JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

OPEN ACCESS WEEK 2026
OCTOBER 19 – 25

HDR Open Access Advocate Competition 2026

The Cost of Knowledge

HOW MANY TIMES DO WE PAY FOR THE KNOWLEDGE?

KNOWLEDGE BEGINS LONG BEFORE PUBLICATION

Who funds the research?

Public investment

Who contributes the data?

Participants and communities

Who gives the time?

Researchers and support staff

Who provides the infrastructure?

Institutions and research facilities

ALL PART OF THE COST

THE RESEARCH BILL

RESEARCH QUESTION
- Time and labour
- Literature search
- Protocol development
- Feasibility testing

$

INFRASTRUCTURE
- Computers / softwares
- Research facility
- Environment & sustainability (e.g. energy, waste, resource use)

$

PARTICIPANTS / DATA
- Recruitment & consent
- Ethics approval
- Environment & sustainability (e.g. data storage, travel)

$

PUBLICATION COST
- Pay for publication
- Open access charges
- Ongoing fees

$

ACCESS COST
- Paywalls / limited access
- Pay for accessing publicly funded research

$

TOTAL COST OF KNOWLEDGE

$ $ $

Limited access

Knowledge blocked for many

Open access

Knowledge shared. Everyone benefits.

Piracy

Undermines authors, funders and the system

RESEARCH CREATED ≠ RESEARCH PUBLISHED ≠ RESEARCH ACCESSED

Knowledge is built by many and paid for by many.

THUS, OPEN ACCESS IS NOT A GIFT, BUT A RETURN