Open Access To Academic Scholarship: A Case Study of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas

Open Access Introduction (from Peter Suber)
- Open-access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions.
- OA is possible thanks to the internet and consent of the copyright-holder.
- Scholarly journals do not generally pay authors, who can therefore consent to OA without losing revenue.
- OA is compatible with peer review; all major OA initiatives for scientific and scholarly literature insist on its importance.
- OA literature is not free to produce; the goal is to make scholarly literature costless ... are there better ways to pay the bills than by charging readers and creating access barriers.

Reality Check
- Academic institutions spend mountains of money on access permissions each year.
- Costs of this access have increased over 180% in the past two decades.
- NOT A SUSTAINABLE SITUATION!
- Academics do not have access to their own scholarship.
- The problem is particularly bad in developing countries and smaller institutions even in the US.

The Solution: KU OA Policy
- Faculty-driven initiative granting a license to KU to serve copies of KU faculty journal publications.
- Approved in 2009-2010.
- KU Libraries designated by Provost to lead implementation efforts.
- Open access provided via KU ScholarWorks.

KEY WEBSITES:
- KU OA Policy: http://openaccess.ku.edu/
- KU ScholarWorks: http://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/
- Sherpa/Romeo: http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/
- DOAJ: http://www.doaj.org/

KU OA Contacts:
- Ada Emmett – Scholarly Communications Program Head: aemmett@ku.edu
- Town Peterson – Professor/Curator: town@ku.edu

Conclusion: KU OA Policy allows KU to share OA versions of EEB publications with their scholarly community and the public.

University of Kansas Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Case Study: Do We Have A Problem???

Are They Accessible?

Send a List of 10 papers to 50 Colleagues Worldwide:
Ask Them to Access These Publications (Full Text)
- Schneider et al. 2004. Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution
- Woodman et al. 1996. Journal of Mammalogy
- Foster and Dickson. 2004. Ecology
- Lewis et al. 2005. Systematic Biology
- Hileman et al. 2006. Molecular Biology and Evolution

Conclusion: Lots of publications, more each year, rising proportion of open access journals, but still small proportion available.

KU ScholarWorks
- 227 EEB pubs, 46 contacts/paper/year.
- Reviewed journals on the Sherpa/Romeo website.
- 418 of 1211 2001-2009 EEB pubs could be added NOW based on “green” status.
- Either publisher’s PDF file or the author’s final draft could be placed in KU ScholarWorks now.
- Projections based on 150 EEB pubs/year in future:
  - 50-60 EEB pubs could be added per year via green OA status per year.
  - Of remaining 90-100 papers published per year, 20-30% could be added via OA addenda.
- Assuming 150 papers per year from EEB, and taking conservative numbers at all opportunities, we arrive at the following potential:

Conclusion: Open access solutions offer significant advantages in availability, citation, and attention to academic scholarship; these solutions are accessible right now, and do not have to wait until future steps occur.

Key Metrics:
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Completed Study:
- 2001-2009 EEB pubs.
- 227 pubs reviewed.
- 418 pubs could be added to KU ScholarWorks.
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