

2014

Elevator Pitch: Open Access Talking Points

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ACRL/NEC Spring 2014 Conference, *We're All in This Together: Strengthening Librarians through Professional Development*. Friday, May 9, 2014, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.

1:00-2:00 P.M. SIG Networking Opportunities (*Room 304/305*)

Table 1: Winning Friends and Influencing People (interpersonal and leadership skills)

Table 2: Can I Eat Raspberry Pi? (technology skills)

Table 3: You are Welcome Here (diversity skills)

Table 4: Show Me the Money (financial skills)

The ACRL Special Interest Groups invite you to attend a new ACRL-NEC Conference Event—Facilitated Networking! At this event, you will have the opportunity to dialog with colleagues on key competencies needed for advancement:

- *Winning friends and influencing people: leadership*
- *Can I eat raspberry Pi?: technology*
- *You are welcome here: diversity*
- *Show me the money: financial skills*

Four networking stations will be set up and each will offer four 10-minute talks. These will consist of a brief presentation followed by time for discussion and sharing ideas. This networking session will be dynamic and you are invited to move among the stations to attend the talks that most interest you. You are sure to learn something new and meet someone new during this facilitated networking session.

=> Presenters will be from SIGs, but content will be focused on a topic, not on the SIG itself.

=> Presentations should be short, about 2 minutes

Elevator Pitch: Open Access Talking Points

Introduction: Andrée Rathemacher, Co-Chair of the ACRL/NEC Scholarly Communications Interest Group.

Since I only have two minutes, I'd like to focus on one particular argument we can make when discussing Open Access. And that is...

“An Open Access future is inevitable.”

Why?

1. Research has exploded.

A common industry estimate is that the journal literature grows by 5% a year.
<http://legacy.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm>

So, as Peter Suber says, “It doesn't matter whether we blame unaffordable journals on excessive publisher price increases or inadequate library budgets... The volume of published knowledge is growing exponentially and will always grow faster than library budgets.”
<http://legacy.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm>

2. The subscription model does not scale.

Because of the explosion of research, no library can afford to subscribe to the body of journal output right now, and certainly will not be able to in the future as output increases.

For example, a library that can afford full coverage of the journal literature today would have to pay 131.5 times as much in 100 years to maintain that coverage.
<http://www.infoday.com/it/jul11/Suber-Leader-of-a-Leaderless-Revolution.shtml>

This dynamic impacts even the wealthiest institutions. In 2012, the Faculty Advisory Council to the Harvard Library concluded, “Major periodical subscriptions, especially to electronic journals published by historically key providers, cannot be sustained.”
<http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k77982&tabgroupid=icb.tabgroup143448>

3. Computers, as a new category of reader, require Open Access.

I'll end with a quote:

Heather Joseph [SPARC executive director] (2013): “As the volume of research information increases, with a mind-boggling 1.5 million research articles published each year, no person can realistically hope to make full sense of this information by simply accessing and reading

individual articles on their own. We must enable computers as a new category of reader to help power through this volume, thousands of articles at a time, and to highlight patterns, links, and associations that would otherwise go undiscovered. Computational tools like text mining and data mining are crucial to achieving this, and have the potential to revolutionize the research process.” <http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/digital/copyright/article/55988-publishers-blast-new-open-access-bill-fastr.html>

Also:

Peter Suber (2002): “As we move further into an era in which serious research is mediated by sophisticated software, commercial publishers will have to put their works into the public Internet in order to make them visible to serious researchers. In this sense, the true promise of FOS [free open scholarship] is not that scientific and scholarly texts will be free and online for reading, copying, printing, and so on, but that they will be available as free online data for software that acts as the antennae, prosthetic eyeballs, research assistants, and personal librarians of all serious researchers.”
<http://legacy.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/morrison.htm>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who talks to faculty and administrators about OA at your campus? Is it owned by one person, or does everyone discuss?
2. In your role, do you feel empowered to talk about OA? Why or why not?
3. What is the impact of open access on the professional roles of librarians? How will OA change what we do in the short term and longer term?
4. Will the skills required of us change? What jobs will need what skills? How will we acquire those skills?

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