

Executive Summary
UC Berkeley Faculty Conference on Scholarly Publishing
<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/scholarlypublishing>

The State of Scholarly Publishing

Scholarly publishing is in a state of crisis. Journal prices continue to rise at a rate that university budgets cannot sustain. The profit motive of many commercial publishers is directly at odds with the principles of scholars who value the free flow of information as the cornerstone of scholarship and intellectual innovation. Scholars contribute their work freely to publishers who then sell it back to the academy at increasingly unjustifiable prices.

New modes of scholarly publishing have the potential to reduce costs to the university in terms of subscriptions and archiving, to improve accessibility worldwide to faculty research, and to increase efficiency of publication. These new approaches also offer tools for the academy and scholars to retain control of the copyright of their creative works, and to allow for publication of supplementary material that cannot be accommodated in traditional print formats – in short, to redefine the meaning of a scholarly publication. Already, technology exists that allows authors and editors to submit and produce online works in a much shorter time than it takes to go through the traditional print process.

Faculty Conference

To discuss changes in scholarly communication, how it would be possible to take back control of the publishing environment, and how to create opportunities for the future, the Academic Senate, the Office of the Chancellor, the Library, and the Librarian's Association of UC, sponsored a day-long conference on March 31, 2005.

Approximately 130 members of the Berkeley community attended this invitational event, including faculty from a wide range of campus disciplines, members of the Academic Senate, members of the campus and systemwide administration, librarians, University Librarians from eight of the ten UCs, representatives from the California Digital Library, and representatives from local publishers. The common goal was to discuss how to take back control of the publishing environment and how to create sustainable ways for the academy to share its discoveries.

Plenary speakers included:

- Paul R. Gray, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost
- Daniel Greenstein, Associate Vice Provost and Director, California Digital Library
- Lawrence Lessig, Stanford University Professor of Law and founder of the Creative Commons
- Bruce Alberts, UCSF Professor of Biochemistry & Biophysics, and President of the National Academy of Sciences
- Alice Agogino, Vice Chair of the Academic Senate

Catherine Koshand, Vice Provost of Academic Planning and Facilities, served as master of ceremonies.

Faculty shared their experiences, opinions, and advice at twelve breakout sessions. Throughout the day and after, conference attendees voiced many ideas and potential solutions.

Recommendations

To put ideas into action, the planning committee recommends the establishment and funding, in the coming academic year, of an Office of Scholarly Communication dedicated to the ideas expressed in this conference and beyond. A high-ranking member of the campus administration must take ownership of scholarly communication issues and, through this office, work with units throughout the campus in seeking solutions

to the problem. The newly established Office of Scholarly Communication should be highly visible and provide support for faculty on all issues related to scholarly communication. The launching of such an office could be done with an initial Faculty Associate appointment, if desired, with the Senate Library Committee responsible for monitoring the progress of this office.

Those attending the conference identified a number of activities and initiatives related to scholarly communication that must be supported on the Berkeley campus:

- **Use technology to integrate new modes of scholarly communication with the tenure and promotion process:** The campus must seek to incorporate new modes of scholarly communication into the tenure and promotion process. An automated personnel system has the potential to greatly enhance and facilitate how faculty make their published (and pre-published) work available to all those involved in the review process. For example, an electronic bio-bibliography form could seamlessly integrate with the eScholarship Postprint Service or other publicly available open-access repository, thus highlighting and encouraging the broader dissemination of scholarship. It is critical that the Academic Senate participates in the analysis and development of any automated personnel system.
- **Copyright support:** Retaining one's own copyright is arguably the most effective way for scholars to control their scholarly output. Faculty expressed a need for experts to be available on campus to assist individual scholars on a case-by-case basis, both to negotiate the legal terrain and to provide technical support in making their scholarship more widely available.
- **Financial incentives:** If Berkeley faculty are to take advantage of new and less expensive means of publication, the campus can help by providing departments and individuals with start up funds to encourage the development and use of such outlets. For example, campus seed funds could be established to support a range of faculty actions including the creation of new, open-access journals; publication in open-access journals; or first books by junior faculty in those disciplines constrained by the economics of monograph publishing.
- **Outreach and education:** To improve faculty understanding of rapidly changing issues, the campus will need a focal point for the dissemination of information on scholarly communication. If faculty are to provide leadership among colleagues at other institutions or with scholarly societies, the campus can help by providing support in the form of a clearinghouse of information and experts with whom individual faculty can consult.
- **Widespread discussion of issues:** Issues were raised at the conference that need campuswide discussion and consensus. Questions for further exploration include: Why would faculty publish in open-access journals when a commercially published journal already exists? How can faculty regain control of peer review which some argue has been outsourced to commercial publishers? How might preprints be peer reviewed and incorporated in the merit process? What steps can the university take to increase options available to faculty whose primary mode of publication is the scholarly monograph?
- **Monitor developments and innovations in scholarly communication:** The campus can undertake and monitor applied research in the area of scholarly communication and foster programs that further effective models as they emerge. The campus commends the pilot partnership between UC International and Areas Studies (UCIAS) and UC Press. This initiative funds editorial efforts as an academic enterprise, allowing UC Press to provide production, distribution, and marketing services. The campus should monitor this effort as a potential long-term solution and, if it proves successful, find ways to support similar models in other disciplines.

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