

# **An overview of the Open Knowledge Environment (OKE) Concept, Rationale, and Potential Value**

## **Presentation Abstract**

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In this presentation, we will provide an overview of the Open Knowledge Environment (OKE) concept, as well as the rationale and potential value of the OKE.

An Open Knowledge Environment (OKE) is a new way of thinking about knowledge creation, management, dissemination, and use. An OKE uses an interactive, participatory approach, and builds on existing and emerging open access (OA) models in publishing research literature, sharing research data, and the use of open source software, to support four open knowledge-based activities: (1) interactive, participatory knowledge production, (2) knowledge dissemination and sharing, (3) open collaboration and use, and (4) storage, curation, and preservation. An OKE is envisioned as being integrated into the educational mission of universities and research institutions.

An OKE is thematic or domain specific; it focuses on a particular interest area. An interest area could be a specific scientific research domain, such as atmospheric chemistry and physics, or an educational or professionally oriented domain, such as library and information sciences, digital humanities, communications, and education.

There are different requirements for creating and sustaining an OKE. These include technical, economic, legal, policy, and sociocultural aspects. Three subsequent presentations in this session will explore these issues in greater detail.

It is expected that the application of OKE ideas and the implementation of OKE services will foster efforts to enable global access to information, facilitate inter-disciplinary work, and support young and independent researchers, as well as citizen science. This in turn will help increase the use of digital network capabilities, bridging some scientific and socioeconomic divides, and supporting development.