University Library Council (ULC)

Thursday, November 8, 2021

3 - 4 pm

Special Events Room, McKeldin Library and online

Attendees: Brian Butler [chair], Linda Coleman, Mark Demorra, James Farquhar, Sushanth Gupta, Michele Lamprakos, John Laub, Adriene Lim, Dan Mack, Rochelle Newman, Patricia Ortega-Miranda

1. Welcome

Brian invited attendees to suggest venues for future ULC meetings.

2. Dean's Update

- The Provost has asked Adriene and several UMD PACT members to participate in the American Education Research Association (AERA) and Council of Graduate Schools convening to explore open science, open scholarship, and associated research impact issues. Adriene will follow up with ULC on notes from the meeting.

- HuMetricsHSS - Humane Metrics Initiative

- NASEM = National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. NASEM reached out to President Pines and Provost Rice inviting UMD to join a community of practice on open science and open scholarship. Adriene was asked to represent UMD at the initial meeting. Now, NASEM's Roundtable on Advancing Open Scholarship/Open Science has asked if UMD will form a community of practice here, but this requires presidential support of the initiative if an institution agrees to join. Adriene is awaiting confirmation of support from President Pines and Provost Rice.

- "Special Order Presentation for Senate" on Nov. 10: Discussion of Draft Policy on Equitable Access to Scholarly Articles.
    - Meetings with departments continue - mostly positive comments
    - Extensive FAQ continues to be refined
    - Open forums scheduled for November 17 [click to register] and December 3 [click to register] to address any concerns following the Senate presentation.
    - The Graduate Student Government has passed a resolution recommending cross-campus actions to support equitable and open access to scholarly content

- In response to Adriene's update, a member of ULC suggested contacting the College of Journalism for a possible symposium on campus on scientific communication issues.

3. Journal subscriptions - Discussion of priorities and "Big Deals"

a. UMD PACT Position Paper: Journal Subscriptions, "Big Deals", and Achieving Sustainable and Equitable Access to Scholarly Information [ULC members received this document prior to the meeting]
b. UMD PACT position paper

ULC members' discussion included the following issues:

- Definitions of terms
- Movement by publishers from "pay to read" to "pay to publish".
- Some publishers' high profit margins
- Open Access can be more expensive at this point, so this movement is not necessarily about saving costs. The aim is primarily to make publishing and open access to content more equitable for all. A long-term aim will be to reduce costs and make the entire system more sustainable, but this will take consistent advocacy and changes in models.
- Discussion about inter Library Loan costs - e.g. copyright fees, staffing, shipping costs are all subsidized by the libraries.
- Proliferation of journal titles - how do we decide what is important
- Official endorsement by this group of the position paper is very important. Will be taken up at the next meeting.

JKidd 2021-11-10