

5-Minute “Heads Up” from the IUPUI Library Affairs Committee

Alert departmental faculty to implications of a profound (and probably unstoppable) change in the way university libraries operate, in order to protect

- Faculty and Student research
- Faculty going up for Promotion and/or Tenure

Two main and related changes:

1. Consolidation of academic journal publishing in 3 or 4 large international corporations (Elsevier, Springer, etc.), and the consequence rise in cost at twice the rate of inflation. For example, the School of Science journal budget at IUPUI is \$900,000 per year and rising. This interacts with pressures to contain (or even reduce) the budget of university responsibility centers.
2. In response to #1, above, “Open Access” journals are springing up. Some of these (PLOS) are quite respected and successful, others are “predatory publishing,” taking authors’ fees but not disseminating their work in an adequate manner. OA journals work as follows:
 - a. There are no subscription fees. Any user can access the published materials, which are usually available only online.
 - b. Submitted manuscripts are peer reviewed (at least in the non-predatory OA journals)
 - c. The OA journal makes its money by charging the authors whose manuscripts are accepted (i.e. *after* peer review) an author’s fee, which may be as high as \$1,500.

What the Library is thinking of doing about this (*Here is where they need faculty input.*)

- For some of the really expensive journals which are rarely accessed (e.g. <5 times per year), they could save thousands of dollars by cancelling their subscription and ordering single articles as faculty and/or students request them. The library would still subscribe to services such as JSTOR, Academic Search Premier, EBSCO, etc., so faculty would still be able to find the articles. But they would have to order the articles through interlibrary loan, which might take a few hours to arrive. There would be no cost to the faculty member or student for this.
- The Library has proposed, and the Library Affairs Committee has endorsed, conducting a survey of faculty regarding their knowledge of and use of Open Access journals. Please answer this survey when it pops up in your mailbox.
- In the discussion stage still are whether to request the establishment of an Open Access Publishing fund to support faculty members who publish in reputable Open Access journals, and ways to interface with the Promotion and Tenure information sessions that are held in the fall regarding any new standards on judging publication records in dossiers.