

# Research Libraries in Colorado "Create Change"

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With one research library in Colorado actively engaged in the process of re-creating its library after a devastating flood, and the other anticipating several lean fiscal years, the library deans at Colorado State University (CSU) and the University of Colorado-Boulder (CU) made the decision to broaden the conversation on their respective campuses regarding the general topic of the future of scholarly communication. They held a planning meeting with their Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) with one objective in mind: to plan a joint CSU/CU "Symposium on the Future of Scholarly Communication in the Digital Age," to be sponsored by the CAOs, the Library Deans, and the Faculty Governance organizations on each campus. The planning phases and outcomes are summarized here so that other institutions can create similar sessions, if desired, on their campuses or within their state educational systems.

The objective of our proposed symposium was to inform, raise consciousness on the issues, and inspire advocacy for change among key administrative and faculty players on campus. The business plan for the symposium was

- (i) that all costs would be equally shared,
- (ii) that the speakers would be nationally recognized in academe for their contributions on the topic,
- (iii) that there would be no registration fee,
- (iv) that the event would be held at a neutral (off-campus) site, and
- (v) that the symposium would be invitational.

The library deans strategically suggested that the invitees to the symposium should be academic officers, e.g., deans of schools/colleges, campus editors, representatives from faculty personnel committees, and representatives from faculty governance. And, that the only librarians in attendance would be the library deans and their administrative cabinet members. The CAOs agreed with this proposal, including their agreement that the invitation to the symposium should come from them.

On 28 February 2000 over 70 invitees from the two campuses convened at a conference center located between Boulder and Fort Collins, Colorado, to participate in the symposium. A panel discussion on "Eliminating the Scholarly Communication Crisis: A Review of the Pew Higher Education Roundtable Report 'To Publish and Perish'" was facilitated by Dr. David Shulenberg, Provost, University of Kansas, and moderated by Todd Gleeson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs, University of Colorado-Boulder. Panelists for the discussion were: Frank Beer, Faculty Senate Chair, University of Colorado-Boulder; Loren Crabtree, Provost, Colorado State University; Phil DiStefano, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Colorado-Boulder; and Paul Kugrens, Faculty Council Chair, Colorado State University. In addition to the panel discussion, two presentations were given: "Opportunities for Scholarly Communications: Crafting New Models" by Richard Johnson, SPARC Executive Director, and "Crisis in Academic Publishing: We are the Solution" by Dr. Michael Rosenzweig, Founder & Editor of *Evolutionary Ecology Research*.

This stimulating day of sharing and discovery ended with agreement that

- (i) the symposium should be repeated at each campus in the form of a faculty colloquium,
- (ii) that a set of principles for emerging systems of scholarly communication should be developed by academe,
- (iii) that the five campus-based initiatives recommended in the Pew Roundtable Report are indeed effective strategies through which to garner institutional commitments to solving the underlying issues in the disjunction between the sociology and economics of scholarly communication,

(iv) that the SPARC initiative is a timely and effective model that serves to remind academe that it can create its own set of solutions to the issues at hand, and  
(v) that Dr. Rosenzweig's exemplary work as founder and editor of a competitive journal in ecological research serves to inspire those who also intend to "create change" in the gift culture of higher education.

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