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Scholarly Communication Presentation for LIS9630

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Concerns over Scholarly Communication

- Journals as crucial vehicles for scholarly information exchange
- Journal prices escalating, especially in Scientific, Technical, and Medical (STM) fields ("serials crisis")
- "Big deal" electronic journal packages
- Licensing restrictions on access
Concerns over Scholarly Communication
Concerns over Scholarly Communication

• Less library funding for purchasing monographs
• Limited sales of monographs
• Fewer opportunities for monograph publishing
• Business interests vs. Academic information needs
Scholarly Communication Lifecycle

Scholarly Content

Generate ➔ Review ➔ Disseminate ➔ Acquire

Assimilate ← Access ← Discover ← Preserve

* Depending on the mode of dissemination, some components may not exist.
Scholarly Communication Lifecycle

Different stakeholders included:
• Scholars/Researchers as authors
• Publishers
• Libraries
• Scholars/Researchers as readers
• Higher education institutions
• Research funding agencies, etc.
Scholarly Communication Lifecycle

Different topics involved:

• Peer review
• Copyright transfer
• Impact factor
• Collection development
• Acquisitions
• Information discovery
• Access, etc.
Scholarly Communication Lifecycle

Issues of current system

• Lengthy process for dissemination
• Internet as communication channel not fully utilized
• Barriers to access due to commercial interests
• Increasing economic burden for libraries
• Changes in information-seeking behaviour
Copyright Management

- No complete copyright transfer for journal articles
- Retention of certain rights (author rights)
- Author addendum to copyright transfer agreement, e.g., SPARC Canadian Author Addendum
- Self-archiving to increase online visibility of and access to published articles
Openness

• Free flow and sharing of information and ideas for teaching, learning, and research (with adequate acknowledgement of sources)
• Available to all for retrieval and/or contribution
• Facilitated by Internet as communication channel
• Conducive to knowledge acquisition and generation
Open Access

- A principle of disseminating scholarly content
- Online
- Free of charge
- Free of most copyright and licensing restrictions
- Made possible by Internet and consent of copyright holders
Open Access

• Compatible with peer review
• Faster information exchange
• OA journals less expensive to produce than conventionally published journals
• Different models to operationalize OA publishing
• Questions about business model sustainability

Directory of Open Access Journals
Open Data

• Research data made freely available for other researchers to build upon
• Data collected with public funding
• NRC-CISTI’s Gateway to Scientific Data to help with easier access to data generated by Canadian researchers
Open Education

• Making educational resources more accessible
• Also improving education quality by facilitating review of and feedback to educational practices and pedagogies
• Collaborative extension of educational resources among educators, i.e., building upon each other’s work
• MIT OpenCourseWare and Rice’s Connexions
Digital Repositories

Online archives that collect and provide access to certain types of digital materials

Open Access Repository Types Worldwide

- Institutional (1131 = 80%)
- Disciplinary (186 = 13%)
- Aggregating (60 = 4%)
- Governmental (28 = 2%)

Total = 1405 repositories
Digital Repositories

• Institutional repositories: Online archives created and maintained by educational or research institutions to collect and showcase their intellectual outputs, e.g., Scholarship@Western

• Disciplinary repositories: Subject-based online archives that expedite communication among the members of an academic community, e.g., arXiv, dLIST, PubMed Central, RePEc, etc.
Digital Repositories
Digital Repositories

Content
• Higher visibility and accessibility
• Potentially more discussion and feedback
• Potentially more citations and more impact

Researchers
• Potentially more recognition in academic community and outside of academia
• Potentially more competitive for future research funding
Digital Repositories

Institution

• Active contribution to scholarship
• Enhancement of profile as research institution
• International recognition of academic achievements
• Beneficial to global researcher networking
• Beneficial to recruitment of faculty and students
Digital Repositories

• Deposits of published articles in digital repositories contingent on publisher’s permission

• Tool to check publisher’s copyright policy: RoMEO
Online Journal Publishing

• Online journals hosted by institutions or academic libraries, most of them open access
• Synergies created to assist Humanities and Social Sciences journals in Canada to migrate to online environment
• Open Journal Systems created by Public Knowledge Project as an online publishing platform, e.g., Canadian Journal of Sociology
• Directory of Open Access Journals
Alternative Communication Channels

• Academic blogs for rapid communication and interaction between authors and readers
• Wikis for collaborations
• Message boards and e-mail lists for discussions
• Social networking sites (with multimedia materials), e.g., SciVee
New Roles for Academic Libraries

• Raise awareness of the importance of broad accessibility of scholarly content
• Encourage discussions of current scholarly communication practices
• Promote copyright management and author rights and their significance to education
New Roles for Academic Libraries

• Develop a digital repository to broaden access to scholarly content
• Help develop open access journals in collaboration with interested faculty and researchers
• Promote open access journals to indexing services, potential funders, authors, and readers
New Roles for Academic Libraries

• Consider providing financial support to authors who wish to publish in open access journals

• Integrate basic concepts of scholarly communication into information literacy programs
Selected Online Resources

• Listed in this post on Digital & Scholarly blog

• Excellent sources for news about scholarly communication:
  o Open Access News
  o DigitalKoans