

Open Access Advocacy through Collaboration

The Concordia Example

*Building a Community of Practice for
Scholarly Communication: Open
Access Advocacy among Canadian
Research Library Practitioners
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Context

Increased acceptance of Open Access as a viable alternative for scholarly publishing

- Growth in Open Access publications
- [White House petition on Open Access to Research](#)
- Canadian funding agencies working together on Open Access policies

Significance of Library in Open Access advocacy

- Neutral
- Trusted
- Knowledgeable

Concordia “Hearts and Minds” Mandate

- Widely-based collaboration and engagement of all campus sectors
- Library as neutral advocate
- Grounded discussion in departments and faculties, which recognized barriers
- Importance of funding agency policies
- Congress as timing event
- Support of senior academic administration

Operationalizing Open Access: Critical Role for the Library

- Librarians contact faculty
- Focus on recent publications: RSS feeds from major scholarly publishers
- Emphasis on assistance and completing deposits
- Navigation of copyright and permissions
- Open Access Author Fund
- Spectrum download statistics
- Mandatory electronic deposit of theses & dissertations

Librarians as Advocates for Open Access

On campus, nationally, internationally

Facilitation and support in context of research publication

- Not so different from our role in information provision

Principle of Open Access can be recognized as public good

- Community engagement

Campus challenges to Open Access include:

- Conservative structure of academic life
- Publishing is part of individual and professional faculty identity
- Open Access mandates vs. academic freedom

Further Reading

Beasley, Gerald. "The Senate Resolution on Open Access at Concordia University." *Feliciter* 57.3 (2011): 101-102,113.

spectrum.library.concordia.ca/7777/

Godolphin, Jocelyn; Macaulay, David; Murray, Annie. "Using Campus Collaborations to Create Habits of Open Access at Concordia University." Poster presented at the Berlin Open Access Conference, November 9 -10, 2011, Washington, D.C.

spectrum.library.concordia.ca/974081/

Web Links

Spectrum Research Repository:

spectrum.library.concordia.ca

Concordia University Libraries Open Access Web Pages:

library.concordia.ca/research/openaccess