These guides are tools designed for library leaders to use for organizing a summer- or semester-long discussion series. Each guide offers a brief scoping statement, a suggested reading or resource to review, and a set of discussion questions to launch an hour-long informal conversation among library staff.

revised May 2008

Developed by the Association of Research Libraries
Office of Scholarly Communication
The complete series is at www.arl.org/sc/brownbag/
Overview of the Library Brown Bag Lunch Series on Faculty Outreach: Issues in Scholarly Communication
(revised May 2008)

Background
An increasing number of librarians in many job categories are being asked to engage in outreach to campus faculty and others about scholarly communication issues.

Changes in the scholarly communication system encompass a range of issues. Faculty have their own perspectives on past and evolving scholarly communication issues.

A useful prelude to a formal program to increase campus conversations about scholarly communication is a set of informal conversations among library staff. One approach that some libraries have used is a series of brown bag lunches focused on a small set of scholarly communication topics. The brown bag format offers great flexibility—almost any staff member can host or lead a brown bag discussion and the informal nature of discussion creates opportunities to learn from peers and practice techniques for informed dialog.

Getting Organized
The discussion leader’s guides are tools designed for library leaders to use for organizing a summer or semester discussion series. Each guide offers a brief scoping statement, a suggested reading or resource for review, and a set of discussion questions to launch an hour-long informal conversation. Discussions of this kind can support staff development or serve as a starting point for a more tailored locally developed program of staff development and faculty outreach.

The discussion guides presume no special expertise on scholarly communication topics. A brown bag series could be led by a library director or organized by any staff member or group of staff with an interest in the subject matter. The only requirements are the willingness to organize the gatherings and facilitate each meeting’s discussion.

A Definition of Scholarly Communication
“In brief but often used terms, scholarly communication is the system of people, procedures, and tools through which the results of research and scholarship are registered, evaluated, disseminated, and preserved.”

— John Ober. Against the Grain 20, no.1 (February 2008)

Discussion Guides
- Launching the Conversation: How to Talk with Faculty
- How to Talk with Faculty II: Developing Strategies
- Increasing Access to Publicly Funded Research
- Author Rights: An Introductory Discussion
- Author Rights II: Institutional Strategies for Enhancing Rights Management
- The Changing Roles of Scholarly Societies in Knowledge Exchange
- Peer Review
- New Model Publications

Additional Resources

Create Change Web site
http://www.createchange.org

ARL Scholarly Communication Web site
http://www.arl.org/scomm/index.html

SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) Web site
http://www.arl.org/sparc/

SPARC Open Access Newsletter
http://www.arl.org/sparc/publications/soan.html

FAIR site of the ARL/ACRL Institute on Scholarly Communication
http://www.arl.org/fair/

ACRL's Scholarly Communications Toolkit
http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlissues/scholarlycomm/scholarlycommunicationtoolkit/toolkit.htm

CaRL News column on scholarly communication
http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlissues/scholarlycomm/scholcommcolumn.htm