



Trabalho, Educação e Saúde

The materialization of the ideals of Open Science: 10 years of Fiocruz's Open Access to Knowledge Policy

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When we analyze the different discourses and ideals in favor of Open Science, we see that there is a proposal for a collaborative, transparent, inclusive, co-participatory science, which shares and makes responsible (re)use of different resources, such as data, information, equipment, inputs, laboratories, among others. A science that proposes to dissociate itself from stabilized practices that are not very receptive to new entry and evaluation systems, which often have patrimonialist and opaque roots, surviving based on the accumulation of symbolic capital, which Bourdieu would detail as scientific capital, considering the specific dynamics of this field (Bourdieu, 1983; 2004).

In this context, how can we materialize the ideals of Open Science in an institution of the size of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), which is part of the national research evaluation system, with numerous international cooperation actions, and which is linked to the Brazilian government, under the Ministry of Health, and is a crucial player in providing answers to the Unified Health System (SUS)?

In 2014, true to its mission of producing, disseminating, and sharing knowledge and technologies aimed at promoting health and the quality of life of the Brazilian population, Fiocruz, considering information to be a public good, launched its Open Access to Knowledge Policy aimed at guaranteeing society open, public and free access to the content of intellectual works produced by the institution.

EDITORIAL

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In 2024, therefore, the Open Access to Knowledge Policy will be 10 years old, and it deserves a beautiful commemorative stamp, launched by the Institute of Communication and Scientific and Technological Information (ICICT) in April of this year, above all due to the consolidation of one of its main objectives: the mandatory open access deposit in the Arca Institutional Repository of dissertations and theses defended in Fiocruz's Postgraduate Programs, as well as scientific articles authored by its professionals and published in journals.

In the latter case, not without facing controversial issues caused by closed access publishers, still linked to a 20th-century business model, whose commercial roots resist the Open Science movement (Guañes and Sarita, 2023). In addition to charging exorbitant article processing fees, the so-called APCs (Article Processing Charges), these publishers insist on maintaining an outdated copyright regime to ensure that they have the exclusive right to exercise the rights that arise from researchers' intellectual creation of the scientific article. In practice, this means preventing or delaying with embargoes the sharing of and access to research results, which are often crucial to people's health.

It is worth remembering that the movement for open access to scientific literature, which developed on the internet in the late 1990s, was a reaction to the dominance of publishers in the editorial process and to consequences such as the high cost of subscriptions to journals purchased by libraries, as Pinheiro (2014) states, and Guédon (2004) corroborates this, adding that the rapid increase in the prices of academic and scientific journals limited access to scientific information by economic means.

In the wake of the Policy established in 2014, in step with the expansion and intensification, respectively, of the open access to scientific information and Open Science movements, Fiocruz began a discussion on the limits and possibilities of opening up research data, which resulted in the Data Management, Sharing, and Openness Policy, published in 2020. Fiocruz's Open Science governance was set up the following year, creating collective bodies such as the Open Science Forum, the Management Committees of the repositories, and the Open Science Centers. Made up of representatives from different departments and units, the Forum and the Committees aim to define strategies and spread awareness within the institution among its researchers to adhere to open access to scientific literature, educational resources, and data sharing. The Centers curate, deposit, make available, and use this scientific information.

As part of its social responsibility, the institution has been encouraging the national debate on this issue with technical and academic interventions that have sought to contribute to the training of people and a critical and well-founded reflection on Open Science. It is also concerned with stimulating discussion on the construction of adequate infrastructures for Brazil's genuine participation in the group of major international players that dominate the scientific publishing market and the flow of research data through their powerful platforms.

Since 2018, Fiocruz has been part of the commitments agreed by Brazil within the scope of the last three National Action Plans developed by the Partnership for Open Government, which brings together various public institutions and organized civil society.¹ It has signed technical cooperation agreements with institutions such as CNPq and Ibict, to create the ConsCiência Consortium,² and has become a member of different networks and groups, such as the Brazilian Repositories Network, the Brazilian Reproducibility Network, the Research Data Alliance, GoFair Brazil and The Global Health Networks.

2024 is a milestone for Open Science at Fiocruz and in Brazil. At the same time as we light up this round date, under the auspices of a new democratically elected government, the Brazilian scientific community is driving forward the collective reconstruction of a National Science and Technology Strategy for the country. Important national players are participating in this recovery, whose horizon



in terms of Open Science in Brazilian Public Health is strengthening and consolidating the SUS (Jorge, Clinnio, and Machado, 2024). Along the same lines, the 5th National Conference on Science, Technology, and Innovation (5th CNCTI) organized several preparatory conferences, including three on Open Science, a mobilization that culminated in a strong presence of the topic in the basic report for the event.³ In his speeches at the Conference, the President of the Republic highlighted the importance of opening up data,⁴ and the Minister of Health referred to Open Science as strategic for the future of research.⁵

In the year in which Fiocruz's Open Access to Knowledge Policy turns 10, there is an urgent need for more open science, which is, or should be, an expression of the democratic commitments necessary for scientific practices in our times. However, it must be acknowledged that it is imperative to revisit its roots and ideals, so that its materialization is not yet another trap of 'inclusion' in a shallowly retreaded system.

Notes

¹ Available from: <https://www.gov.br/cgu/pt-br/governo-aberto/a-ogp/planos-de-acao/4o-plano-de-acao-brasileiro/compromisso-3-docs/inovacao-e-governo-aberto-na-ciencia-monitoramento-e-execucao>. Accessed on: 27 Sept. 2024.

² Available from: <https://www.gov.br/cnpq/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cnpq-em-acao/cnpq-lancou-consorcio-conciencia-para-incentivar-a-pratica-da-ciencia-aberta-1>. Accessed on: 27 Sept. 2024.

³ Available from: https://issuu.com/5cncti/docs/e-book_para_5_cncti_-_conferencias_livres. Accessed on: 27 Sept. 2024.

⁴ Available from: <https://www.gov.br/planalto/pt-br/acompanhe-o-planalto/discursos-e-pronunciamentos/2024/08/pronunciamento-do-presidente-lula-durante-abertura-da-5a-conferencia-nacional-de-ciencia-tecnologia-e-inovacao>. Accessed on: 27 Sept. 2024.

⁵ Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=5403&v=Xn77nGNTEPg&feature=youtu.be>. Accessed on: 27 Sept. 2024.

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