

SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

The scholarly publishing industry is being affected by new technology and by universities/libraries that are having financial difficulties. Publishers have always managed to sustain their business plan because the revenue was available; that is no longer the case. The recession has had a huge impact on universities that have never had budget concerns in the past. The AAU provosts have had lengthy discussions on a new model, with the core being peer review research. There will be continued discussions about how the academy can take responsibility for the vetting process as well as the dissemination process. Universities may begin taking more responsibility for scholarly content. Deb has talked to Provost Bean about appointing a "visioning committee" to discuss what a research library should look like in the future. The primary role of a research library is no longer acquiring books to circulate. The library will be revising its mission statement this year which will be shared with the ULC and the visioning committee.

JQ Johnson provided a brief summary on his role as director of Scholarly Communication and Instructional Support (SCIS). SCIS's main goals are to increase the visibility of UO's scholarly works, to support faculty publishing, especially new models of faculty publishing, and provide support for the library to respond to the changes in the scholarly publishing industry.. He has an initiative team that meets monthly to discuss various activities: copyright advice for UO authors, ETDs (Electronic theses and dissertations, a project that started in 1999), author's rights (retain rights to articles), public access, faculty education and programming.

The UO has taken a leadership role in two areas of Open Access (OA). The first is encouraging faculty to deposit copies of their scholarship in Scholars' Bank. There is some interest on campus in a Senate mandate that faculty commit to putting their work in a depository. This will be discussed on campus this year. The second area is to support commercial publishers that have moved to making publications freely available on the web. These journals have higher impact factors than comparable journals that have a fee. Many of the journals require that the author pay a fee for publication. Last spring, the Provost allocated a subvention fund, administered by SCIS, to partially support these fees for UO authors as a way to encourage exploration of open access publication. Similar funds have now been created by a number of other universities.

Gordon reported that he and Alissa submitted a letter to Russ Tomlin about providing a subvention fund for book publications by tenure-related faculty. Tomlin submitted a response, listing several issues that should be looked into, such as the number of books published each year, how many needed subventions, who should share in contributing to the fund, its affect on promotion and tenure, and what our comparators are doing. CAS and Humanities have put together a \$5000/year subvention program this fall, but the proposal to Russ is to provide additional money to that fund?? Or is it a separate fund??? The ULC will consider creating a subcommittee to help design this kind of program.