

A VIEW FROM THE SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION TRENCHES: "TEMPE PRINCIPLES" STIR FACULTY DISCUSSION

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Duke University's Library Council was established by the faculty of the university in 1928 to exercise "general supervision over matters of policy" in the main campus library and its branches. Membership is comprised of faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, and library staff. Over the life of the Council, agendas have dealt with circulation policy, the Dewey Decimal Classification system, materials budgets, technology, space needs, etc. During the past four years, issues dealing with "scholarly communication" have been on the agenda with increased frequency in one guise or another, e.g., the serials budget, ownership of vs. access to information, the promise of electronic full-text, the university's developing intellectual property policy, etc. Each discussion involved a significant amount of preparation and creativity on the part of the staff, including the presentation of spending projections and data on the problem of price inflation in scholarly publishing. Each meeting was a new opportunity to engage especially the faculty in the issues surrounding the future of scholarly communication.

Minimal success was enjoyed until we shared the "Principles for Emerging Systems of Scholarly Publishing" developed at the March 2000 Tempe, Arizona, conference sponsored by ARL, the Association of American Universities, and the Merrill Advanced Studies Center of the University of Kansas. Lively discussion ensued at two Library Council meetings resulting in a sense of understanding and ownership of the issues for the first time. The "Tempe Principles" more effectively engaged the faculty than did earlier discussions of scholarly communication issues because the Principles focus on an ideal state rather than starting from the current, problematic state. As a result, the level of discussion was raised. Furthermore, the Principles seem to personalize the issues in a way that encourages faculty to see themselves as creators and users of intellectual property and, therefore, as part of the positive change that can be effected within the system of scholarly communication.

Points of particularly spirited discussion prompted by the Tempe Principles include:

- Differences between the sciences and non-sciences--whose problem is it?
- Do junior faculty really have a choice in "judiciously assigning copyright?"
- Most do not want to jeopardize the publication of their work--which is necessary to earn tenure--in a dispute over retention of rights.
- The tenure case and new forms of dissemination--reflections on the quality of the information that now resides in electronic format convinces most Council members that peer review is absolutely necessary.
- Assignment of rights--I can't do what?
- The practicality of managing copyright to assure faculty access. For example, the Principles suggest a variety of models for assigning reuse permissions. How would a potential "reuser" even begin to locate a copyright holder in some of these models? Is there a role for the Association of American University Presses in streamlining the permissions process?

Despite the issues raised, the Library Council unanimously adopted the Tempe Principles and assumed

responsibility for educating their colleagues, using the principles as the discussion document. Tentative plans for the fall include a feature article in the *Faculty Forum*, Duke faculty's newsletter, co-authored by a faculty member and the University Librarian, to stimulate interest in the topic. This will be followed by Library Council-hosted discussions for members of the community. In addition, the Provost and the University Librarian will be addressing the Academic Council, Duke's faculty senate, using the principles as the springboard for discussion.

While we have not reached a state of having "created change," here at Duke we have at last captured the attention and imagination of our faculty leadership. Thanks for the Principles!

The Tempe Principles are available online at <http://www.arl.org/scomm/tempe.html>.

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