TALKING TO FACULTY & STUDENTS ABOUT OPEN ACCESS

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INTRODUCTIONS
SCENARIOS

DISCUSS (10 MINUTES) REPORT BACK (5 MINUTES)
During a meeting with librarians, your university president says she supports open access in theory but strongly disagrees with academics having to pay thousands of dollars to publish their work while at the same time signing away their copyright to publishers.

How do you respond?
As the liaison librarian for anthropology you’ve been working closely with an assistant professor who has chosen to only publish in open access journals. She’s applying for tenure and is unsure how to demonstrate the impact of her OA publications in her application package.

What advice do you give her?
The Dean of Science invites you to talk to faculty and graduate students about predatory publishers. The Dean is right to be concerned: she has determined that a substantial number of faculty members in her discipline have already published in fake journals.

What will you include when you meet with these faculty and students to help them make informed decisions about where they choose to publish in the future?
A professor has digitized their personal copy of a textbook they wrote in 1990 and wants to upload it to the institutional repository, so “everyone can use it.” The textbook has been out of print since 2000.

What is your response to this request?
You are asked to lead an information literacy session with a class of 8 sociology honours students who need to complete literature reviews for their theses. You want to ensure they understand what open access resources are available to them currently, and after they graduate.

What teaching strategies might you use to teach them about open access? Which resources would you make sure they know about?
A small research society’s e-journal generates a small amount of revenue through subscription fees, and society members get unlimited access to the journal as a membership perk. The society is seeking a new home for their journal, likes the idea of open access, and knows about your library’s OA hosting service.

They worry that the transition will result in lost revenue, and also that membership will decline if members lose their membership perk. What are some of the key issues you should discuss with them?
A graduate student wants to know which creative commons licence to assign to a conference paper she is about to upload into the institutional repository.

What questions will you ask to help her decide on the appropriate licence terms?
You visit the nursing department to invite faculty members to submit their works to your new institutional repository. One of the faculty members tells you that he already puts all of the final, official versions of his articles in both ResearchGate and Academia.edu and does not see the point in also putting them in the repository.

How do you explain to him that the institutional repository is a worthwhile place for him to deposit his work?
Your library recently launched an open access fund, generating immediate interest. Your eligibility requirements clearly state that you will not fund publications in hybrid journals,* but some faculty are upset that you rejected their applications on these grounds. Even worse, a few are so angry that they suggest you are telling them where they should and should not publish.

How do you explain the exclusion of hybrid journals, and address faculty concerns?

*A hybrid journal includes limited OA articles that are paid for using article processing charges (APCs), while continuing to charge subscription fees for access to the full journal.
A faculty member is about to sign a publishing agreement. They know they need to make the article OA within twelve months of publication to be in compliance with grant funding requirements but do not have money to cover an article processing charge (APC). They are confused by the author rights retention section of the contract (sample at your table).

Will they be able to make the article available OA if they sign this agreement?
You decide to show the film *The Internet’s Own Boy: The Story of Aaron Swartz* during Open Access Week to engage students and faculty with open access and related debates around access to information. You book a theatre on campus, ensure you have rights to show the movie, send information about the event to relevant listservs and campus newsletters, and put up posters around campus. You even rent a popcorn machine! When the time comes to show the movie, 10 people show up, 6 of whom are librarians that you work with.

What could you have done differently?

*Tells the story of Aaron Swartz, who took his own life. At the time he was facing charges for systematically downloading 4.8 million articles from JSTOR onto a laptop on the MIT campus.*
CLOSING REMARKS and QUESTIONS
THANK YOU!

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Additional Resources

- Altmetrics Bookmarklet (altmetric.com/products/free-tools/bookmarklet)
- Authors Alliance Rights Reversion (authorsalliance.org/resources/rights-reversion-portal)
- Directory of Open Access Journals (doaj.org)
- San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (sfdora.org)
- Paywall: The Business of Scholarship (paywallthemovie.com)
- SHERPA RoMEO (sherpa.ac.uk/romeo)
- Think Check Submit (thinkcheckssubmit.org)
- Unpaywall (unpaywall.org)
- Why Open Research (whyopenresearch.org)