

University Library Council (ULC) Meeting

Monday, February 8th, 2021

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Attendees met online

Present: Brian Butler [chair], Linda Coleman, Mark DeMorra, James Farquhar, Judi Kidd [note taker], John Laub, Adriene Lim, Dan Mack, Stephen Nkansah Amankra, Nadine Sahyoun, Sara Wiatrak

1. Welcome and Dean's update

[UMD PACT](#) [Publishing, Access, and Contract Terms], sponsored in part by the ULC, aims to provide more equitable access to Maryland research. A draft framework of licensing principles is available for review/commenting. The group is highlighting these principles which will be used in future licensing negotiations with publishers.

ULC learned that some vendors are already pulling back on the use of Non-Disclosure Agreements [NDAs] in some contract renewal negotiations. The BTAA recently entered into negotiation with [PLOS](#) [Public Library of Science] - for the next three years, BTAA accepted authors may publish on this Open Access platform with no fees incurred. ULC also heard that several journals are increasing their article processing charges [APC], for example, Springer Nature recently announced charges in excess of \$11,000 to publish in Nature-branded journals.

Some ULC members expressed their concerns over such steep increases in APCs

- Faculty may need to limit their publications - there is a lack of funding available for APCs
 - The [Libraries' Open Access Fund](#) provides limited funding to cover APCs levied by peer-reviewed open access journals
- This will affect tenure track faculty and those looking for promotion

ULC members were encouraged to talk with colleagues about this subject.

2. UMD PACT Policy Initiative

Achieving Equitable, Sustainable Access to the University of Maryland's Scholarship and Research.

Researchers and scholars at the University of Maryland are on the front lines, creating knowledge and developing innovative solutions to enhance the lives, well-being, and health of the planet and people across the world. Through the enactment of a new campus policy and the use of existing infrastructure, a new proposed policy will provide barrier-free access to a large

subset of this valuable knowledge, putting UMD researchers in the forefront of scholarly conversations. [ULC members viewed this document]

The policy change initiative will be workshopped on campus to raise awareness across disciplines. The policy will be used to obtain pre-publication copies of scholarly articles that will be added to the university's digital repository [[DRUM](#)]. Open access will be permanent and research more widely available. Individual authors will be granted waivers to opt-out when requested. This is based on the [Harvard OA Policy](#) which has been in place since 2008.

Discussion and issues raised

- Does DRUM provide persistent URLs to an author's submitted articles? The short answer is "yes." [Note: Adriene followed up by email following this meeting - search by faculty/author name and copy the URL to obtain a persistent link to a list of a particular author's articles. She noted that other, commercially available, software platforms may offer more options but they are far more expensive. She confirmed that download counts are shown in DRUM and that DRUM is crawled by Google, making the articles in DRUM findable through Google searching.]
- Members expressed their appreciation for the simple/straightforward framework described in the draft policy.
- The change initiative provides for collaboration with colleagues outside UMD by stating that any work by a UMD affiliated co-author may be deposited.

The policy change initiative will be brought before the Senate for approval once PACT has gathered a critical mass of support on campus.

Open Access monographs

The University of Maryland will join [TOME](#) for a two-year pilot program. TOME is a national initiative to advance open-access (OA) publishing of monographs in the humanities and social sciences. TOME's goal is to make this important scholarship available to readers across the globe, without cost and access barriers. TOME@UMD will be led by the University Libraries in partnership with the Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost, and the College of Arts and Humanities.

All UMD faculty members will be eligible to apply for one of 3 grant awards and must have an already accepted-for-publication manuscript. Dan Mack will serve as the project manager for the TOME@UMD program. Steering and Selection committees will be formed soon.

The next ULC meeting is scheduled for 10:00 am on Friday, March 12th. Topics include Open Educational Resources [OERs]

JKidd 2021-02-10