



SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE PLANNING DOCUMENT

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Scholarly Communication Transformation (SCT) Initiative

In summer 2014, Dean Martin Halbert and Associate Dean Cathy Hartman authored the “UNT Libraries Strategic Plan Priorities FY 2014-2017: Key prospective Goal Areas for the UNT Libraries,” which set forth the “primary directions that the UNT libraries will undertake” during a transitional period moving beyond the 2011-2015 strategic plan.

One of the overall goals presented in this plan is to **TRANSFORM ACCESS TO RESEARCH INFORMATION:**

The next four years will be a critical period of change in the landscape of research for both higher education and libraries, in terms of access to research publications. The field has seen decades of proliferation in new disciplines and a concomitant growth in scientific/scholarly publications and the search technologies associated with discovery of information in this burgeoning landscape. At the same time, many of these publications have been monopolized by overseas commercial interests which have thereby been able to charge super-inflationary price increases in double digits for decades. Virtually all universities are now unable to afford to acquire access to the range of commercial research publications represented by their faculty interests. Alternative Open Access models of publication have likewise been proposed for decades which would be directly managed by universities, and thereby constrained in price. We must now undertake the transition from commercial monopolies to higher education management of research publications. The UNT Libraries are uniquely suited to leading transformative change on the campus in this regard, as there is an understanding of both the opportunities and the costs of this transition within the library. Central to this transformative change initiative the UNT Libraries will undertake an educational campaign to meet with the different colleges of the university to foster an understanding of this paradigm shift in scholarly communication and to advance beneficial transitions on the campus and in the larger field.

Within this goal is this specific target: ***Establish a Scholarly Communication Transformation initiative:***

We must establish a new proactive initiative if UNT is to play a constructive role in doing our part to **mobilize change in the scholarly communication cycle**. This initiative will build on the success of the campus Open Access (OA) initiative in 2010-2011 which established the first public university OA policy in Texas at UNT, the five years of successful annual UNT Open Access Symposia, UNT digital scholarship efforts, and the scholarly communication efforts undertaken to date to better inform the UNT community on copyright issues. The SCT initiative will not be limited to any of these topics, but will also broadly **engage the campus with the systemic issues in the economics of scholarly communication** that have been widely understood as a crisis and highlighted over the years by groups such as SPARC (<http://www.sparc.arl.org>), authors such as Dr. Paul Courant and Dr. Ted Bergstrom, and many other groups. Concretely, the aim of this SCT initiative will be to: a) broaden the awareness of UNT faculty of the current issues in the crisis in scholarly communication, b) directly engage with the associated issues of P&T and publishing quality, c) discuss opportunities and relevant metrics of digital scholarship, d) mobilize UNT faculty to become involved in change efforts, and e) expand on already existing copyright services in the University Libraries to educate faculty, students, library staff, and other members of the UNT

Community on copyright issues such as copyright law, the TEACH Act, Fair Use, the SPARC Addendum, and copyright compliance. As we manage the ongoing shortfalls of funds in the library, it will be important to do everything possible to facilitate the transition from commercial monopolies to openly accessible research publications or other strategies for undertaking high quality scholarly communication through sustainable means. If the library is able to take a leadership role in change efforts for promotion and tenure practices on the campus by getting P&T committees to accept new model publications, we may be able to make modest headway on the fundamental issues that have destabilized the current landscape of scholarly communication.

OVERALL GOALS

Goals outlined in the above text:

- a. Broaden the awareness of UNT faculty of the current issues in the crisis in scholarly communication.
- b. Directly engage with the associated issues of P&T and publishing quality.
- c. Discuss opportunities and relevant metrics of digital scholarship.
- d. Mobilize UNT faculty to become involved in change efforts.
- e. Expand on already existing copyright services in the University Libraries to educate faculty, students, library staff, and other members of the UNT Community on copyright issues.

CONSIDERATIONS

Before embarking on a full-scale initiative, certain things need to be considered with regards to desired outcomes and indicators for success. Specifically, by 2017, what will the library be able to say has been accomplished and/or implemented regarding each overall goal? The time involved in each goal will vary, as will the acceptance levels of the imparted information.

- a. A minimal accomplishment for the first overall goal would be to create and disseminate a digestible set of information to university constituents to provide the basics about Scholarly Communication. It is understood that there are multiple avenues of dissemination of this information, and recognizing that progress may need to move forward in reasonable steps rather than giant leaps, the message will be tailored to specific audiences.
- b. Based on Scholarly Communication discussions on campus concerning accepting new types of scholarship, measuring broader scholarly impact, deposits to the institutional repository, and Open Access journal submissions, it is anticipated that some Promotion & Tenure committees in various departments, schools, or colleges will implement changes in their considerations for faculty evaluation.
- c. Recognition for faculty work in digital scholarship is beginning to be recognized by P&T committees as having scholarly value, and some disciplines (history) have begun including this type of work in reviews for promotion and tenure. We will aide faculty to

promote, encourage, and change evaluation policies to value digital scholarship and increase the number of disciplines accepting such scholarship.

- d. With increased knowledge of Scholarly Communication, faculty will be able to articulate what they can do to enact Scholarly Communication practices within their intellectual area, and explain how that benefits not only the university community, but also the “academy” as a whole. Scholarly Works deposits will increase, and there could be a decrease on the part of UNT faculty in publishing in journals that opposed Open Access.
- e. Campus education regarding Scholarly Communication will involve an increased understanding of various copyright issues, including the SPARC addendum for publication, concerns about electronic reserves and distance education, and how issues related to scholarly communication relate to teaching and student success at UNT.

LIBRARY INVOLVEMENT

Scholarly Communication Initiative Task Force:

- Open Access Librarian, (leading initiative, OA)
- Director of Scholarly Communications, (copyright)
- Scholarly Works Repository Librarian (institutional repository)
- Strategic Collections Librarian (building and marketing OA collections)

Digital Scholarship workgroup (communication of news and events, sponsorship of speakers, etc)
Liaisons (communication/education)
Leadership Team LDC (resource allocation, planning)
External Relations (communications)
Assessment Workgroup (assessment)

POTENTIAL CAMPUS PARTNERS

Academic Affairs (support)
Library Advisory Committee (support, outreach, communication)
Faculty Senate (support, communication)
Campus P&T committees (review of procedures/incorporate OA publications/encourage IR deposit)
Digital Scholarship Cooperative (to be formed...)
UNT Open Access Committee (to be formed...)

FIRST STEPS

The activities below are activities that should be carried out before an overarching Scholarly Communication Transformation Initiative can begin successfully.

1. Plan development and further initiative conceptualization
2. Educate library employees about Scholarly Communication, Open Access, Scholarly Works, and other publishing issues

3. Revise library Personnel Affairs Committee evaluation practices to require librarians' scholarly output to be deposited into the Scholarly Works repository for consideration in evaluations
4. Summarize and assess current and past library activities regarding Scholarly Communication and Open Access:
 - a. Policies
 - i. [Copyright](#)
 - ii. [Collection Development](#) for Open Access and Born-Digital resources
 - b. [UNT Scholarly Works](#) institutional repository
 - c. [Copyright Education](#)
 - d. [Open Access @ UNT](#)
 - e. Increased Open Access collections
 - f. Altmetrics discussions on campus
 - g. Assistance with understanding legal aspects of scholarly communications (copyright, SPARC addendum, etc.)
 - h. Open Access Electronic Theses and Dissertations retro-digitization
 - i. UNT Press content made freely available to read online in the UNT Digital Library
 - j. [UNT Libraries Scholarly Publishing Services](#)
 - k. [Scholarly Open Access E-Journal Support](#)
 - l. [UNT Data Repository](#)

EXAMPLES OF SUCCESS INDICATORS

Below are just a few of the potential success indicators that can be used to assess the Scholarly Communication Transformation initiative.

1. Scholarly Works repository contributions by librarians
 - a. % of librarians contributing to IR – goal is 100% within 2 years
2. Campus Promotion & Tenure committees procedure changes
 - a. # of committees implementing changes in their considerations for faculty evaluation
3. Scholarly Works repository contributions by faculty
 - a. Higher % of individual faculty contributors compared to previous years