

Hot Topics in Academic Libraries Feedback from SHERPA OA Workshops

University of Nottingham
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Background

Participants in these short (45 minute) workshops were presented with profiles of three key stakeholders in Open Access in Higher Education. These were

- Academic Author
- Learned Society Publisher
- Repository Manager

The hope was that through considering and discussing the viewpoints of these stakeholders, that participants would gain an insight into the multi-factorial complexities of Open Access and scholarly publication today.

In each case the groups had to intellectually place themselves in the shoes of these stakeholders (role-play) and with the help of supporting information from all sides of the Open Access debate come to brief conclusions in two areas.

- Three key concerns in the current climate
- The role (if any) of library and information services.

Caveat

All concerns given are perceptions from the attendees (16 in total), and are not any form of concrete evidence. However, they illuminating as the perceptions of well training higher educational librarians in this respect.

Perceived Concerns

Academic Authors

- Uncertainty over copyright issues – who owns work produced at institutions?
- Where can work be used/deposited?
- The risk of ideas being copied – IPR being stolen from under their noses.
- Not all work suitable for public access (although this would vary between disciplines)
- The impact of the RAE – publishing OA could diminish prestige of getting into high impact journals.
- Interest in increased readership from OA work, and how true it is (despite studies)?

Learned Publishers

- Worries over finance and costs – the effect on the society or publisher sustainability.
- Copyright – reluctance to set a policy, attempting to wait out the storm.
- Lack of guidance on OA – is it unsafe?
- Plagiarism – worries that plagiarism will become rife and diminish the scholarly process somehow.

- Funders' mandates may decrease submission rates, which in turn potentially affects income.

Repository Managers

- Dealing with the apathy of many authors to Open Access, engaging them and achieving buy in.
- Concerns over publishers and their changing stand-points.
- Keeping current with the varying OA models and movements.
- Ensuring deposition is enabled in as easy a manner as possible for authors.
- Funding for long term posts and repository sustainability, against time limited project funding.

Perceived Library & Information Services Roles

- Promoting OA.
- Provision of access/links to repositories and related services
- Advocating OA
- Training users.
- Advising on copyright issues.
- Developing institutional policy.
- Improving data (metadata) of repository records.

SHERPA Document

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