



THE SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING
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Dear Librarian,

I'm writing to introduce *The Right to Research: The Student Guide to Opening Access to Research*, the new SPARC initiative to engage students on the topic of access to research. The campaign, which includes a variety of tools and resources for libraries and students, is an excellent way to start a conversation with students on the topic of research access and the opportunities of wider access. SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) is an international alliance of academic and research libraries working to create a more open system for the exchange of scholarly research results. Our past campaigns include *Author Rights*, *Open Access*, and *Create Change*.

The Right to Research:

- **Introduces Open Access** — the principle that research should be accessible online, for free, immediately after publication — making a clear distinction between the principle and the ways Open Access is being realized – through OA journals, repositories, and copyright management.
- **Indicates how Open Access can make life as a student easier**, advance research, widen access to those who need it, and increase visibility for student scholars.
- **Offers ways to support OA** that pertain both to graduate students approaching publishing decisions and to undergraduates who want to take up the OA banner.

While created as an introduction to Open Access, the campaign stems from conversations with students who are already actively engaged with the issue and want to make clear the importance and relevance to their peers. These students, who we've worked with over the past two years, have brought fresh views and enthusiasm to the discussion as well as a deep commitment to making open sharing of information habitual – for everyone. Students embody tremendous potential for shaping the future of scholarly exchange.

Please join us in inviting more students to the conversation on access, and take advantage of the suite of resources available to help get you started:

- ***The Right to Research* brochure.** A succinct and inviting introduction to how research access impacts students. Print copies are available at cost for \$15 per bundle of 50. Also free to download in PDF. See the SPARC Web site for details, or email me for a free print copy.



You know firsthand that students are expected to cite articles from scholarly journals when they write research papers. You've probably used journal articles in your coursework. You've probably also encountered journal articles that you wanted to read — potentially important articles — but couldn't get access to.

It doesn't have to be this way.

(cover and sample page from the *Right to Research* brochure)

- *The Right to Research Web site* at <http://www.righttoresearch.org> engages readers and offers links to resources and opportunities to show support and get involved. Resources include the *Open Students* blog, student activist featurettes, student videos on the value of sharing, a timeline of student engagement, a bibliography, and more.
- **Open Access “teasers”** will also soon be available. These 2 x 2” cards are inexpensive to order, easy to produce yourself, and a great way to grab student attention as they pass through the library or grab a coffee in the coffee shop.



- **Events** are a particularly great way to talk to students, so we’d like to invite you to talk to our lead student advocate and SPARC Outreach Fellow, Gavin Baker, about coordinating an event on research access on your campus. Gavin is the author of the SPARC student campaign, a SPARC Innovator (<http://www.arl.org/sparc/innovator/index.html>), and a recent graduate of the University of Florida. Gavin may be reached through gavin@arl.org.

Visit the SPARC students Web site at <http://www.arl.org/sparc/students> to order or download these resources and to learn more about how your library might more effectively capture student attention, with insights from our student collaborators.

What to do next: Please join Gavin and I for a free Webcast to share ideas on how best to engage students on the topic of research access. Simply email me at jennifer@arl.org so I can send you the details.

The momentum behind student engagement on access to scholarship is steadily building. This month, the Student PIRGs released a joint statement with 1,000 faculty on the cost of textbooks. The leaders of several national student groups are talking now about a joint statement on their commitment to Open Access, which we hope will be released in time for another National Day of Action in the fall. (For background on all of these events, please see the *Right to Research Web site*).

Please join us in support of student engagement on this critical issue, and let us know how we can support you in moving forward. I’d look forward to hearing from you by phone or email. My contact information is below.

With thanks and best wishes,

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