

TO: Daniel Cohen, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee
FROM: Denice Adkins, Chair of the Library Committee
DATE: March 30, 2019
RE: Policy to introduce into Faculty Council discussions

Dear Professor Cohen,

The MU Library Committee would like to introduce a **Policy to Support Open Access Scholarship on the University of Missouri Campus**. This proposal follows the lead of many other esteemed universities around the globe that have initiated strong Open Access policies to ensure the visibility of their universities and their faculty. This policy supports Chancellor Cartwright's call to fulfill MU's land grant mission by providing broad access to faculty's cutting-edge research, and UM System President Choi's Compact for Excellence in Research and Creative Works.

Below we present information about the proposed policy, which follows on the subsequent page.

1. Background and rationale for the proposed policy

Open access policies have been widely adopted at other institutions, and are seen as a way of ensuring that research funded by state taxpayer dollars is available to the people of the state.

University libraries are invested in stewardship of university funding. Since the 19th century, librarians have successfully saved individuals and universities, countless hours and dollars by pooling resources, streamlining services, and developing consortia to negotiate prices and maximize purchasing power. The traditional scholarly publication model has always involved significant investment from universities. State-funded faculty generate research, the copyright to which is often given away as part of a publication agreement. Faculty give their time to peer review research articles for publication. And finally, once an article is published, the university pays once again to purchase the journal that contains that scholarship.

The current model of scholarly communications is financially unsustainable. The transition of the publishing model from print to online has changed the dynamics of the library-publisher relationship, and led to some exploitation of the open access publishing model. For instance, authors or universities may pay Article Publication Charges to have their articles freely available. However, for many journals that offer traditional subscription-based access as well as paid Open Access, universities are still asked to pay the full price of the subscription. Publishers also abuse the online publication transition by limiting downloads through digital rights management and requiring libraries to subscribe to content (e.g., rent it) rather than being able to purchase it, and increasing journal subscription prices by twice or more the rate of inflation per year. Such moves have often pitted librarians against publishers.

Changing university budget models require rethinking the way we present faculty work. The University of Missouri is in the process of implementing a new funding model, in which each department and unit is responsible for funding their space and services. While this may offer some incentives to some units to rethink the way that they do business, there are both internal

and external impediments to libraries reducing certain expenses, without the explicit support of the University in changing the structures that require those expenses. Given increasingly tight budget conditions, the university must ensure that every dollar is spent wisely, rather than spending huge sums to subscribe to relatively few journals.

Open access practices are becoming increasingly common. In 2018, the State of California passed A.B. 2192, which requires all research funded by the state to be made available to the public no later than one year after publication. A similar law, SB 1900, was passed in the State of Illinois in 2013. Federal granting agencies such as the National Institute of Health require that grant-funded research papers be made available online, and some granting agencies also request that the data collected also be available. Harvard, MIT, and many other universities including the University of Kansas implemented open access mandates for their faculty.

2. Proposed Policy to Support Open Access Scholarship on the University of Missouri Campus

The Faculty of the University of Missouri-Columbia is committed to disseminating the fruits of its research and scholarship as widely as possible. In keeping with that commitment, the Faculty adopts the following policy:

Each Faculty member grants to the University of Missouri permission to make available their scholarly articles and to exercise the copyright in those articles. More specifically, each Faculty member grants to the University of Missouri a nonexclusive, irrevocable, worldwide license to exercise any and all rights under copyright relating to each of his or her scholarly articles, in any medium, provided that the articles are not sold for a profit, and to authorize others to do the same. The policy applies to all scholarly articles authored or co-authored while the person is a member of the Faculty except for any articles completed before the adoption of this policy and any articles for which the Faculty member entered into an incompatible licensing or assignment agreement before the adoption of this policy. The Provost or Provost's designate will waive application of the license for a particular article or delay access for a specified period of time upon express direction by a Faculty member.

Each Faculty member will provide an electronic copy of the author's final version of each article no later than the date of its publication at no charge to the appropriate representative of the Provost's Office in an appropriate format (such as PDF) specified by the Provost's Office.

The Provost's Office may make the article available to the public in an open-access repository. The Office of the Provost will be responsible for interpreting this policy, resolving disputes concerning its interpretation and application, and recommending changes to the Faculty from time to time.

The policy will be reviewed after three years and a report presented to the Faculty.

3. Stakeholders

- Faculty and Department Chairs
- Promotion & Tenure Committees
- MU Libraries and librarians
- MOSpace Repository

4. Costs/Resource Requirements

Many of the pieces of an open access infrastructure are already in place. MU Libraries already have an institutional repository, MOspace, where faculty work can be housed. MOspace already holds numerous works from students, faculty, and staff at the University of Missouri-Columbia and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Policies are in place to determine how and when an item may be shared, to protect the rights of both authors and publishers. Tools exist to help authors determine which of their prior publications may be posted, and in which formats.

In addition to the policy, we recommend two additional changes to ensure that faculty and the university get maximum benefit from adopting an open access policy:

- Schools and departments should recognize that high quality scholarship appears in many forms, including journals and other venues not included in Web of Science or other commercial publisher-controlled indexes. Departments should indicate which open access venues are viewed as appropriate publication venues in their fields to assist junior faculty in meeting standards for promotion and tenure.
- The university should provide additional funding for a full-time librarian to work with faculty in identifying and publishing in high-quality open-access venues and to increase capacity and widespread use of MU's repository. The librarian would be responsible for promoting MU's scholarship online through effective metadata application, and also manage data related to publications. This would ensure maximum findability of MU researchers' publications, ultimately increasing recognition and citations of MU's scholars.

We will be happy to answer any questions you may have or explore the issue further with you.

Respectfully,

MU Library Committee

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