

It Matters How We Open Knowledge: Building Structural Equity
Biennial Open Access Conference at San José State University
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Keynote

Charlotte Roh, California State University, San Marcos

Nick Szydowski: One from the perspective of the University of Ibadan in Nigeria and another from right here in the California State University system, but first I'm thrilled to introduce our keynote speaker Charlotte.

Nick Szydowski: Charlotte Roh reference and instruction librarian at the California State University San Marcos.

Nick Szydowski: Charlotte is a librarian faculty Member scholar and editor with over 15 years of expertise in publishing with organizations like Taylor and Francis.

Nick Szydowski: Rutledge Oxford University press Cambridge and currently as a board member up for the society of scholarly publishing an active.

Nick Szydowski: In the work of the library publishing coalition amongst many organizations and projects we really appreciate Charlotte being here and I'm really excited to hear what she has to say so, with that I'm going to pass it to shot.

Charlotte Roh: hey everybody I'm going to share my slides really quick, which means that I.

Charlotte Roh: won't be able to see your.

Charlotte Roh: chalk because that's how the screen sharing goes so.

Charlotte Roh: We have someone from the organization can be and volunteering and look at that So hopefully, I can answer your questions.

Charlotte Roh: At the end, and so really quickly my pronouns are she her and I identify as a Korean Americans this gender hetero normative able-bodied second-generation immigrants.

Charlotte Roh: are currently reside on the unseeded territory of the comedian nation on what is colonial Lee known as San Diego.

Charlotte Roh: If you'd like to go beyond Atlanta acknowledgments one thing you can do is give a voluntary land tax or a one-time donation to local nations for their repatriation efforts so.

Charlotte Roh: In northern California, where this Conference is taking place, one of your options is the shoe my land tax.

Charlotte Roh: And here in my neighborhood it's the Community conservancy and you can of course always support the American Indian library association and all the wonderful work that they do and their websites just beautiful.

Charlotte Roh: So as a child of immigrants, I myself am a settler colonist and I therefore consider it an important part of my work to deconstruct and dismantle the white supremacist structures that undergird our publishing processes.

Charlotte Roh: So, with that in mind, I want to talk about some publishing history when I was in grade school I learned about the Gutenberg Bible Gutenberg in the 1415 invented the printing press and revolutionized western civilization, as we know it.

Charlotte Roh: And as an adult if I had thought about this just a little more I would have known that this wasn't the beginning of everything but it's hard to consciously let go of the things we are taught as children, it requires repeated effort and education.

Charlotte Roh: But there was this was taught to me in such a way that, even now, knowing more hurts a little to let go of that origin story.

Charlotte Roh: Because in actuality the first book made with movable type was a Buddhist texts in 1377 called pick one was hung Tajik Chi Ching Ching your job or chichi in what is now modern-day Korea.

Charlotte Roh: This is not taught in American curriculum and when books and printing are taught or discussed it is separate from the technology of paper making.

Charlotte Roh: Maybe some pirate scrolls and Egypt, but we certainly don't hear about kyla and making paper out of hemp fishing nets plants and water and China.

Charlotte Roh: As an aside, apparently toilet paper was using the eight hundreds in China and Egypt rag paper was used in Central Asia, and we know Islamic civilization traveled and traded far and wide on Silk Road and most likely brought it to Europe.

Charlotte Roh: So when the Europeans moved on from animal skin parchment to paper made a cloth rags to wood pulp they were really late.

Charlotte Roh: and actually what I've described as far as a very linear history, they found paper in Mayan ruins here in North America, there are accounts of beautiful palm

and bark paper in India and water powered paper mills operated by Muslim communities in medieval Aragon.

Charlotte Roh: So we don't talk about paper making because the Europeans were late to the game, we talk exclusively about the machinery of printing because that is unique.

Charlotte Roh: And, in conjunction with the technology of European industrial paper mills it did spark a pivotal change and culture and literacy.

Charlotte Roh: But instead of teaching this technology as an important point in this bass beautiful tapestry of trade and invention, we just teach Gutenberg.

Charlotte Roh: There is this attitude that quote other people cannot exist if we are not the best and quote as black theologian brandy Miller says on the nature of competitiveness in our society.

Charlotte Roh: And, on the one hand, I can understand why you'd want to start with an amazing inventions of your own country.

Charlotte Roh: If I was German I would be really proud of your Highness Gutenberg just like as a Korean American person I'm really proud to now know that she exists and that UNESCO has recognized it as the first example of a movable type in the world.

Charlotte Roh: But I'm actually not German I'm American yet somehow it's a European history that is taught as my own.

Charlotte Roh: And this is cultural hegemony and it means this kind of storytelling of history is really dangerous and insidious.

Charlotte Roh: Because, of course, making the Gutenberg Bible the birthplace of western civilization and knowledge means that Europe and North America, by extension, is the birthplace of civilization and knowledge.

Charlotte Roh: It means that Christianity is the birthplace of civilization and knowledge and I here for buzzy actors vocational awe I did often when we talk about librarianship and how toxic, it can be.

Charlotte Roh: But what I don't hear mentioned in discussions of vocational is half a boss, he has famous around Christianity and religion.

Charlotte Roh: Her article frames libraries as sacred spaces and the librarians as the priesthood.

Charlotte Roh: This sacred framing of course can be applied to all kinds of professions, especially feminist ones like nursing or teaching.

Charlotte Roh: And it is very, very explicit in publishing and Western literary knowledge with the Gutenberg Bible.

Charlotte Roh: There has been a lot written on the religious and intellectual mandates inherent in western colonialism, so I don't feel the need to make the argument here that they're connected that should be obvious.

Charlotte Roh: But what I do want to say is that we need to change this through repeated effort in education, because from our places of privilege in the well-funded North American and European context.

Charlotte Roh: What we define as ethical or correct ways of scholarly communication the sacred are making their way around the world.

Charlotte Roh: If you're not familiar with the website retraction watch it's a project by to science, journalists and to be informal it's a trip.

Charlotte Roh: This is where you can learn about peer reviewers who have stolen data.

Charlotte Roh: or ideas professors who have taken the work of their graduate students and politicians who have lived it whole passages from older texts.

Charlotte Roh: But every once in a while I see something that really stresses me out because it's clearly a miss application of our Western ethical constructs.

Charlotte Roh: And, in some cases, reveals of flaws and how our systems are constructed.

Charlotte Roh: On the left is an article from April of this year, on how to comb my hair was stripped of his doctorate from the University of Tsukuba in Japan, because his thesis contains seven lines of plagiarize text and image pull from the Internet without attribution.

Charlotte Roh: According to the article HARA quote neglected the basic duty of care that researchers should be aware of, by not fighting the text and image.

Charlotte Roh: But also acknowledge that the maliciousness of the act is low and the academic and social impact is small.

Charlotte Roh: The school plans to bolster its training on research ethics and to broaden the number of faculty members that advise each graduate student according to the statement and quote.

Charlotte Roh: This guy was stripped of his doctorate for seven lines of text and for not citing an image source and now they're going to train everyone on research ethics.

Charlotte Roh: If you look through this website retraction watch, you will see much worse again and again and, frankly, most of the offenders are white Western men and most of these men don't receive more than a slap on the wrist it's so commonplace that retraction watch actually tracks repeat offenders.

Charlotte Roh: I can't claim to know the reason why the University of scuba punish to comb my hair so harshly, but I can venture a guess.

Charlotte Roh: As a woman of color this kind of over correction is familiar to me there's this risk that if you make even one little mistake the whole thing is suspect.

Charlotte Roh: Your integrity and the quality of your work can be called into question and you don't have an old boys network to save you from condemnation and failure, so you make a public show of correction you overcorrect in order to establish your bona fides.

Charlotte Roh: And perhaps me projecting a little here a lot of this might be a misunderstanding of how bad plagiarism actually is, and the penalties, it should carry.

Charlotte Roh: Maybe they didn't have anyone who could tell them that plagiarism is a Western ethical construct, and it is not illegal, but actually seems worse to me that there are people in institutions that are misunderstanding, how the system works.

Charlotte Roh: And we know that people are misunderstanding, how the system works, because there are examples I have an example, right here from the article on the right.

Charlotte Roh: here's a statement from the authors it's a little long.

Charlotte Roh: We, the Co first author and corresponding author of the retracted paper, the clinical significance of serum scd 25 as a sensitive disease activity marker for rheumatoid arthritis.

Charlotte Roh: Scandinavian Journal of rheumatology published online apologize, the journal and readers for error.

Charlotte Roh: As the leaders of the research team of this study in late June 2019.

Charlotte Roh: When the Paper was published early online we noticed that some of the co-authors have published another research paper.

Charlotte Roh: In Chinese language in a local journal a Peking University health sciences, without fully informing us that there was a significant overlap in content of these two papers.

Charlotte Roh: The authors of the latter paper did this because they thought that publishing a paper in Chinese language would not contradict our submission to Scandinavian journal ever rheumatology and English clearly this is a misunderstanding of the academic rules.

Charlotte Roh: We immediately reported this issue to the editor and propose the retraction of our paper from sgr before its publication in print.

Charlotte Roh: Here we apologize to the journal and readers for our failure of supervision and management and the publication of data by our team and also apologize to the co-authors, who are not involved in publishing the Chinese paper we take full responsibility for this error and unquote.

Charlotte Roh: Let me tell you I have worked with authors both successfully and unsuccessfully on making sure they retain their language rights.

Charlotte Roh: Sometimes publishers are understanding and fully behind making sure authors can publish in the markets that they want and need to in different languages.

Charlotte Roh: And sometimes publishers are stubborn and will not give an inch, even if they don't have a good foothold in a different market.

Charlotte Roh: This is a case of the authors retracting their paper because it was published in a different Journal in a different language, not because of coffee or eternal copyright transfer.

Charlotte Roh: which by the way, is another ridiculous thing that happens in academic publishing but it's that are predatory and horrible in non-academic publishing but because in their field, the same content should not be published twice.

Charlotte Roh: Having this article in a Chinese language journal, and in an English language journal wouldn't have lost either these journals any money, these are different audience sizes and, if anything, it would have made the impact of this science greater, this is about markers for.

Charlotte Roh: rheumatoid arthritis and more people could have benefited from this research, but are scholarly communication system will have you believe that there can only be one.

Charlotte Roh: There can only be a single story there can only be one printing press one Gutenberg and what I've seen lately is one kind of open access.

Charlotte Roh: Last year, around this time I gave a talk on school scholarly communications and I included this slide I said last year.

Charlotte Roh: That a PCs and transformative agreements were frankly horrible for researchers in Africa, India, Latin America and all of Asia and Southeast Asia.

Charlotte Roh: And we all knew it, this is not new news to anyone even remotely engaged in this arena and it doesn't require much explanation to anyone who isn't informed on the issue either.

Charlotte Roh: If libraries, institutions and individuals across the United States are scrambling to pay, you know, a PCs then how much worse, is it for those who aren't as well funded.

Charlotte Roh: And for some reason, last year I was more hopeful, I was hopeful that academic publishing was taking social justice and diversity, more seriously.

Charlotte Roh: I felt like we had reached this point where all my work of the previous seven years.

Charlotte Roh: Sharing again and again the demographics of publishing in librarianship and i'll horribly it was impacting scholars and scholarship that work was having impact and people were convinced, finally, because we were all marching in the streets and writing toolkits for anti-racism.

Charlotte Roh: But this past Wednesday, just two days ago I attended a program by Cal State University Northridge library called open access publishing cost benefits and myths.

Charlotte Roh: For those of you who missed it the program is in two parts, the first part was a presentation by to Cal State librarians who provided the nitty gritty details on the CSU Elsevier pilot agreement and the pain points of implementation.

Charlotte Roh: The second part, was a presentation by some author of the article transformative agreements six myth busted published in college and research libraries news college and research libraries.

Charlotte Roh: And I learned so much from this program and what I learned made me so angry, because I realized that the story of open access has become the story of transformative agreements.

Charlotte Roh: Even though transformative agreements it turns out aren't necessarily easier or more affordable for libraries in a time when our budgets are just shrinking further and further.

Charlotte Roh: Institutions are pivoting to transformative agreements because they can't see any other way to get researchers access to the publications, they need to both read and publishing.

Charlotte Roh: It is not sustainable, but what we learned from the serials crisis is that the majority of researchers won't necessarily revolt when they see the right to read or publish taken away they'll just complain and adjust.

Charlotte Roh: So unless we want them to adjust away from libraries completely, this is what we feel like we have to do to copy the open access model created by Europe.

Charlotte Roh: And this makes me so angry, because I have been complicit in this transformation of open access.

Charlotte Roh: I have said to people lots of people that open access is a social justice issue.

Charlotte Roh: And it feels kind of like I was engaging in performative individual environmentalism like I've been talking to people about plastic bags and recycling well entire warehouses of unsold stuff are being trashed and burned.

Charlotte Roh: But you know what that's what it means to live in late-stage capitalism means that people are criminalized because knowledge aka intellectual property belongs to corporations, rather than the public.

Charlotte Roh: It means that when there's a global pandemic global health experts have to say, publishers, please give us access to coronavirus research.

Charlotte Roh: And then the publishers unlock their gates and put out press releases on how they're helping with the effort.

Charlotte Roh: But only temporarily we don't get free access permanently you were all very careful to say.

Charlotte Roh: I did a search for this talk and I found this language duplicated in library guides across the United States resources temporarily available during the pandemic in big letters at the top of every library guide.

Charlotte Roh: And I'm going to observe, something that maybe we haven't thought or talked about explicitly, which is that if it hadn't been for the open access movement.

Charlotte Roh: We would not have had the infrastructure to share research so openly and quickly the genome sequence for SARS Covid to was shared in an open access database that already existed.

Charlotte Roh: Most research funders had already mandated sharing of data and processes scientists who had it in the past uploaded to preprints started uploading to.

Charlotte Roh: print servers in huge numbers because peer review isn't turning it around fast enough, and here we are with the working vaccine literally years ahead of most vaccines.

Charlotte Roh: The open access movement has open access infrastructure we're just to used to seeing it as a movement, rather than a solid foundation that's now two decades in the making.

Charlotte Roh: And yet I don't know if we're going to see a different story than the one we have because we're unable to look past our Western origin story.

Charlotte Roh: So here's another piece of publishing history that you have open access if y'all.

Charlotte Roh: y'all Cielo went live in 1998 1998 as Nick said at the beginning of this word the Budapest open access initiative was released in 2002.

Charlotte Roh: We don't have to reinvent movable type it already exists, to paraphrase Ariana Bethel Garcia, the executive director of read a lack.

Charlotte Roh: In Latin America scholarly publishing has always been open access, it has not been outsourced to commercial publishers, it is not charged authors any fees and that has been supported by universities and research institutions that are intern government funded.

Charlotte Roh: And some of you may have had the pleasure of hearing Ariana talk about Latin American scholarly publishing.

Charlotte Roh: If you haven't you definitely should I know that she's talked out at least one event, this week, but you know what's really exciting.

Charlotte Roh: The red elect platform, if you get a chance look under the hood because it's user interface is one of the prettiest that I've ever seen for any publisher period.

Charlotte Roh: it's actually embarrassing because, while the scholarly communications pundits in my sphere were arguing about the color of their open access in Mexico, they were just building it.

Charlotte Roh: I want to know why aren't we starting journals under these two platforms, why do we keep spinning our wheels trying to replicate the European model when we can go with what's in our backyard.

Charlotte Roh: Because, let me tell you commercial publishers are not sleeping on this, they are taking their money and making it grow by acquiring open access journals in Mexico as Elsevier did in 2015.

Charlotte Roh: web of science started indexing Cielo in 2013 because they knew it only added to their portfolio, it was to their mutual benefit this year Wiley acquired hit Dolly acquiring open access content and infrastructure is good business.

Charlotte Roh: And in 2015 since 11 years Stephanie Halston Felipe monkey monkey on publish their often cited Article the oligopoly of academic publishers in the digital era and plus.

Charlotte Roh: It concluded that the top five most prolific publishers account for more than 50% of all publishers papers published in 2013.

Charlotte Roh: How did they get there, they won created new journals into acquired existing journals, we all know, they've been buying journals and technology left and right all over the world, even here in Berkeley California.

Charlotte Roh: It is scholarly colonization at work, and I want to tell you, as someone who worked for to UK publishers they see the United States, as a former colony.

Charlotte Roh: We are a captive cultural hegemony and a place to extract profits, we are taught the Gutenberg Bible in schools, but we're not taught, but an 1827 Darya swells invented a way to make mass produced would type in New York and that his machinery was then used for 150 years.

Charlotte Roh: And, as I said earlier, this correction and retelling of the story takes repeated effort and education.

Charlotte Roh: Most Americans are modeling will and we're not used to not being the Center and I fully understand the pressures that have led institutions to sign transformative agreements.

Charlotte Roh: it's a quick way to appease a lot of people at once, but I also want to say the obvious that this is a quick way to put a lot of money in the hands of corporations that we don't trust that are actively colonizing scholarship.

Charlotte Roh: And this is a big ask, especially from where I sit, I am complicit and sharing the North American vision of open access.

Charlotte Roh: I work at a Cal State, I had no idea we have signed a transformative agreement with Elsevier nor have I done any of the hard work involved in that it is definitely not my role.

Charlotte Roh: I haven't partnered with the yellow or red flag, despite having been in a position to do so in the past.

Charlotte Roh: It does very much feel like we're talking about plastic bags are recycling well are American empire continues to destroy the environment and our supply chain crumbles around us.

Charlotte Roh: But just this week, I attended an open access program on publishing in north of North Africa and I've heard that Indonesia's growth in do AJ has been incredible.

Charlotte Roh: China and Japan and so many countries around the world, the growth has been explosive open access publishing is all over the world, because the technology now exists for everyone.

Charlotte Roh: But unless we here in North America, learn to decentralize ourselves and the stories that exceptionally us we won't be able to be a part of it.

Charlotte Roh: I'm going to close with a quote from Jenn Brown from a CRM and she says, but when the cost of sharing knowledge is so prohibited.

Charlotte Roh: That whole communities are left out, it demands reconciling it demands a commitment to change technology and capitalism's constraints, while finding ways around them.

Thank you.

Ann Agee: Thank you, Charlotte for that wonderful talk, if anyone has questions for Charlotte if you want to go ahead and drop them in the chat.

Ann Agee: and

Ann Agee: I was wondering Charlotte what struck stuck out most for you thinking back to your.

Ann Agee: Talk as opposed to your talk, how did things evolve.

Charlotte Roh: I will say, for most of the last few years that I've been talking about equity in scholarly communications, a lot of it has been the demographics around publishing and libraries and how incredibly white and.

Charlotte Roh: color normative and ablest and you know, like strip you know all those things right, and how that's impacted scholarship and.

Charlotte Roh: I realized that people are aware of this problem in a way that they weren't before and a lot of ways, because the Black Lives Matter movement has really started having them pay attention.

Charlotte Roh: So what I talked about today is, you know, a different problem altogether right which is sorted them.

monolithic.

nature of.

Charlotte Roh: West Western colonial patriarchal capitalist.

Charlotte Roh: Probably publishing in the West yeah.

Ann Agee: But it's all of a piece.

Ann Agee: yeah William asks how might we solve for the gate keeping in the research submission process.

Charlotte Roh: Right I'm William This is something that I do with publishers in console sometimes right.

Charlotte Roh: There are a lot of ways in which case keeping happens.

Charlotte Roh: And a lot of ways in which it could be solved and the first thing.

Charlotte Roh: Is you need to do is like an overhaul of all the policies and education for everyone who's involved in the process right so.

Charlotte Roh: I will say that.

Charlotte Roh: As much as I'm critical in this talk, people are working on this right there are people who are engaged in I want to say agu, in particular, is doing a really great job what he had done in the past was.

Charlotte Roh: Asked peer reviewers to recommend women I'm sorry ask authors and editorials board member anyone who's involved in the process to recommend.

Charlotte Roh: Women and marginalized communities as peer reviewers and they found that they had more women authors than being published.

Charlotte Roh: And since then they've had like an ethics and equity Center open and a journal affiliated with them on ethics and equity and publishing and.

Charlotte Roh: They do trainings and webinars basically they're trying to change their whole system, so there are people out there who are doing it right they're actively working on it.

Charlotte Roh: Just like some of the transformative agreements also have waivers now for places where they can't afford.

Charlotte Roh: The agreement or the PC like people are working on this it's not like everybody is ignoring this issue, but also, I do feel like we are going full steam ahead with the way we always do things as well, so.

Ann Agee: Thank you.

Ann Agee: And llamas raised her hand if you want to go ahead and unmute ELENA.

Lana Wood (she/they): yeah hi Charlotte Thank you so much, so really amazing talk I'm just I'm trying to wrap my mind around the idea of redistributing wealth and how like you know from this American context of things being privately owned.

Lana Wood (she/they): Like is there a role for libraries to provide funding to support publishing systems that are more state sponsored like to like in this way, where we could.

Lana Wood (she/they): yeah redirect you know from these more research resource rich countries to support these systems without it being like from a colonial mindset or from this point of like cultural hegemony yeah.

Charlotte Roh: yeah I will.

Charlotte Roh: yeah because sometimes we can do harm right it's great that web of science is indexing clo but one of the things that's happening is that.

Charlotte Roh: If you, you are not an English language Journal in clo, then you won't be indexed by web of science right so they're not as motivated then.

Charlotte Roh: To have journals that are like maybe in Portuguese, which means like a journal of Portuguese language studies wouldn't be appropriate for the yellow anymore so that's some of the quiet complaints that I've been hearing from Latin America that.

Charlotte Roh: The like North American and European attempt to sort of like include and support is.

Charlotte Roh: is having unintended consequences.

Charlotte Roh: So I'm.

Charlotte Roh: I am not from what.

Charlotte Roh: I am not from the goal without as much as I hate that term, so I think it's behooves us to reach out right to like.

Charlotte Roh: Red black and yellow and any of the journals that might be relevant to our communities at our institutions, you know, like Emily mentioned, like the importance of local.

Charlotte Roh: Like in California, for example, I can completely see how readily I can see yellow are so important to like the research of our students and faculty.

Charlotte Roh: I used to recommend all the time to my students who are interested in like migration patterns and you know problems around immigration and refugee work like in California.

Charlotte Roh: So they are very much relevant in terms of just like starting from like citation and using them as research resources that's where I would start and then maybe we can be more of a community together in that way.

Charlotte Roh: But yeah I can't I can't say that I speak for them, but I will see like you know they have valuable scholarship and perspectives to offer.

Charlotte Roh: And it's hard because again we're a model lingual country like.

Charlotte Roh: My Korean was taken from me when I went to school and they told me not to speak.

Charlotte Roh: Korean at home to me anymore right and now I'm like damn it K dramas and keep have it's still hot sorry I'm like, no, no, an upside but yeah that itself is a product of American colon only as my as well as it's kind of horrible.

Ann Agee: And if anyone else wants to raise their hand or drop a question in the chat.

Nick Szydowski: I'll ask a question um I love the way you open the talk by sort of positioning yourself and so who you are in the world, and your identity, and I think one of the things that struck me as you went through the talk and thinking about these topics was how.

Nick Szydowski: The.

Nick Szydowski: Especially institutional positions that a lot of us are in limit or provide a whole different set of incentives in our work.

Nick Szydowski: than the kind of that that doesn't necessarily support the values that you're talking about and doesn't always support the value of equity, seen from like a global point of view.

Nick Szydowski: So, I guess, I guess, this is a tough and big question but both like how, how can we overcome those kind of.

Nick Szydowski: pressures and limitations and are there, people who you think are like in a particular position or institutions that are particular position to do the kind of work that you're talking about.

Charlotte Roh: it's really going to take everyone great to do this right like I don't.

Charlotte Roh: I don't see how we're going to do this without everybody working on the problem very similar to sort of like climate.

Charlotte Roh: it's all it's all a huge problem right too big for one person to solve, and I, I see funders actually more globally involved right in the same way that commercial publishers are ready globally involved right.

Charlotte Roh: So definitely the funders are there and I think in our role as librarians in particular I think what we can do is give legitimacy.

Charlotte Roh: In a Western context which is kind of horrible but it's true right like if we say oh yeah, this is a great resource and everyone's gonna say oh yeah that's good it's good right like Jeffrey Beal's shadows still looms large right and we need to really push back against that.

Charlotte Roh: All but that said, like all of us as people who work in institutions that are founded.

Charlotte Roh: Some of us like stolen native land writing like are all complicit and Western institutions.

Charlotte Roh: Are there to do religion loot D legitimize like anything that isn't a white Western form of knowing, so it is our role to like really educate ourselves.

Charlotte Roh: One of the ways in which I feel like I'm really proud to have changed my last institution, for example, was making it clear that plagiarism was not a legal right.

Charlotte Roh: Because we did have like many, like many institutions, we had a lot of international students and they were being taught that plagiarism was wrong that was morally wrong, and I was like, no, no, no, no, no that's not helpful right like.

Charlotte Roh: it's not.

Charlotte Roh: Illegal it's not morally wrong, but in the western context it's a rule and it's an important one right so.

Charlotte Roh: That was, I think a much more understandable thing for students to be like Oh, this is a very important role, you cannot break instead of being like Oh, this is ethically and morally wrong and you should like really like internalize that right.

Charlotte Roh: I'm that kind of small thing can really change how someone operates in this space right like as an international student, for example, and.

Charlotte Roh: Other things like, just like the hegemony and horrible illness of academic written language as a power dialect right like I get people all the time over this and.

Charlotte Roh: I have the authority to do so because I'm an editor right like I edited literally dictionaries.

Charlotte Roh: So I can say, like yes, you can end a sentence with a preposition that's me learned in grade school but that's really just to guide you as a kid.

Charlotte Roh: And I can see the academics like it doesn't have to be written this way, I know that you're reading this now and you're annoyed because this isn't like easy for you to read, because this person's like English is not their first language or something.

Charlotte Roh: But that is phrases.

Charlotte Roh: So I'm rambling a little bit, but I'm just gonna say like they're just like lot of little pieces that we can educate ourselves and change on.

Ann Agee: Can you recommend any good resources to help with that education are there organizations or people or authors that you found helpful.

Charlotte Roh: So I am a huge fan of the work of Leslie Chan and.

Charlotte Roh: His public like scholarly communications think tank and they're out of Canada so.

Charlotte Roh: I don't know why he's not quoted more internationally, like everybody who is in scholarly communications really knows who he is already but.

Charlotte Roh: I don't see him as so much of a pundit but the work of Leslie Chan and his group, like they've done things like look at feminist scholarly communications like from a feminist lens and stuff like that, so that that's where I would start yeah.

Thank you.

Ann Agee: Lauren asks I'm such a multifaceted talk yes I'm thinking about the misinformation that comes from paper mills in countries like China.

Ann Agee: The question I guess this talk has made me consider is if this type of intentional misinformation is part of a bigger production problem in academia, the capitalization of academic work.

Charlotte Roh: Laura, and this is great, and I actually can't remember who I heard somebody gave a talk about how for.

Charlotte Roh: China they're just trying to check the box right that Western scholars communications is demanding basically.

Charlotte Roh: Like they don't care if it's in a predatory Journal and they're publishing what they want to do is say that they published and then go back to doing the their actual science and their institution.

Charlotte Roh: Right and I forget who gave this talk it was years ago but yeah one of the things that happens, more and, if you look at retraction watch as you see, over and over and over again that the idea that paper most in China or the problem is actually like.

Charlotte Roh: Like I was saying that pollution in China is a problem right when the US is actually like really, really horribly guilty of it like more so than.

Charlotte Roh: Most other countries like, if you look at retraction with watch you'll see that it's an international problem, and it has to do, yes, with the capitalization of academic work there can only be one rain, otherwise, and that this is a form of legitimacy right yeah.

Ann Agee: And Richard has more of an observation than question state sponsored alternatives to the corporate control of knowledge threatened to replicate the problems inherent to politics.

Ann Agee: One of the reasons the corporate world is successful, is because it operates independently answering only to itself.

Ann Agee: If open access is to be successful, the better option, maybe to corporate horizon sorry open access outside of public politics and outside of the for-profit sector to craft corporate entities in the not-for-profit sector.

Charlotte Roh: So this is a really idealistic.

Ann Agee: idea of what.

Charlotte Roh: Corporations can do and I will say that it's not true that corporate corporations answer only to themselves the FDA you know I'm really happy to have my food.

Charlotte Roh: And the food industry monitored rate like I follow this agricultural scholar on Twitter and the things that I find out about the food.

Charlotte Roh: Industry make me really glad that the government is in place to manage those corporations.

Charlotte Roh: Right and that's not a new thing right that's back to like what's it that the urban the jungle book what's it called.

Charlotte Roh: Upton Sinclair's I'm.

Charlotte Roh: Sorry sort of expose a on the food industry so.

Charlotte Roh: that's not an.

Charlotte Roh: It is just the jungle, thank you.

Charlotte Roh: So yeah like it's not true that corporations are.

Charlotte Roh: Answering only to themselves, it is true that they're successful in what they want to succeed in right so I've talked to multiple Elsevier executives about.

Charlotte Roh: Their model and their responses, this is what the shareholders want right they're really happy to have a profit margin that's higher than like Microsoft and apple and like.

Charlotte Roh: The film industry right they're really happy and successful and the question is successful for him right I'm going to tell you it's not successful for libraries.

just going to pine on a bunch of things.

Ann Agee: I've been reading about controlled digital lending and how they've you know just locked it down and it's the library is model it's only that the format's changed yeah.

Charlotte Roh: They will co-opt it right if they can't.

Nick Szydowski: Do it since we don't have any other questions, I want to ask a hypothetical question I hope this is a fun one.

Nick Szydowski: So we're all kind of I think are most of us are speaking for myself, I feel like a person with sort of a medium amount of power in the scholarly communications environment, you know I have.

Nick Szydowski: want to acknowledge that but I can't just I don't have a lot of authority to just make changes on my own, if you could teleport yourself into a position of greater power like a university president or Elsevier executive like who would you pick and what would you do.

Charlotte Roh: I'd be in charge of giving.

Charlotte Roh: The more money to education across the country, I think.

Nick Szydowski: Just in general, because we actually should of course secret slides.

Charlotte Roh: I don't know if I do think it slides and yeah more or less money to education in general, and not so that we can like buy a bunch of things were built swimming pools of slides in them.

Charlotte Roh: But so that we can like actually educate everyone from pre-K and childcare on all the way to like back to Community colleges being free for everyone that's right that's what I want you know this like.

Ann Agee: Adriana says, thank you for all you do you're so inspiring she wants to see you go for a President of the United States oh my gosh.

Charlotte Roh: I would go Gray so fast and I, like my hair but yeah I don't really do anything like many academics in the West, I just talk about the problem, unfortunately.

Charlotte Roh: yeah.

Ann Agee: it's a tough one, this is a fascinating chart have never seen this one.

Charlotte Roh: Oh yeah so arrow put out this, I have another one to what somewhere.

know this one.

Charlotte Roh: yeah library expenditures is the one that going down right and you'd but universities expenditure is the one going up, so this is a percentage up through 2017 so I don't.

Charlotte Roh: I don't know how we're expected to keep subscribing to like all these huge massive expensive things with the way things are going so interesting melon cotton has this really great Twitter thread.

Charlotte Roh: Just this week about.

Charlotte Roh: The library cuts at her institution, I really advise you read it, because it's one of the most insightful things I read about that system.

Charlotte Roh: You want it up.

Ann Agee: And she did we have any other questions.

Charlotte Roh: I, like this one, too, because I'm met archive in particular like really the previous submissions went up because medicine, of course, is like a very traditional.

Charlotte Roh: field, so they were not as preprint.

Charlotte Roh: inclined right they were more about like the New England Journal of medicine and other things like that and we just thought publishing into the chart on the left with the orange peachy ISM just publish publication submissions in general right so like really crazy oh.

Ann Agee: yeah it is impressive.

Ann Agee: Oh Emily says, can you please repeat who that Twitter thread is by.

Charlotte Roh: Tracy McMillan cotton I'm gonna try to find it and drop it in here, if I can.

Ann Agee: But thank you Emily dropped in the.

Ann Agee: URL.

I think that's her profile.

She has this.

really great.

Ann Agee: Oh.

Ann Agee: yeah that that's her profile that was there.

Ann Agee: And yeah twitter's great for the conversation starters, you always say.

Ann Agee: And let's see what else.

Emily Chan: I actually have a question I'm Charlotte you know I really love your analogy about how we've all been kind of misdirected right we're all focusing on our individual recycling efforts, but really there is a major problem in that.

Emily Chan: Why is there, so much waste, why is there, do you know what I mean and instead of.

Emily Chan: Focusing on those larger, more systemic issues where we're deflected to thinking about our own little individual efforts and how we can.

Emily Chan: take ownership of those so that really resonated with me and you know it's hard as someone, and I hope this doesn't kind of like take us off track a little bit.

Emily Chan: I was one of the individuals who has helped with the transformative agreement at the CSU level with Elsevier and it's been a really eye-opening experience.

Emily Chan: Not only from you know when I think about it in a systemic way like Oh, you know you know we are privileged the CSU in the system to be able to.

Emily Chan: four hours corresponding authors to publish and to have their APC waived cross these journals and it's great because our 23 campuses are incredibly diverse we've got incredible we've got really small ones that.

Emily Chan: would not have the resources or the wherewithal to fund that that kind of faculty research at versus you know some of our more larger campuses like San Diego state, which in some ways kind of more mirrors a research institution, as opposed to a teaching institution which so it's.

Emily Chan: And what I realized in all of this is like.

Emily Chan: it's really easy to adopt the perspective that you need.

Emily Chan: The institutional perspective, the whatever in order to justify the small gains that are being made and so it's a real struggle to kind of think, but how do we do this because anecdotally I hear from authors, who are like I'm so happy that my individual research.

Emily Chan: is being made open and there's something powerful in that in it in of itself right, given that those are usually.

Emily Chan: faculty researchers who may not even or scholars, who may not have any funded research projects, so, in some ways it's I have a real there's a lot of tension in this area yeah.

Charlotte Roh: I 100% feel for all.

Emily Chan: The smaller institutions who have.

Charlotte Roh: signed on and actually some of the smaller publishers, for whom this has been another revenue stream that's actually been helpful and I will say it is another revenue stream, it is not.

Charlotte Roh: to pay for it is an additional revenue stream, in addition to like submission or subscription fees right so it gives them more money PCs do and so transformative agreements definitely like relieve the burden.

Charlotte Roh: That side like, just like the serious crisis, I don't feel like we're pushing back on what that means in terms of cost well that's not true, I will say the University of Vermont canceled their also of your contract, because they were.

Charlotte Roh: quadrupling their price right, so they now no longer have access to clinical key.

Charlotte Roh: And they also don't have access to the E book because they can't they ebooks or any other platform like there's definitely like a monopoly on that knowledge.

Charlotte Roh: Right, so there are institutions that are that are saying, like no we're not going to pay it right, and unfortunately there are enough institutions who are who are going to see oh we're going to pay this or we're going to pay this Entry Price right so.

Charlotte Roh: yeah there is a tension, but there's also the feeling that we have that we are not as powerful as we are right, like yes, the individual States don't some of them are not.

Charlotte Roh: As powerful, but like as it as CSU overall like the cow states overall did amazing things for X accessibility auditing of their technology like purchases right like why can't we do that with our publishing.

Charlotte Roh: Students it's like audited be like hey this is this is okay or not Okay, and like sort of set the market rate and we and we don't because you know what we don't have ownership over our own knowledge, so that is, that is, the tension is that we don't have ownership over our own knowledge.

Charlotte Roh: it's kind of horrible yeah.

Ann Agee: and normal is pointing out the eternal chicken egg problem tenure issues where people have to publish in certain publications to get tenure, is also a problem open access journals are seen as lesser so they don't.

Ann Agee: publish in them makes them seem suspect, so they don't get any more power and so.

Ann Agee: Where are you break the cycle.

Charlotte Roh: um I will say.

I'm.

Charlotte Roh: it's a fundamental misunderstanding from a lot of administrators and general counsel about again the ownership thing that is happening right, I have.

Charlotte Roh: met.

Charlotte Roh: General counsels who just don't understand the copyright transfer that is happening and that.

Charlotte Roh: And that researchers are not making any money off of this copy.

Charlotte Roh: Which is like kind of horrifying to them, because a lot of reasons, the reason they exist is like tech transfer and, like the money from the patents, so they I don't think they've realized like that they have this huge like.

Charlotte Roh: IP that they're losing because it doesn't belong to the University of wants to the individual rate so yeah I will say, like some of the.

Charlotte Roh: complicity of higher administration is like the lack of understanding about like.

Who is owning what right?

Charlotte Roh: But some of it is just like everybody doesn't want the Prestige right.

yeah cuz it it, it does carry weight.

Ann Agee: And yeah and getting it written into the tenure guidelines and so it's not such a big deal about journal impact is tough.

Charlotte Roh: And we got open access mandates would have been a solution right.

Ann Agee: But those different hard it's hard yeah.

Ann Agee: and Catherine commenting on normal comment said agreed the Prestige economy is complicit in this issue as well this points to the systemic issue versus just active.

Ann Agee: Academic knowledge being privatized of the neo-liberalization of higher ED so feeding into that a lot of thing legal counsel who view scholarly articles this work for hire yeah.

Charlotte Roh: And I used to when I first started in scholarly communications I.

Ann Agee: used to work with others who negotiated contracts.

Charlotte Roh: Maybe they own negotiate your copyrights, you can own and they're like oh we'll just wait to the book without a printer the rights revert back to me, and I would say on purpose oh that clause hasn't been in there since last century, see them with.

Charlotte Roh: Maybe like it's all print on demand now, so it doesn't go out.

Charlotte Roh: And, and they are working on the model of less entry right like I like to tell people that institutions, and this is a horrible thing to say now I'm going to say in the conference will be well but institutions are working on a 90s Walmart model, instead of 2000s Costco right so.

Ann Agee: that's a nice about.

Ann Agee: It.

Ann Agee: Oh, Sarah comments I always find it fascinating how much is not understood about the copyright transfer slash publishing agreement yeah.

Charlotte Roh: I've been publishing I've talked to publishers who say, but others keep the copyright assessed on our contract yeah.

No.

Ann Agee: See if we have any other questions.

Ann Agee: Or we can.

Ann Agee: Go to break oh I'm sorry yes llama.

Lana Wood (she/they): there's time I'd love to ask another question of Charlotte um I guess I'm thinking about you know Emily.

Lana Wood (she/they): Reiterating Charlotte your point about like basically how we've all been focused on individual actions versus collective actions and then Charlotte you

talking about how we don't realize the power that we have, and so, then that's making me think about like.

Lana Wood (she/they): Like what sort of role there might be for consortia will type leverage.

Lana Wood (she/they): Like I don't know if you've thought about that or have thoughts on how we can use that to not just negotiate you know these one-off transformative agreements but fundamentally try to change the system.

Charlotte Roh: yeah.

Charlotte Roh: I mean totally.

right because.

Charlotte Roh: The power that we have is like the size of some small countries right, I mean if you think about it, like, I mean one I'm sure you know a lot on a region.

Charlotte Roh: On but, like you know all the entire Netherlands they all got together they were like oh yeah we're not paying you right so and then the entire UK were like oh we're not paying you rate so.

Charlotte Roh: Some of our consortiums do have budgets of like small countries and we definitely could just be like oh yeah we're not paying you unless you give us what you want.

Charlotte Roh: that's what the UC system did, right, they did they said we're not paying Elsevier until also because it's a contract now we're happy with right, so I will see the CSU Elsevier agreement did kind of shocked me and how limited, it was like I was, I was.

Charlotte Roh: I'm I think I think we can negotiate better as a Cal State library and myself, but not speaking on behalf of me as an individual like we have more power than that we can negotiate better it sounds like it's been a tough slog for the librarians who are involved in it shouldn't be.

Emily Chan: shy Charlotte I'd love to know what you what kinds of thoughts, you have on.

Emily Chan: offline Thank you.

Emily Chan: That would be great.

Charlotte Roh: I am.

Charlotte Roh: I don't think it's a bad thing to see like we can serve our constituency better right, we can serve our community better.

Emily Chan: Right absolutely.

Emily Chan: I have another kind of follow up question and you mentioned how difficult it is to kind of.

Emily Chan: build consensus towards approving kind of a Harvard style open access mandate, but do you think that that needs to be.

Emily Chan: A greater emphasis and a priority within the Community, so that we do move towards that or is that just something that happens in parallel and is still you know, difficult to get.

Emily Chan: Compliance difficult.

Emily Chan: So just wondering what your thoughts are on that.

Charlotte Roh: and go I don't think it's hard to pass in Harvard so many.

Emily Chan: anymore.

Charlotte Roh: Right, I think it was.

Charlotte Roh: The beginning like when I was at the University of Massachusetts it took Maryland billing seven years, but when I was at the University of San Francisco it took me two years to now.

Charlotte Roh: it's like very obvious now like Oh, this is going to benefit us right as faculty members, it is hard to get compliance right and what should be happening, of course, is that it should be required because it, it does actually not seem like a.

Charlotte Roh: unreasonable that if you publish something that the university should get a copy of it right, so it should just be required, but.

Charlotte Roh: I know it's the analogy, I use because faculty to find it a pain right it's just literally a logistical pain is like changing your mailing address.

Charlotte Roh: Like you move, I mean it to change it with all your credit cards and all your like medical bills and, like all these things, and you just forgot right so yeah Similarly, I don't.

Charlotte Roh: yeah it's just that part that part of like getting them to just submitted in fact submit the preprint.

Ann Agee: And Emily had a question Emily pharaoh.

Emily Farrell: hi yeah that's okay I'll just quickly from the camera and just say hello um so I work at MIT press so I'm, as you know, he is from a university press perspective.

Emily Farrell: And you know we're.

Emily Farrell: doing all sorts of things that we can with our size in open access and things like that we're obviously part of university and report to a library, that is very you know.

Emily Farrell: forward thinking in this regard um but I, I have to think there's more that we can do in dialogue, and I wonder, I didn't know, I would like to hear just a little more on you know where how, what do we, how do we work together better because I do think there's still space to.

Emily Farrell: do that.

Charlotte Roh: yeah I feel like university presses are in a very different place than, of course, like journal large commercial database during.

Charlotte Roh: I want to say, like shout out to fit for us is doing a great job, like every time I worked on a contract with an author contract with MIT press that's been fantastic.

Charlotte Roh: So I for one would love to.

Emily Farrell: See MIT press be like more.

Charlotte Roh: vocal about the things that they're doing right around open access and that's hard because you're a scholar communicating Community like the traditional scholarly publishing community is very.

Charlotte Roh: sort of like clubby and close and cozy um but yeah like I feel like it's important for university presses to be like hey so.

Charlotte Roh: What I've heard was printing conference halls is like Elsevier is making us all look bad right.

Charlotte Roh: Here you'll see that in public.

Charlotte Roh: I like to hear y'all say like oh yeah that that model is not working, and these are the things that we're doing, not just in spaces between publishers right, but like out in the like.

Charlotte Roh: research community at large that's my little thing I feel like but I haven't thought much about it, to be honest.

Emily Farrell: I mean, there are a lot of things to think about to be fair, and this has been fantastic, thank you for this and all the discussion and I will I will take this back and see if we can just try to be louder.

Emily Farrell: As allowed, Australia and I'm totally up to that yes, oh yeah we'll do what we can thanks so much.

Ann Agee: here's the slogan worked louder yeah.

Ann Agee: Lon have made a comment that it took five years to pass a green Oh, a policy at Cal State East Bay but mostly because of legal counsel hoping for a much quicker timeframe at other CSU campuses now that they've passed the legal counsel hurdle yeah so that's good news.

Charlotte Roh: I'm gonna say that anybody else who.

Charlotte Roh: don't kill me so call corny is the guy.

Ann Agee: At Harvard.

Charlotte Roh: And he.

Charlotte Roh: Is my go-to for when I need someone who's like a white academic looking dapper guy in a bow tie to talk about like the legal.

Charlotte Roh: benefits of open access and he has not.

Charlotte Roh: He doesn't promote himself right so like I hope this isn't a problem that I'm shouting him out as like a legal lie.

Charlotte Roh: But yeah like if you can, if you can pay and he's willing to come out right like I'm happy, like other there are other law librarians in the Community.

Charlotte Roh: Who are like Sandra animal is Gail she's also a lawyer who's a librarian yeah if you're having a problem with your legal counsel you get a lawyer librarian on board to Stephanie you're here.

Charlotte Roh: yeah I get someone.

Stephanie Towery: Thanks for including me and such nice company I have trouble with my own legal.

Charlotte Roh: People it's always your own right, like a.

Charlotte Roh: Private in your own hometown but yeah.

Charlotte Roh: Get someone on board you're like hey we have this legal consultant who's here around intellectual property.

Charlotte Roh: Because you did that part of it is, I will say legal copyright is a nice right, so your legal counsel is not necessarily give me an expert on copyright and that's going to make them.

Charlotte Roh: defensive understandably right because that's their domain, like the legal stuff is their domain they're there to protect the university and that's their stance right, so if you're coming with new information.

Charlotte Roh: it's gonna be a hard for them.

Charlotte Roh: I'm not a lawyer, this is not legal advice.

Ann Agee: I forgot something all librarians learned in library school, I am not a doctor I'm not a lawyer.

Charlotte Roh: But yeah I have tried to pass open access policy, the two institutions down so that's been my experience.

Ann Agee: So we have about three more minutes If anyone had any last-minute comments questions or if you wanted to make any last-minute comments Charlotte.

Charlotte Roh: Just a quick Thank you to the conference organizers I warned them I would talk too fast and end to it early and there will be a lot.

Charlotte Roh: Like I literally rehearsed in turn myself, and it was much shorter because I get excited so thank you for your patience and for inviting me and for holding the space for me.

Ann Agee: Over very happy, you could comment actually the conversations are always the best part of any conference in a conference, so thank you for engaging in the conversations, thank you, everybody and we'll go to break.

Ann Agee: we'll be back at 1030 Pacific standard time so everyone has a few minutes get coffee and or lunch depending on your time zone.

Ann Agee: And at.

Ann Agee: 1030 will be having the section we're going live when question mark exclamation point implementing Digital Commons at Texas A&M University - Commerce, so please join us for that that's going to be a another fascinating conversation and we'll be back in a few minutes, thank you.