

ARL ACTIVITIES

Kaylyn Groves, Managing Editor, ARL Web Content

SPARC AND SCIENCE COMMONS RELEASE GUIDE TO CREATING INSTITUTIONAL OPEN ACCESS POLICIES

SPARC and Science Commons have released “Open Doors and Open Minds: What Faculty Authors Can Do to Ensure Open Access to Their Work through Their Institution.” The new white paper assists institutions in adopting policies that ensure the widest practical exposure for scholarly works produced, such as that adopted by the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences in February.

Co-authored by SPARC and Science Commons, “Open Doors and Open Minds” is a how-to guide for faculty, administrators, and advocates to formulate an institutional license grant that delivers open access to campus research outputs. Some institutions are considering such policies as they work to comply with new requirements for public access from national agencies including the US National Institutes of Health.

The white paper details the motivations behind the Harvard policy, offers a concise explanation of US Copyright Law and how it relates to the scholarly publishing process, and makes specific suggestions for faculty and advocates to pursue a campus-wide policy. The guide offers a detailed plan of action, a series of institutional license options, and a 10-point list of actions for realizing a policy and adopting the right University License to meet the institution’s particular needs.

Three different licenses, which are granted to the institution by the author, are offered for consideration:

Case 1. Broad license grant—a non-exclusive, perpetual, irrevocable, worldwide license to exercise all of the author’s exclusive rights under copyright, including the right to grant sublicenses.

Case 2. Intermediate license grant—involves license restrictions that modify the scope of the license grant in Case 1.

Case 3. Narrow license grant—grants to the university only the right to deposit the article in the institutional repository, and to make it available through the repository Web site.

The paper also recommends mandatory deposit of articles in institutional repositories. Mandatory deposit may be adopted regardless of the licensing policy chosen.

“Everyone—faculty, librarians, administrators, and other advocates—has the power to initiate change at their institution,” said Heather Joseph, Executive Director of SPARC. “By championing an open access policy, helping to inform your colleagues about the benefits of a policy change, and identifying the best license and most effective path to adoption, it can be done.”

“Open Doors and Open Minds” and the 10-step action list is openly available on the SPARC Web site at http://www.arl.org/sparc/publications/guides/opendoors_v1.shtml.

ARL LAUNCHES E-SCIENCE AGENDA

It is shortsighted, and perhaps dangerous, for those of us in the research library community to think of e-science as simply the use of computers in the conduct of scientific discovery and experimentation. E-science is more than business as usual with powerful machines. It’s an emerging set of research methodologies that are computationally intensive, relying on vast amounts of data, and employing networked technologies.

E-science is transforming how scientists do their work, the tools they use, the kinds of problems they address, and the nature of the documentation and publication that results from their work. E-science requires new strategies for research support and significant development of infrastructure. It has the potential to affect nearly all aspects of the research library’s roles and functions.

An ARL Task Force on Library Support for E-Science deliberated through 2006–07 and released its report in December. The ARL Board of Directors enthusiastically endorsed the report’s recommendations as the basis for an ARL e-science agenda for 2008. The report calls for:

- establishing an ARL structure and process to assist in the furtherance of the e-science agenda;
- building an understanding within the library community and that of stakeholders of how libraries can contribute to e-science;
- building capacity among library and information professionals to contribute to e-science;
- participation in the development of infrastructure, systems, tools, and services to support the research process and research assets; and
- influencing policy, standards, and resource allocation decisions that support ARL principles.

Elements of all five recommendations are included in ARL’s strategic program directions for 2008. Neil Rambo, University of Washington Director of Cyberinfrastructure Initiatives and ARL Visiting Program Officer for Library Support of Research and E-Science, is responsible for moving the program plan forward, with the advice of a newly formed ARL E-Science Working Group. One of the activity areas is the development of resources to aid senior library leadership in understanding e-science concepts and in initiating discussion of library roles with campus leaders and other faculty. Other program emphases throughout the year include offering relevant program sessions at ARL Membership Meetings and possibly other venues and seeking opportunities to work with allied organizations and agencies to advance the research library’s role in e-science.

To read the report of the Task Force on Library Support for E-Science, “Agenda for Developing E-Science in Research Libraries,” and for updates, see the ARL e-science Web site <http://www.arl.org/rtl/escience/>. Neil Rambo is reachable via neil@arl.org.