OA Policy panel ALA Annual 2010
Oregon State University Libraries’ policy
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6/27/10

--Presentation Notes--

Address:
how policy came about
hurdles you had to overcome
and if the policy has had any effect on other departments on your campus

Credit to other Scholarly Communication Working Group members- Michael Boock, Janet Webster (Michael and Janet for the policy specifically), also Faye Chadwell, and Sue Kunda

how policy came about

On March 6, 2009, OSU library faculty became the first library faculty in the world to pass an open access policy. The policy requires library faculty to deposit a copy of their work into the scholars archive open access digital repository. Guidelines suggest that faculty use of the Science Commons Access Reuse addendum and apply that to the CTA agreement that they sign. The addendum extends to faculty all rights to the scholarship except the right of first publication, which is retained by the publisher.

Our policy specifies that no later than the date of publication or distribution, library faculty members will deposit an electronic copy of the final published version of their works in an appropriate format (such as PDF) to ScholarsArchive@OSU. The policy applies to articles, conference papers and proceedings, substantial presentations, book chapters and internal reports of interest to a broader audience that are authored or co-authored by library faculty members.

Access – Reuse Addendum:
You retain sufficient rights to grant to the reading public a Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial license or similar license that allows the public to re-use or re-post your article so long as you are given credit as the author and so long as the reader's use is non-commercial. (This is a joint offering from Science Commons and SPARC and represents a new version of the former SPARC Addendum.)

Groundwork
previous policies to draw from
faculty senate library committee work
robust institutional repository

We borrowed heavily from the Harvard College of Arts and Sciences policy that had passed in 2008 and a Stanford College of Education policy that has since been passed by other faculty at that university.

In 2005, OSU Faculty Senate passed a resolution in favor of OA.
Inspired by the news of other institutions’ success with OA policies our OSU Faculty Senate Library Committee, now entrusted with addressing issues related to problems with scholarly communication, in 2008 began investigating the viability of implementing an OSU-wide open access policy – but this has not happened yet.

Increasingly, our digital repository SA@OSU is seen by faculty as an option for increasing access to their scholarship and ensuring its longevity, which has always been a primary purpose of our repository.

So, there was a lot of groundwork laid and a fairly good understanding of the issues before the policy was brought before the faculty.

Our Library Faculty

There are currently 42 library faculty at OSU. This includes approximately 30 tenure track or tenured faculty. The open access policy applies to the scholarly work of all faculty although primarily it is the tenure track faculty who publish.

The library faculty committee meets regularly and consists of all faculty (professional and tenure). The policy was discussed at several of the meetings and began as a mandate and transformed into a policy instead.

Regardless of where faculty are in their careers, tenure track or tenured or professional, early to late career, there was unanimous support for the open access policy.

hurdles you had to overcome

Hurdles bullets:
1. Clarification about what was being asked (mandating which journals to publish in?)
2. Disapproval of the term mandate, moved to “policy” and created specific information for getting a waiver
3. When has the requirement been satisfied if the publisher says no to the terms – how far to go in pressing the publisher.
4. More recently, though not exactly a hurdle, asking for the publisher .pdf seems to slow deposits down

It is hard to argue against open access. Everyone tends to agree with the idea philosophically. Our mission as academics after all is to disseminate research and learning, and open access removes barriers to that research. Talking about it in these terms with faculty is most effective.

The OA policy was received very positively by library faculty. There were questions about whether an open access policy meant that faculty were required to only publish in open access journals. We responded that there is nothing in the policy about where faculty should publish, only that faculty retain the right to deposit a copy of the final published version of their articles, wherever they are published, in the ScholarsArchive@OSU open access repository.
There were questions about what faculty were to do in cases where the publisher wouldn’t allow deposit of the article in the repository. There was also a comment, not in so many words, but in effect, you can’t tell me what to do. We told faculty that if the publisher objects, faculty can opt-out of having the final published version of their research available in the repository. In those cases we urge faculty to at least negotiate the right to deposit a post print or a pre print. The policy is voluntary and individual and encourages but does not require adherence. Not really a mandate so much as it is a mutually agreed upon decision.

**effects on other departments on your campus**

**Subject librarians generally**
**COAS, and Forestry**
**News and Communication services – sort of**

**Subject Librarians** have scholarly communication responsibilities newly added to their position descriptions. With the exception of ALA publications, most of the library faculty publishing is done through commercial entities that will be familiar to faculty of other disciplines. Usual suspects: ALA, Elsevier, Taylor & Francis, Wiley with Copyright Transfer Agreements that are a little bit different but in effect are more or less the same: They generally ask the author to sign away most or all copyright, not just the right to publish and distribute the final version.

In part the idea is that we can all use our own mandate to improve our communications with other academic faculty about the issues of access to research. We have training that encourages librarians to “walk the talk” in a sense, and the OA policy helps us do that.

**Departments**
Specifically, the **College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences** has adopted a policy very similar to ours and much consultation was done between the library (Oceanography librarian and the Digital Production Librarian/repository manager).

Also, the **College of Forestry** invited the forestry librarian and the Head of digital access services to speak at the College of Forestry Executive Committee to provide information about adopting an Open Access policy. Using the Libraries’ policy and the COAS policy as examples, the librarians described the principles behind the concept of self archiving. The executive committee discussed the opportunities and challenges for a policy for the College including the role of individual faculty members and the Forestry Communications office.

Currently this is still under review, including scrutinizing what rights authors are giving up, and any risks of moving forward with the policy. Some faculty are likely to experiment which will provide more information for the next round of discussions and **statistics** based on use.
OSU News and communication
And though this is likely not what was meant by “other departments”, having this policy and the practice behind boosts our confidence to take even greater risks. I would say that the policy and probably to a greater extent the success of our institutional repository has influenced our working with the OSU news and communication services. Faculty in other departments are reviewing their licenses and are becoming aware of the fact that through their research might be highlighted by OSU news (an honor in and of itself) the news staff have been unable to share the articles with other news outlets that pick up the stories.

OSU Libraries now works with OSU Advancement News and Communication writers to increase the visibility of OSU research. News and Comm writers write at least 100 or more articles a year to profile the research of an OSU scholar. They mentioned the difficulty they had getting their hands on the published research results in order to send to the wider media. Kunda, Boock, and Chadwell worked out a process whereby we get the appropriate research article deposited in SA according to what publisher/author agreements will allow.

5 Things that have really helped us implement the Libraries OA policy and impact others
1. Integrated scholarly communication issues into the positions of many in the library – not a few. Just about every librarian has a role to play in the scholarly communication program. Supporting the OA policy by making ones’ own scholarly work available is one way of participating in the program
2. Despite number 1 above, everyone is not expected to be an expert. Help is available from several librarians who have a long history of advocating for self-archiving.
3. OSU has a robust repository that is fairly well populated with other types of works (such as extension publications and electronic thesis and dissertations). We can all see the use that these collections get which encourages us.
4. Collegial group of faculty that discussed the policy and the hurdles, made revisions and voted unanimously
5. Flexibility, it’s a policy not a mandate. People can opt out when circumstances require it
Library faculty works with most downloads (as of mid-June, 2010)

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<th>Downloads Title</th>
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<td>Talking and Tagging: Using CONTENTdm and Flickr in the Oregon State University Archives</td>
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<td>Ethnic minorities in Oregon: an annotated bibliography</td>
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<td>Implementing DACS: a case study</td>
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<td>Marine Science and Technology</td>
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<td>Electronic thesis and dissertation metadata workflow at Oregon State University Libraries</td>
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<td>The bibliotherapy education project: a collaborative teaching effort goes to the Web OR a tale for travelers.</td>
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<td>Getting Digitization Projects Done in a Medium-Sized Academic Library: a Collaborative Effort Between Technical Services, Systems, Special Collections, and Collection Development</td>
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<td>Stop Reinventing the Wheel: Using Wikis for Professional Knowledge Sharing</td>
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<td>Click data as implicit feedback in web search</td>
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<td>Describing grey literature again: a survey of collection policies</td>
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