Open Access Advocacy: Beginning Steps in Colorado Academic Libraries

Effective advocacy requires a synergy of four key elements: publication infrastructure, policy, promotion, and participatory planning.

**Institutional Repositories**

CSU champions open access by prominently branding its Digital Repository as an "an open access showcase of research, scholarship, and creative works of Colorado State University faculty, students, and academic staff."

The Alliance Digital Repository, a consortial digital repository service, hosts the IRs of five Colorado academic libraries: CC, CSM, DU, Regis, and UNC.

**Open Access Journals**

The open access journal, Collaborative Librarianship, founded in 2009, is co-sponsored by several consortia and three academics: Regis, CUB, and DU.


**Prelude to Policy**

Two Colorado libraries have taken strides toward mandatory archiving policies. Auraria passed a Library Faculty Open Access Resolution (10-20-10). UNC passed a Campus-Wide Open Access Resolution (9-27-10).

**Promotion**

2010 was a banner year for promotional activities in Colorado. Five of the libraries sponsored events featuring well-known speakers on the OA circuit, such as Heather Joseph (SPARC), Town Peterson (KU), and Kevin Smith (Duke). This event was held at the Anschutz Medical Campus.

**Participatory Planning**

CSU's participatory strategic planning process is noteworthy. This plan to Create Open Access Models and Policies was co-authored by Dawn Paschal, Jeff Bullington, Pat Smith, Chris Sugnet, and Cindy Mitchell.

**Leadership**


While event sponsorship has waned in 2011, most Colorado academic libraries offer informative library guides that advocate for open access and authors' rights. This is DU's guide:

**Poised for the Future**

Colorado academic librarians see the following as necessary future steps:

- Changes in faculty attitude toward open access and the tenure system
- A new educational approach by librarians toward faculty
- Sustainable business models
- An emphasis on preservation
- More open access mandates