



OSI Scholarly Libraries & Library Groups Stakeholder

Report

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Abstract / Stakeholder Group Questions

Representatives of the OSI2017 Scholarly Libraries and Library Groups stakeholder group were tasked with (1) Summarizing the various perspectives involved in the library community with regard to open access, (2) Describing areas of general agreement and disagreement and the issues and questions that may be powering these different viewpoints, and (3) Proposing a set of specific actions or outcomes that can balance the needs and interests of all members of this group (or a mechanism for finding solutions or bridging gaps), as well as the challenges these actions face and how they can be addressed in a realistic and collaborative way.

1. Perspective Summary

Across the library community—internationally and amongst institutions of all sizes and orientations (serving the public, research universities and non-university research institutions)—there is a strong commitment to supporting open access. Library leaders are knowledgeable about openness and committed to responding to the concerns of their institutions and user base on this issue.

2. Areas of Agreement and Disagreement

Beyond this common sentiment and groundwork, library stakeholders have a wide variety of perspectives regarding exactly what approach to take to the

future of open access and to what degree. These different perspectives are rooted in the divergent needs, resources, and missions of their institutions. Therefore, consensus was not reached in some of the major areas that would help to form a cohesive plan of action.

There was disagreement during the discussion in how members defined open access, how it is and should be supported within an institution, how financial resources should be allocated, and how labor should be distributed.

Still, there was enough common ground to identify shared interests. The Scholarly Libraries and Library Stakeholder Group is committed to supporting open access to:

- Provide stewardship in the discovery, access, and accessibility of resources that support the teaching and research needs of faculty and students
- Preserve and disseminate the scholarly record produced by an institution
- Ensure the efficient and effective use of library budgets in the support of collections and faculty research
- Advocate for equitable access to all types of scholarly output for all users
- Identifying opportunities for cross-institutional OA publishing
- Exploration and investment into the different models of Open Access from a library perspective that recognizes institutional diversity (i.e. Pay it Forward project)
- Journal Assessment (possibly addressing white/black lists of journals)
- Advocacy efforts that push a need for greater transparency in the pricing of OA journals
- OSI facilitation of more communication and information sharing across stakeholder groups

3. Recommended Actions and Challenges

There were several recommended actions members identified as opportunities that could be taken on by individual actors or in collaboration with interested parties, rather than as a cohesive plan for the group. They include:

- Shared training and teaching resources
- OERs to promote more open practices on campus
- Optimization of open source repository platforms
- Improved discovery of what is already made available
- Engagement with projects such as Initiative for Open Citations (I4OC)

In general, the library community supports actions that continue to build out the framework for more openness, that continue connecting resources and efforts to make more open access possible, and that continue to improve the capacity of existing open resources and efforts. Over time, as the capacity of open access improves and the paths to openness becomes better paved, more institutions of all sizes and orientations will find additional ways to become more actively involved. OSI can play an important role in helping make this happen.

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