

## Public Forum on Open Access

For the first PAARL public forum, the incoming President, Fe Angela M. Verzosa, invited Dr. John Willinsky, a Distinguished University Scholar and, currently, the Pacific Press Professor of Literacy and Technology at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, aside from being a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, to come to the Philippines for a series of lectures on the innovative topic, **Open Access**. Prof. Willinsky is the author of *Learning to Divide the World: Education at Empire's End*, which won the Outstanding Book Awards from the American Educational Research Association and History of Education Society, as well as the more recent titles, *Technologies of Knowing*, and *If Only We knew: Increasing the Public Value of Social Science Research*. His work on Open Access Publishing, including demonstrations of the open source software which he has developed to improve access and quality of research, are found in the UBC website on the Public Knowledge Project.

During his one-week stay, Prof. Willinsky lectured initially before the DLSU faculty and administrators, followed on the second day by another academic forum sponsored by the UP Institute of library Science and the UP Press in Diliman. On the third day, he lectured before more than 150 CEU faculty in the morning, and a large crowd of students and faculty (about 300) at the Rizal Technological University. His last day was spent at Dasmariñas, Cavite, where he lectured before the DLSU-D faculty and administrators there, and took a side trip to Tagaytay to view the Taal Volcano.

His talk on open access publishing, the potential contribution of online scholarly resources for building local research capacity, and his demonstration of the open source software for online publishing, will have an impact on the work of journal editors, academic publishers, and conference organizers, on the most economical ("**cheaper than free**") ways of implementing a system for open access scholarly publishing. For librarians, one potentially very attractive area for cooperation is open access to electronic journals. Prof. Willinsky cited numerous websites where librarians can download articles from electronic journals available without subscription since after six months or at least less than 2 years, the articles become open access, e.g. British Medical Journal, New England Journal of Medicine, Teachers College Records, etc. The best examples of these open access websites are:

- [www.doaj.org](http://www.doaj.org), or directory of open access journals, which covers full-text articles from more than 745 journals, all quality controlled and scholarly
- [www.eprints.org](http://www.eprints.org), a free software which creates online archives for self-archiving To self-archive is to deposit a digital document in a publicly accessible website. Software is also being developed to allow documents to be self-archived in bulk, rather than just one by one.
- <http://dspace.org>, DSpace is a groundbreaking digital library system to capture, store, index, preserve, and redistribute the intellectual output of a university's research faculty in digital formats; developed jointly by MIT Libraries and Hewlett-Packard (HP)

To print or download the Open Journal System and its system requirements, please check out our website under What's New.