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Book Review

Sustaining and Enhancing the Scholarly Communications Department: A Comprehensive Guide

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BOOK REVIEW

Sustaining and Enhancing the Scholarly Communications Department: A Comprehensive Guide

By Kris S. Helge, Ahmet Meti Tmava, and Amanda R. Zerangue

2020 | Libraries Unlimited | 161 pages | ISBN-13: 978-1-4408-6699-9 | \$70.00

Are you interested in the field of scholarly communications or have you recently been hired at your institution as the director of scholarly initiatives? The concepts presented in *Sustaining and Enhancing the Scholarly Communications Department: A Comprehensive Guide* by Kris S. Helge, Ahmet Meti Tmava, and Amanda R. Zerangue provide guidance for the scholarly communications librarian, especially those new to the profession. Unlike other guides in this field which may focus on one particular aspect of scholarly communication like intellectual property or open access (OA), this book encompasses a broad range of topics: basic knowledge for the novice, hurdles to overcome for the expert, and visions of a sustainable future for all. Regardless of your career stage, this comprehensive guide contains pertinent information on relevant subjects relating to scholarly communication, including copyright, author rights, OA publishing, open educational resources (OERs), and institutional repositories. Short chapters are compacted into three larger parts according to different concepts and stages within the creation of a successful scholarly communications department, ensuring the reader remains interested and engaged. The cost of *Sustaining and Enhancing the Scholarly Communications Department: A Comprehensive Guide* is \$70 USD and would make a useful addition to a general collection, budget permitting.

Librarians, library paraprofessionals, or those working in a cultural heritage institution can utilize this text for reference purposes, as the information presented on assisting faculty with publishing and copyright queries, among other topics, is easy to find. Chapters are simple to navigate, and the authors have used clear and concise language to articulate such issues. For example, the introduction provides a brief but informative overview of scholarly communications as a whole, including the history of scholarly journals and their transition into



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open access publications. The first chapter begins with the basics of copyright, touching on current US copyright law and providing guidance as to copyright protections and limitations. A large portion of this chapter focuses on fair use and includes a copy of a fair use checklist for future referrals.

Subsequent chapters segue into the intricacies of the Creative Commons Licenses and author rights, which leads to issues in open access publishing. Knowledge of these topics form the foundation of open educational resources, included in the following chapter. All aspects of open educational resources are covered, such as the benefits and barriers to OER adoption. Later chapters in parts two and three offer guidance on creating a scholarly communications department, including practical advice as to required staffing, as well as suggestions regarding the degrees librarians in this department should possess. Overall, readers are provided with an easy flow of concepts and topics, as the information builds upon previously presented knowledge.

Incorporated within these pages are passages relevant to the changing trends in libraries specifically and academia as a whole, including the current serials crisis and its effects on library system budgets. There is also a discussion of faculty perceptions of open access publishing, sparking ideas as to potential future scholarship in this area. The authors have included a plethora of background information and definitions to clarify obscure concepts, such as the original open access declarations and author addenda, which are especially useful to librarians embarking on their first foray into the field of scholarly communications. What is not included is a discussion of outreach tactics regarding participation in advocacy events such as Open Access Week and Open Education Week. A short chapter on outreach and advocacy would make this text completely comprehensive and provide new professionals with a means to wield their newfound knowledge.

For those librarians in a scholarly communication position that do not possess a law degree, Chapter 7 provides a list of conferences and other supplementary materials that may help bridge any knowledge gaps. The authors are well-versed in this area, as all are librarians with higher education degrees, including PhD and JDs. However, the conferences and online sources listed will lead readers through current trends in United States law that affect libraries and universities; those interested in international law must undertake supplemental research on their own. This guide is not a law manual but instead suggests scholarly communications librarians should foster strong relationships with their institution's General Counsel Office, working in tandem to provide the best guidance on legal matters such as licenses, copyright permissions, and infringement. Some universities dedicate entire teams to scholarly communication issues, while others prefer a sole practitioner to perform this work. The positives and negatives of both circumstances are also discussed in Chapter 7,

including different methods of executing each scenario and recommendations for universities as to determining which model best fits their institution.

Practicality is the backbone of this text, and readers can use the outlined topics as a means of teaching and instructing others. Tables and diagrams are included for visual learners, one of which portrays the scholarly communication process, aiding in the reader's understanding of such concepts. Other tables showcase statistics and results from surveys conducted by the authors, which serve to enhance the research narrative. One study mentioned in particular is devoted to faculty deposits in open access institutional repositories; the findings have the potential to help scholarly communications librarians better market their institutional repositories to stakeholders.

This guide and its authors recognize the impact of the Internet and newer technology on the field of scholarly communications, including the library's potential utilization of artificial intelligence (AI) in analyzing data to make quick publishing predictions and the Internet of Things (IoT) in applications such as connecting a faculty member's device with an institutional repository to receive citation notifications. The synthesis of research statistics and examples of relevant technology give the reader ideas and inspiration with which to create, maintain, and sustain their scholarly communications department. The final chapters touch on potential future projects to support the scholarly communications unit, as well as promote the need for competent leadership, cross-training with different departments, and a willingness to embrace new technology. At the heart of this guide is the service-oriented nature of the librarian which, when coupled with the knowledge of scholarly communications topics, can support faculty and academic institutions in ways yet to be discovered.

BIOGRAPHY

Chelsea Dickson is the Scholarly Communications Librarian and Assistant Professor at Kennesaw State University, where she advocates for open access, open education, and intellectual freedom. She holds an MS in Library and Information Studies and a second MS in Information Technology.