The Cost of Knowledge

Knowledge should advance the common good. Instead, the price of accessing and sharing it keeps climbing – and it isn't researchers or readers who benefit most.

"Information wants to be free."
– Stewart Brand

Stewart campaigned for NASA to make the first image of the Earth from space publicly available...A powerful symbol of shared knowledge and planetary perspective.

RECEIPT OF KNOWLEDGE

OPEN ACCESS WEEK 2026
19 TO 25 OCTOBER

TXN #OAW2026 CASHIER: STATUS QUO

ITEM	COST
Journal subscriptions	rising yearly
Article processing charge	$$$$
Author labour	UNPAID
Peer review	UNPAID
Editorial work	UNPAID
Global participation	EXCLUDED
Indigenous Data Sovereignty	IGNORED
Your research for AI training	NO CONSENT
Your reading habits	TRACKED
Power and water	TO DATA CENTRES
SUBTOTAL	The public good
TAX	Inequity
TOTAL	**Knowledge as commodity**
PAID WITH	Public funds + unpaid work
CHANGE DUE	Knowledge as a common good

The status quo is not neutral.
No refunds. Only alternatives.

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How can we take action to ensure knowledge stays as a public good?

CREATE	SUSTAIN	SHARE	RECLAIM
Include communities in research	Fund public research infrastructure	Publish without paywalls	Treat knowledge as a commons
Respect Indigenous knowledge sovereignty	Support libraries & repositories	Share data, methods & resources	Resist extractive data practices
Value diverse voices & lived knowledge	Support community-led publishing	Make knowledge accessible	Put public interest before profit

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