



University of Missouri System

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Dear colleagues:

Rising costs of publishing for open access and journal subscriptions have led [several of our peers to end their relationships with major publishers, including Elsevier](#), to seek new economic models for scholarly communications. As a university system, we are also examining what this means for us. To accomplish this, I am pleased to announce the Open Access Publishing Task Force composed of representatives from all four universities, including faculty, librarians, vice chancellors for research and academic leadership charged to examine and modify our policy on open access materials.

The committee will work through potential strategies, actions and desired outcomes for the UM System to embark on a path to a more sustainable model of scholarly communication and library collection costs. Additionally, they will build faculty consensus to support open access publishing; develop systemwide guiding principles; support faculty in retaining copyrights and protecting author rights; identify alternative sources for access to scholarly publications; increase financial support for institutional repositories; and establish a data-driven process to inform decision-making.

The committee, chaired by MU Vice Provost for Libraries and University Librarian Ann Campion Riley, includes:

- **James Birchler**, Curators' Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences, MU
- **Michael Bruening**, Associate Professor of History and IFC Rep., Missouri S&T
- **Brenda Dingley**, Scholarly Communications Librarian, UMKC
- **Jun Fan**, Cynthia Tang Missouri Distinguished Professor in Computer Engineering, Missouri S&T
- **Emily Goldstein**, Assistant Director for the Center for Teaching and Learning and Instructional Designer, UMSL
- **Sherry Mahnken**, Research Librarian, Missouri S&T
- **Ed Malone**, Professor of English and Technical Communication, Missouri S&T
- **Gary Myers**, Earl F. Nelson Professor of Law, MU
- **Tim Nelson**, Collection, Development and Acquisitions Librarian, UMSL
- **John Spertus**, MD, MPH, FACC and FAHA, UMKC
- **Jill Wood**, Director, Academic Affairs, UM System
- **Xiaolan Yao**, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, UMKC
- **Bethany Zolman**, Associate Professor in Biology and Director of the Biochemistry and Biotechnology Program, UMSL

As we have seen with our peers at the University of California System, this important work will take considerable time and effort to accomplish. I appreciate your patience, input and continued dedication to promote open access publishing for widespread dissemination of scholarly research. For more information and quarterly updates, we will post information on the UM System Academic Affairs webpage.

Sincerely,

Mun Y. Choi, president
UM System

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