Open Access Survey
Fall, 2012

Administered by the University Libraries Scholarly Communications Steering Committee
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Summary of Results

The survey was administered online over a two week period during fall semester, 2012 to tenured, tenure track, and non-tenure track faculty. Faculty administrators were included in the survey distribution. The survey was sent to 873 recipients and filled out by 130 respondents which resulted in a 15% return rate. The highest rate of response was from the tenured faculty (60%) followed by tenure track (25%) and non-tenure track (15%).

Describe your existing attitude about OA publishing.

Attitudes Towards OA Publishing

- OA has potential as ONE model: 38%
- OA works as ONE model: 25%
- OA is NOT viable in my discipline: 2%
- I prefer to publish in traditional journals: 16%
- I don’t know enough about OA: 19%
Describe your experience with OA publishing

- 52% were NOT aware of OA repositories in their discipline
- 50% were NOT aware of OA journals in their discipline
- 45% are aware of colleagues who have published in OA venues
- 39% have consulted an OA journal in their research endeavors
- 34% have discussed OA journals/repositories with colleagues
- 24% have served as a referee or editor of an OA journal
- 20% have published in an OA journal
- 14% have deposited in a repository

Please tell us to what degree these aspects of publishing are important to you. (very important / important combined)

- 90%--Ability for others to easily find my work
- 87%-- Ability to advance my career
- 84%-- Citing of my work by other researchers
- 80%-- Increasing the reputation of my department at BGSU
- 80%-- Publishing in the most highly ranked journal(s) in my field
- 77%--Increasing the chances of getting funding
- 76%--Publishing my work as quickly as possible
- 73%--Communicating results of externally funded research
- 67%--Gaining personal prestige
- 65%--Ability to freely reuse my published work
- 46%-- Ability to publish frequent updates to my ongoing research
- 36%--Ability to publish data sets
- 25%--Benefitting financially
When asked what faculty would like to know more about, these were their top responses:

- 72%--Identifying authoritative open access journals in my discipline
- 57%--Copyright and my rights as an author of scholarly works
- 54%--Identifying authoritative open access repositories in my discipline
- 42%--Identifying freely accessible data sets.
- 33%--Posting pre/post-prints to fulfill grant requirements or for other purposes
- 31%--Developing data management plans required of me by grant funding agencies

Is there anything else you would like to add about your experiences with or thoughts about OA publishing? (Open-ended responses were clustered into four main categories):

1. Cost of author publication charges for some OA journals is prohibitive
2. Quality of some OA journals is questionable
3. Tenure and promotion committees may not take OA publications seriously
4. Will OA publications be accessible 20 years from now (preservation)

Conclusions

- University Libraries (UL) employees and the campus community could benefit from professional development to increase knowledge and awareness of open access publishing and scholarly communication issues.
- There is a need to implement an Institutional Repository at BGSU so that the appropriate infrastructure is in place for open access publishing initiatives and to support research activities, such as compliance with grant-funded data management plans.

Action steps

- The UL Scholarly Communications Steering Committee will develop a series of professional development opportunities for UL faculty and staff.
  - Workshop about how to identify authoritative open access journals/repositories by discipline (in-house expert)
  - Workshop about how to identify freely accessible data sets and resources for the development of data management plans (in-house expert)
  - Workshop about author rights (identify external expert to bring in)
- Identify venues in which select workshops listed above could be offered to faculty (e.g. CTL)
- The UL Scholarly Communications Steering Committee will work with library liaisons to generate ways to use the survey results.
- The UL will share survey results with key constituent groups on campus (Library Advisory Committee, Dean of Graduate College, Provost, CIO/ITS, etc.)
- Explore discussions on campus with stakeholders about purchasing an Institutional Repository (IR) as an infrastructure to pursue Open Access initiatives. Examples of OA content that could be uploaded to an IR would include:
  - Pre-prints of journal articles mandated by federally funded grants
  - OA journal hosting
  - OA textbooks
  - Local and regional conference proceedings
  - Other scholarly works authored by members of the BGSU community
- Explore possible solutions to assist with the cost of author publication charges.