

***UT Scholarly Communication Committee  
Meeting Notes  
October 23, 2008***

Present: Gladys Alexandre-Jouline, Janet Atwill, Eric Boder, Stephanie Bohon, Wayne Clatterbuck, Bob Daverman, Sarah Gardial (co-chair), Marie Garrett, Mike Guidry, Rob Hardin, Mary Jane Moran, Mohammed Mohsin, Ken Phillips, Linda Phillips (co-chair and recorder), Gary Pulsinelli, Anne Smith, Ann Viera, Mike Wirth

***Introductions***

Sarah Gardial welcomed the group and thanked everyone for participating in discussions about the diverse issues that affect our system of scholarly communication. New options for increasing the visibility of research results, choices available to faculty about where to publish their work, the non-sustainable economics of many current publications, and intellectual property questions are among the topics that confront faculty in a rapidly evolving environment. Committee members introduced themselves and Linda Phillips recounted the history of the committee since its formation by Chancellor Loren Crabtree in 2004. The group collaborated with the Faculty Senate Library Committee on a scholarly publishing resolution advocating campus support for creative and scholarly work to be judged on the basis of individual quality and scholarly content; asking the UT administration to provide appropriate incentives and tools for faculty to establish alternative scholarly outlets; and affirming that those involved in the process of academic review will not discriminate against non-traditional peer-reviewed venues for scholarly communication. Previous discussions also included ways that faculty can negotiate publishing contracts, the economics of scholarly society publication programs, and the role of universities in publishing faculty work.

***Charting Our Future***

Current committee members expressed concerns and recommended goals for this academic year, including the importance of access to the rapidly expanding universe of scholarly publication and ways to determine quality of peer-reviewed content. Copyright is a significant issue because faculty scholarship has become a commodity. Faculty may retain some of their author rights by negotiating contracts with publishers. Differences among disciplines affect publishing models. Many professors in law and business are placing published journal articles in the *Social Sciences Research Network*, an open access disciplinary repository, to gain maximum visibility for their scholarship, and using *SSRN* citation counts to support promotion and tenure bids. Scholars in the sciences seek immediate access to research results; the proportion of access declines as prices increase.

***Open Publishing Support Fund ([www.lib.utk.edu/openpub/](http://www.lib.utk.edu/openpub/))***

UTK's recently established Open Publishing Support Fund by the Office of Research and the University Libraries provides incentives for faculty to publish in peer-reviewed open access journals by paying fees to support publication costs. The pilot project pays fees for journals that are completely open access, excluding, because of limited funds, those journals that make only individual articles open access if a fee is paid. Applicants must ask the publisher if the fee can be reduced or waived and report on the results of the query. Scholarly Communication Committee member Greg Reed makes the decisions on faculty requests and asked for advice about the proportion of the fee that should be covered by the university. Considerations raised in discussion included:

- Is grant funding available to match the request? It is unlikely that departments will have funds to cost-share. Some funding agencies encourage requests to cover open access fees, while others prohibit such expenditures. The program encourages faculty to include in grant applications a budget for open access fees when possible.
- Open access fees are not required in all disciplines. This may keep demand within the limitations of available funding. Word-of-mouth will be effective in alerting faculty that the Open Publishing Support Fund exists.
- Faculty who receive open access funding from the program should include an acknowledgement in their publication.
- One benchmark for evaluating success of the program could be to identify the impact of an article via citation counts. However, not all journals are included in ISI's *Journal Citation Reports* data.
- Measures of quality of research must be confronted by each discipline. Prestige is often conferred by the publication in which an article is published; however this measure does not focus on the quality or significance of the content. If an article is accepted for publication in *Nature*, it would be difficult to advise someone not to publish there. Some open access journals report high impact factors, in part, due to increased visibility of the content.
- Should the department head be asked to approve requests for Open Publishing support? Involving department heads would raise awareness and possibly stimulate further discussion in departments, about publishing options and promotion/tenure requirements. However, seeking such approvals could result in delays, and the academic culture typically does not involve department heads in faculty research.
- Funding could be stretched by awarding partial coverage of open access publishing fees. However, several committee members said that a cost share would not be sufficient incentive.
- The recommendation to Greg is to pay full open access fees negotiated by faculty on a first-come, first-served basis. The committee is willing to help evaluate the program and establish guidelines for future funding.

### ***UT Digital Publishing Services***

The University Libraries launched an open access digital press ([www.newfoundpress.utk.edu](http://www.newfoundpress.utk.edu)) in 2005 to promote access to specialized scholarly content and to stimulate the exploration of publication forms beyond traditional books and journals. A business plan for 2008-2010 calls for particular attention to multimedia. UT Press and the library are collaborating to offer print-on-demand service for electronic books. A UT Digital Archive planning group is developing services that promote access to UT scholarship and provide a digital space for faculty to promote visibility for their scholarly communication (<http://diglib.lib.utk.edu/dlc/ir/>). Committee members expressed willingness to offer advice about policy for establishing and maintaining a digital archive. Linda invited the group to a demonstration of a service platform on October 28. A committee member who recently moved to UT from University of Pennsylvania noted the benefits of the service, adding that its success depended on librarians assisting with content deposit.

### ***Next Meeting***

The next meeting will be held in early spring semester, 2009.