

***UT Scholarly Communication Committee
Meeting Notes
February 3, 2009***

Present: Gladys Alexandre-Jouline, Janet Atwill, Micah Beck, Eric Boder, Wayne Clatterbuck, Sarah Gardial (co-chair), Mary Jane Moran, Mohammed Mohsin, Linda Phillips (co-chair and recorder), Gary Pulsinelli, Greg Reed, Anne Smith, Mike Wirth

UT Digital Showcase & Archive Draft Policies

Linda Phillips demonstrated digital repositories and policies at University of California, University of Massachusetts, University of Pennsylvania, and University of Minnesota. The group discussed UT's policy draft. With regard to sections on copyright and author agreements, there was consensus that documents requiring signatures could inhibit contributions to the repository. Several issues related to intellectual property and libel, and potential risks to the university were discussed, along with suggested changes to the organization of the copyright and author agreement statements. The draft will be revised to incorporate changes and discussed with the Graduate Deans Group on February 5.

Open Access Benefits for UT Faculty

Anne Smith reported on a recent discussion about open access at a meeting of the Faculty Senate Library Committee which she chairs. When asked about their personal experiences with open access, some Library Committee members requested more information, while others described their commitment to publishing in open access journals when possible to assure access to the content for colleagues at institutions that cannot afford to purchase expensive journals. Perceptions about the quality of open access journals were discussed, as well as speculation on the future business models for scholarly publishers. Campus digital repositories may heighten awareness about the possibility of negotiating contracts to retain some copyrights. Consensus was that little previously published content could be added to the UT Digital Repository.

Linda noted the SHERPA/RoMEO website (<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/>) which summarizes publisher policies about including published content on personal web pages and in institutional or disciplinary repositories. Many of the largest commercial publishers permit the deposit of articles accepted for publication; content may appear as a text document in its final form incorporating post-peer review revisions.

Discussion turned to the Harvard open access resolution of February 2008 in which arts and sciences faculty agreed to publish in open access journals when possible. The group reviewed the resolution text, as well as the text of UT's May 2006 Faculty Senate Resolution on Scholarly Publishing. Faculty want maximum visibility for their scholarly work. Availability of the digital repository will raise awareness about open access and the potential for negotiating intellectual property rights in publishing contracts. Faculty often report use data and citation counts to demonstrate impact of their scholarship. Gary Pulsinelli described the open access Social Sciences Research Network (SSRN: <http://www.ssrn.com/>), a disciplinary repository to which many Law and Business faculty contribute full text documents. Use counts appear along with easy access to the full text of published and unpublished scholarly work.

Joanne Hall, chair of the Faculty Senate Research Council, has scheduled a discussion about open access and digital repositories for its February 16 meeting. [Since our meeting the Faculty Senate has included a similar discussion on its agenda for February

23.] Scholarly Communication Committee members suggested several talking points to increase faculty awareness about the benefits of a campus digital repository, including sharing experiences of faculty who use SSRN or who have used repositories at other institutions; case studies of faculty who have published in open access venues (authors retain their copyrights); and recruiting champions in disciplinary communities. Faculty who publish and are involved in scholarly societies will have high credibility among their colleagues. Presenting publishing scenarios that compare access to content and use data by publication source may also be an effective way to engage faculty attention.

Sarah Gardial thanked all present for their thoughtful participation and continued discussions with colleagues about scholarly communication issues.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is Thursday, March 26, 2009 from 3:30-5:00 pm in 605 Hodges Library.