

Open Access Un/Conference: Promote, Impact, Assess
San Jose State University, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
October 25, 2013

Unconference Session: Perception of Librarians in the Academy and Its Effect on the Ability to Promote Open Access

2:00PM - 3:00PM

King Library, Room 213

Moderator: Kelly Riddle, University of San Diego

Note Taker: Crystal Goldman, San Jose State University

The session's discussion was framed by a series of questions presented to the audience by the moderator.

- What are the general impressions or ideas about who librarians are (i.e. what they do, what their place is in that academy, and how they're seen by others)?
 - A lot of not-positive ideas and impressions.
 - Librarians aren't in an easy position and are always fighting for more visibility.
 - Librarians are experts in information retrieval and access, but it's a never ending struggle to keep their profile up on campus.
- How do they keep their profile up?
 - Participate in faculty governance, makes sure librarian voices are heard
 - Be willing to be on every committee in faculty senate
 - Send faculty members information that is useful for their research
 - Know faculty members' research
 - Library liaison program is the first step to keep the library in the minds of faculty
 - Research with faculty, co-author articles
 - Have faculty outside the library attend conferences like this one, helps promote what librarians do, foster understanding of what librarians do, and what research interests librarians have
 - Become faculty members' advocate for what they need
 - Help with citation problems with journal, get funding for publication fees, even if not successful, librarians get loyalty by trying
- Libraries have a history of introducing innovation on campus (such as OPACs instead of card catalogs). Is there a way that OA is different from other innovations?
 - OA is not a tool, other things librarians have innovated (like the OPAC) are tools
 - OA is a communication issue
 - Librarians need to let this be a faculty-driven thing. Librarians should be there to support and direct the conversation but not at helm of it.
 - OA is a new way of thinking

- What is the awareness of OA and the OA movement on campus?
 - On most campuses, there are a few early adopters but there's also a lot of misconception.
- How can librarians use how they're already embedded to increase that awareness?
 - Directives from funding agencies have helped. With new grant requirements, faculty have become more supportive
 - Librarians need to understand on campus who has research dollars, can target them for OA outreach
 - With tenure track faculty, librarians can touch on how OA helps with tenure
 - This would push against the unequal/unworthy perception if published in *scholarly* OA journals
- What's the general outlook of OA in terms of teaching, scholarship, and service?
 - For teaching, it's another way to help students succeed
 - For scholarship, teaching faculty need tools that guide them toward OA journals in their fields because it's sometimes difficult to tell if a publication is legitimate or predatory and it diminishes an author's work if they publish in a bad place
 - Great idea, but librarians not comfortable being the ones to judge credibility of every OA journal
 - Think a list of best OA journals should be compiled by scholarly organizations
 - But such associations publish too and thus have conflict of interest in recommending or not recommending other journals to submit to (i.e. JAMA is from AMA).
 - This might be a good collaborative opportunity for libraries and faculty or societies
 - For service, the audience just recommended more collaboration between faculty and librarians
- What success strategies do people have for OA on their campus?
 - SJSU IR manager: one strategy was to practice serendipity. If librarians hear about something or an opportunity pops up, follow up. Don't be shy. Be willing to talk to people after senate committee meetings, other campus meetings

Questions from the audience:

- Question to moderator: What was the history of how the University of San Diego (USD) decided to start an IR (currently in development)? Was this from the library, the faculty senate or the campus administration?
 - The USD digital initiative came from the library dean, who put together a task force on the topic. This group put together a report to recommend avenues for campus to explore. The IR and digital initiative librarian position was formed out of that. So this initiative was chiefly out of the library.

- What kind of support is needed from administration on campus in the promotion of OA?
 - SJSU Library Dean in audience: the provost on this campus is good about promoting to faculty and associate deans.
 - Previous IR librarian got the faculty senate to endorse OA
 - Administration can be on board and help with outreach, but most of the work comes from the faculty