U.S. Open Access Policies: Report to the OSU Faculty Senate Library Committee
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At the February FSLC meeting I was asked to send examples of existing university and college open access policies. Below are links to open access policies at MIT, Kansas and Harvard. Other policies can be found at a Simmons College wiki: http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Unanimous_faculty_votes. Open access policies that have passed in the U.S. over the last three years all contain similar elements and language. Stuart Shieber, Professor of Computer Science in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Harvard and the Harvard Office for Scholarly Communication's faculty director, has written a model open access policy that includes language that is shared by most of the university and college-level open access policies that have passed. The model policy includes annotations about why each element is included: http://osc.hul.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/model-policy-annotated_0.pdf.

For example, each of the university and college policies I looked at include a license granting certain copyrights to the institution for the purpose of making the scholarly research freely available online.

- MIT statement: Each Faculty member grants to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology nonexclusive permission to make available his or her scholarly articles and to exercise the copyright in those articles for the purpose of open dissemination. In legal terms, each Faculty member grants to MIT a nonexclusive, irrevocable, paid-up, 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.
- Kansas statement: Each faculty member grants to KU permission to make scholarly peer-reviewed journal articles to which he or she made substantial intellectual contributions publicly available in the KU open access institutional repository, and to exercise the copyright in those articles. In legal terms, the permission granted by each faculty member is a nonexclusive, irrevocable, paid-up, worldwide license to exercise any and all rights under copyright relating to each of his or her scholarly articles, in any medium, and to authorize others to do the same, provided that he articles are not sold for a profit.

Most policies ask faculty to deposit the "final version of the article; that is, the author's manuscript with any changes made as a result of the peer-review process, but prior to publisher's copy-editing or formatting" to an open access repository operated by the library.

MIT's policy passed unanimously in March 2009. In the two years since the policy was passed, approximately 2800 faculty articles have been deposited in MIT's open access repository.

Policy: http://info-libraries.mit.edu/scholarly/mit-open-access/open-access-at-mit/mit-open-access-policy/

FAQ: http://info-libraries.mit.edu/scholarly/mit-open-access/open-access-at-mit/mit-open-access-policy/mit-faculty-open-access-policy-faq/

Implementation details: Authors asked to self-deposit articles or email copy to library.

University of Kansas also passed its policy in 2009 and became the first public institution to do so. The policy has since been revised to include implementation responsibilities and details.

Policy: https://documents.ku.edu/policies/governance/OpenAccess.htm

Implementation details: Policy calls for faculty to "provide bibliographic information and an electronic copy of each article within 30 days of publication to the [Library]." Library offers "full-service" and "self-service" options to make articles available in KU ScholarWorks (KU's open archive of scholarly work created by its faculty).

Harvard College of Arts and Sciences passed the first college-wide open access policy in the country in Spring 2008. Other Harvard schools and colleges have since passed similar policies.

Policy: http://osc.hul.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/model-policy-annotated_0.pdf

FAQ: http://osc.hul.harvard.edu/policies

Implementation details: Office for Scholarly Communication established in Harvard University Libraries in order to implement Harvard University policies.

OSU colleges and units have passed three OA policies:

College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences passed its policy in March 2010.

Policy: http://www.coas.oregonstate.edu/media/Open_Access_Policy.pdf

Implementation details: COAS faculty work with the COAS Publications/Outreach Manager to ensure articles are deposited to ScholarsArchive@OSU, the university's open access institutional repository.

Geosciences department passed its policy in April 2011. It is almost exactly the same as the COAS policy. It is not yet available online.

Library Faculty passed its policy in March 2009.

Policy: http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/10850/Library%20Faculty%20Open%20Access%20Policy%2020091113%20revision.pdf?sequence=7

Implementation details: http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/10850/LFA%20Guidelines%20for%20Open%20Access%20Mandate%2020091218%20revision.docx?sequence=8

College of Forestry is currently (May 2011) considering the following policy:

Proposed Open Access Statement for the College of Forestry:
In keeping with a 100+ year history of making research publications available on request, faculty in the Oregon State University College of Forestry support this college-wide open access policy: Beginning July 2011, we encourage our faculty to have a digital copy of the author's final version of each scholarly article deposited to the ScholarsArchive@OSU (http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/) as soon as possible after publication.

Explanation/why needed: The policy is a statement of support for making the research of the College more widely available and more broadly disseminated on the web, not only to colleagues and peers but also to students around the world and to the citizens of Oregon and beyond.

The policy also allows Forestry Communications to work with the OSU Libraries on behalf of faculty in the college who want to contribute to furthering access to their research by contributing publications to the ScholarsArchive@OSU (SA@OSU).   Without a policy, the onus remains with the faculty member to investigate copyright issues associated with each publisher before posting articles online.