33

Wednesday, 16 March 2022

@ 04:00 PM (IST)

“Open Access in Astronomy”

Ms. Uta Grothkopf

Head, Library and Information Centre
ESO - European Southern Observatory, Germany



<https://youtu.be/2AJ7bMrgrkA>



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Abstract

Scholarly communication is undergoing major changes, aiming at more transparent and equitable practices that allow researchers to access, reproduce, and reuse existing scientific findings. This is often referred to as Open Science. An essential component in this movement is Open Access (OA) publishing. In this colloquium, we will explore what Open Access really means, how it has been received within the astronomy community, and which challenges are resulting from its implementation.

The shift towards Open Access provides a unique opportunity to build a fair and inclusive publishing landscape. We will look at the role librarians play in this process, and emphasise the importance of collaboration within the research community at large.

The Speaker

Ms. Uta Grothkopf is the Head of the Library and Information Centre at the European Southern Observatory (ESO), an inter-governmental research organisation in astronomy. She monitors evolving scholarly communication tools and trends in publishing in order to provide advice and guidance to ESO's researchers.

Ms. Uta has been speaking at many conferences and workshops, focusing in particular on digital libraries, bibliometrics, and open access/open science. She was actively involved in the organisation of LISA (Library and Information Services in Astronomy) conferences, and has been a lecturer at SWYA (Scientific Writing for Young Astronomers) Schools. In May 2019, Uta joined the Open Access Working Group of the journal Astronomy & Astrophysics (A&A), and has been a member of the Subscribe to Open (S2O) Community of Practice since October 2020.



About PRL

The Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), known as the “cradle of space science” in India, is one



of the premier research institutes founded in 1947 by Prof. Vikram Sarabhai, a renowned Cosmic Ray Scientist, a great visionary and institution builder. PRL played a seminal role in producing a highly motivated cadre of space scientists and the technologists of highest international repute. The first scientific rocket launched from Thumba on 21st November-1963 and many other rockets launched thereafter contained payloads developed at PRL. Dr. Sarabhai initiated many of these scientific and technical activities at PRL which eventually led to the formation of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). Therefore, PRL is known as the “cradle of space science” in India. Further, the research in the area

of Plasma Physics expanded to the formation of the Institute of Plasma Research (IPR).

As an institution PRL is unique in that it conducts fundamental research in a wide range of research areas from the Earth to the cosmos, and comprising Astronomy and Astrophysics; Solar Physics; Space and Atmospheric Sciences; Theoretical Physics; Geosciences; Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics, Astrochemistry; and Planetary Sciences and Space Exploration. PRL is one of the rare research institutes of international repute wherein research in such diverse fields of sciences is carried out using several state-of-the-art experimental facilities that exist under one umbrella.

Along with the ongoing research, several new initiatives have been taken up during the last few years. The Multi-Application Solar Telescope (MAST) at Udaipur Solar Observatory has been operationalized. PRL initiated scientific programmes in frontier areas of research, which include a search for exo-planets, laboratory studies of interstellar grains, laboratory synthesis of cold astro-molecules and experimental studies in the field of quantum optics. PRL is also developing several scientific payloads as a part of ISRO’s larger vision and contributing to roadmap for competitive scientific exploration of the solar system and beyond. In particular, PRL has been contributing significantly not only in building instruments for space missions, such as Chandrayaan-1, Chandrayaan-2, AstroSat and upcoming Aditya-L1, Chandrayaan-3 and planetary and space missions, but also by bringing out new and insightful science results.

PRL contributes to several national and international research programmes and to human resource development through its Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Programmes, capacity building programmes, such as UN Course on Space Science, and science and engineering internship programmes. PRL contributes significantly to society through its Outreach Programmes by periodically organizing science exhibitions and Open Houses, planned visits of students of various school and college to PRL, and popular talks at various institutions to not only share the excitements of the advancements of contemporary scientific findings but also to encourage students to take up sciences as their research career.

