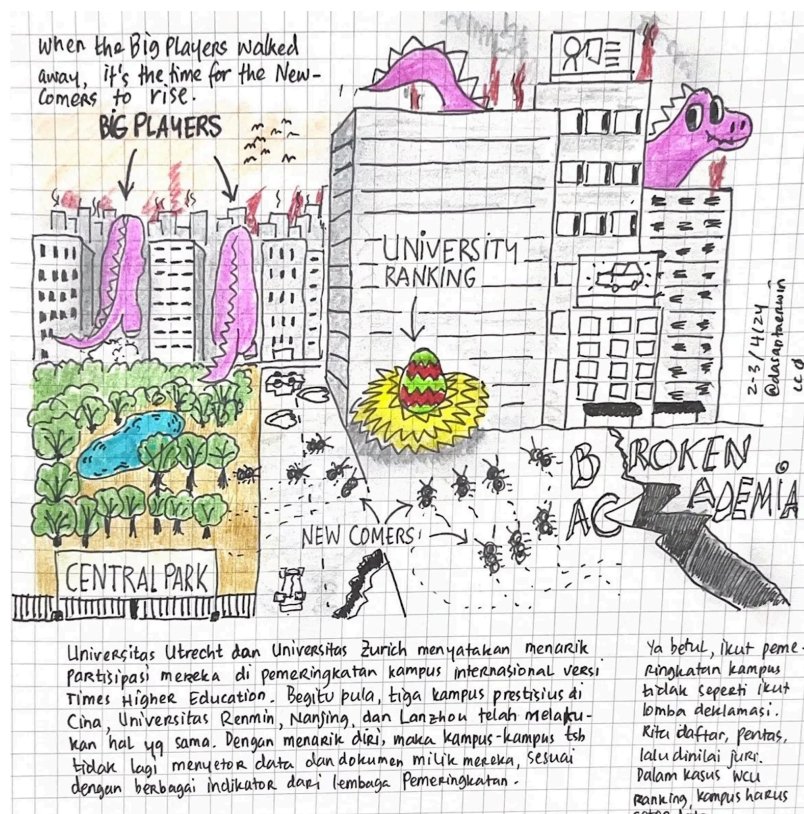


OA in Indonesia - Is It Moving Forward or Frozen in Time

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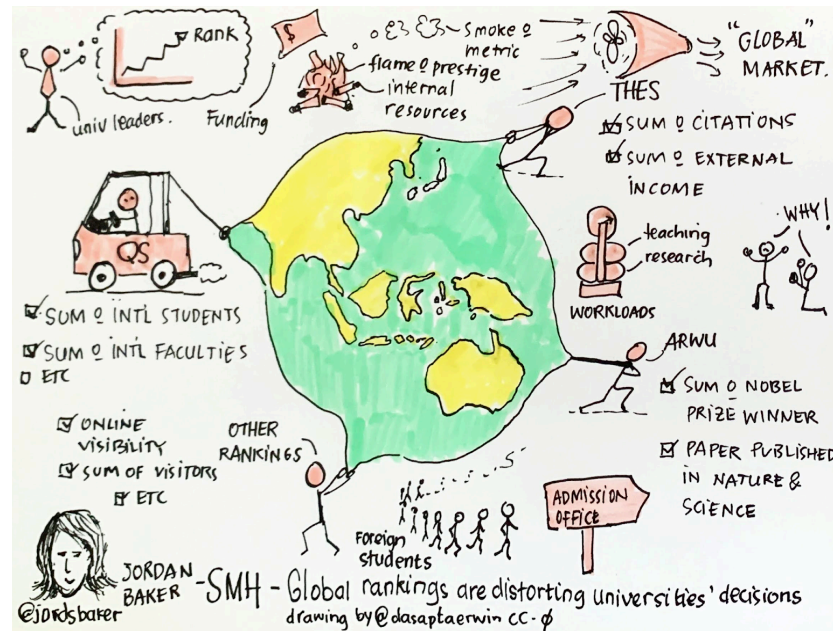
Indonesia is recognized as one of the largest global producers of open-access documents. The nation was also an early adopter of the open-access initiative. However, after examining academic and research regulations introduced by the Ministry of Education and Culture through DIKTI, it's clear that the progress of open access in Indonesia is unlikely to advance in the near future.

The decision of Utrecht University, Zurich University, and three prestigious Chinese universities to opt out of international university ranking could potentially amplify the movement of responsible metrics as initiated by the Leiden Manifesto and SFDORA. It may encourage a shift in focus from rankings to a more holistic view of universities' contributions, including teaching, societal impact, and open science. This could stimulate other institutions to reconsider their participation in ranking systems and align their strategies with responsible metrics principles.



Contrary to the shift towards responsible metrics, the reality seems to be headed in the opposite direction. Regulations at both national and university levels are increasingly using derivative indicators based on those employed by most global university rankings. This is

evident across the three major areas known as Tridharma, encompassing education, research, and community outreach. The focus of these programs is to produce mainstream products, with an emphasis on articles published in high-impact journals, thereby perpetuating the dominance of traditional ranking metrics.



While at first glance, the current scenario might not seem directly linked to the open access movement, such as open access journals or institutional repositories, it has considerable implications. The current situation and focus on traditional ranking metrics have skewed policies and budgets towards high-cost open access publishing, as promoted by major Western publishers. This could potentially lead to a distortion of the open access initiative, steering it away from its original goal of making research accessible and affordable.

Adding to the drama, there is an alarming trend of academics adopting a shortcut-oriented approach in response to the current situation. The pursuit of quick wins, often at the expense of academic and research integrity, is a concerning development. This could lead to a further divergence from the open access initiative's original goal and thereby undermine the very essence of academic research. The importance of maintaining integrity in research cannot be overstated, as it underpins the trustworthiness and credibility of the academic community.

The challenge for Indonesia also includes the need to strengthen academic and research integrity. The evaluation of academic and research regulations should promote a balanced approach, considering both traditional ranking metrics and the principles of open access. Furthermore, it should foster an environment of honesty, objectivity, and responsibility, fundamental to preserving the integrity of research. This ensures the democratization of knowledge without compromising the quality and trustworthiness of research produced.

Therefore, if you ask if the Open Access movement still exists in Indonesia, I'd say yes, it's still there. However, if you inquire about its potential progress, given the current situation, I'd say no. It is crucial, therefore, for international organizations such as IFLA and UNESCO to work towards building self-confidence within Indonesia and other "global south" nations. These nations may have fewer resources, but it's essential that they enforce academic and

research integrity and hold their heads high. They must be brave enough to assert that they don't need these biased indicators to be labeled as a world class university.