

In 2003, an international conference, “Conference on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities,” was held in Berlin under the auspices of the Max Planck Society. From this conference came the *Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities*. The goal of the declaration is to make scientific and scholarly research more accessible to the broader public by taking full advantage of digital electronic communication. For further information on the Berlin Declaration and the earlier Budapest Open Access Initiative please see:

<http://www.berlin9.org/about/declaration/index.shtml> and

<http://www.soros.org/openaccess>

During the past eight years since the Berlin Declaration was promulgated, institutions throughout the world have signed on as signatories and have been actively participating in open access initiatives. Particular commitment to this effort has occurred in Europe, Australia and Canada. The United States on the whole has lagged behind.

Several American universities have taken a lead in advancing open access. Harvard, MIT and Stanford started by establishing author rights statements in which an “addendum” was crafted. This addendum could be submitted by the author with the article, requesting from publishers the right to deposit the published article in an institutional digital repository. Typically the deposit could only happen after an embargo of six to twelve months, variable among publishers, to insure that the publishers would still have a market for their publications and society revenue would be protected. Additionally, the publishers most often did not allow the final PDF version to be deposited in the institutional repository, rather it had to be the final manuscript version submitted by the author. Several years ago, the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) crafted its own version of the Author’s Rights Addendum. Today nearly all CIC institutions, including Purdue, have adopted the CIC Author’s Rights Addendum (only the University of Chicago has not passed the CIC Author’s Rights Addendum).

<http://www.cic.net/Libraries/Library/authorsrights.sflb>

Following up on the passage of the Author’s Rights Addendums, several universities then proposed to “encourage or require” their faculty to deposit their publications in the institutional digital research repository. Among the earliest in

2008 were Harvard, MIT, and Stanford School of Education. Links to their open access sites follow:

<http://osc.hul.harvard.edu/policies>

<http://libraries.mit.edu/sites/scholarly/mit-open-access/open-access-at-mit/mit-open-access-policy/>

<http://ed.stanford.edu/faculty-research/open-archive/oapolicy>

The University of Kansas became the first public university to adopt an open access policy on May 22, 2009. KU has been a long time advocate for open access in the scholarly communication arena. Therefore, it was not a surprise when it was the first public university to make this commitment. The link to the KU policy is below:

<https://documents.ku.edu/policies/governance/OpenAccess.htm>

In September and October of this year, two more prominent universities adopted open access policies: The University of Pennsylvania and Princeton University. Their policies can be retrieved at the following locations:

<http://www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v58/n03/openaccess.html>

http://chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/princeton-u-adopts-open-access-policy/33450?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en

While a philosophical commitment to maximizing access to knowledge motivates these initiatives, especially in publicly-funded land grant institutions, open access policies also have pragmatic benefits in advancing the impact of faculty research. Universities who adopt such policies may gain a competitive advantage, potentially in increasing citations (although this will vary by discipline) and certainly in promoting usage of research beyond the academy and internationally. A recent and balanced study, with a review of literature can be found in the following article:

<http://www.fasebj.org/content/early/2011/03/29/fj.11-183988>

Members of the Purdue Libraries' administration and faculty will be presenting the need for deposit of published articles into institutional repositories at the assembled faculty governance leadership meeting of the CIC institutions on October 28th. At that meeting it would be impressive, and would convey a leadership role among the CIC institutions, if Purdue could announce that its University Senate would be considering a motion to deposit faculty publications into Purdue e-Pubs, the institutional repository (<http://www.purdue.edu/epubs/>) in the November/January timeframe.
