Institute on Scholarly Communication

EXAMPLE ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN FROM A PUBLIC RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

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1.   Background

The Public Research U is a publicly supported comprehensive university comprising twelve faculties, twelve schools, almost 70 centres and institutes, four affiliated teaching hospitals, and national physics laboratory. Incorporated in 1908, PUBLIC RESEARCH U admitted its first students in 1915.

PUBLIC RESEARCH U offers credit instruction to about 41,000 undergraduate and graduate students each year via 1,970 full-time and approximately an equal number of part-time instructional staff. Non-credit registrations exceed 22,000 annually. PUBLIC RESEARCH U's annual external research funding exceeds $375 million; the university is consistently considered one of the top three research universities in our category.

PUBLIC RESEARCH U Library is the second largest research library in our nation. In 2004, PUBLIC RESEARCH U Library ranked in the top quartile among members of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the highest rank PUBLIC RESEARCH U has achieved. PUBLIC RESEARCH U Library has 22 branches and divisions. In addition to many locations at the main campus, there are three branches at teaching hospitals, one at PUBLIC RESEARCH U's downtown campus and one at PUBLIC RESEARCH U campus in another city in the region.

In 2004/05, Library staff consisted of 310 FTEs, including 73 librarians. Library operating expenditures were over $32 million (45% salaries & wages, 44% collections).
(Report of the University Librarian to the Senate, 2004-2005).

2. Institutional Environment

The level of awareness amongst our faculty is varied and is relative to both their subject discipline, their involvement in the OA movement, and their interest in the future of the digital library and digital scholarly resources. Most of our faculty are certainly aware of the escalating price of journal subscriptions, the differences between society and commercial publishers, the advent of SPARC supported journals and open access publishers. These issues largely came to forefront as a result of library/ faculty consultations during several rounds of print journal cancellations over the past ten years as well as our gradual move from print to online only journals in what has become known as our *Transition to Online* project. Similarly, many of our faculty are aware that the costs and the demand for e-resource access have affected the Library's monograph budget. It is not known how many of our faculty are aware

that this budgetary situation in libraries has had an impact on monograph publication and monograph publishers.

Faculty awareness of open access publishing, institutional repositories and emerging directions for the university library is also varied. Faculty, from PUBLIC RESEARCH U's Departments of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Computer Science and the School of Library and Archival Studies, have been actively involved with the Library's annual library hosted symposium series intended to explore future directions of the university research library. Faculty and students across our campus were invited to attend these events. The Digital Library and Institutional Repositories have been central topics at these events.

Several of our faculty participate in open access debates, the most well known has been a leader in developing digital publishing projects. Similarly, there are a large number of our faculty submitting articles to open access journals most notably in Biomed Central and PLoS. However, the results of a library survey on open access and institutional repositories, targeted to faculty and graduate students across our campus, clearly indicated that, while our faculty and students are keenly interested in the topic of open access and institutional repositories, they have, by and large, no extensive knowledge of the issues.

Recent library faculty advisory committee meetings and sporadic librarian conducted graduate student and faculty classes on the topic of Changes in Scholarly Communication and the Open Access Movement also revealed that while graduate students and faculty are clearly engaged by the topic, they knew little about the issues concerning journal publishing, problems with monograph publishing, author copyright transfer options, open access publishing and institutional repositories before the sessions.

3.   Preparedness

The Library's interest in Open Access (OA) is fairly recent in origin. An eLibrary Committee was established two years ago, and it provides leadership in this and other digital library areas. The eLibrary Committee formed two working groups last year, one to investigate the hosting of ejournals published on campus, and the other to investigate the creation of an institutional repository. Librarians from across the library system were involved in these two working groups.

An eLibrary forum for all staff was held recently to discuss scholarly communication and open access, the results of the Library's open access survey among faculty, and the plans for an institutional repository. A joint forum on open access and libraries was held last fall with PUBLIC RESEARCH U's Library School.

The Library established a new position for a Sciences Collections Librarian last year. The responsibilities of this position include a focus on changes in scholarly communications and the promotion of open access.

The deputy university librarian recently established three working groups consisting entirely of volunteers (librarians and support staff, 5 per group) to produce working papers on three topics of major importance to the future of libraries. One of these topics is 'the role of the library in scholarly research'. Working papers are to be presented by mid-September, will be discussed widely in the Library, and will serve as input for new policy directions.

4. Outreach Efforts

The Library's first outreach effort concerning the creating, protecting and sharing of digital scholarly resources can be traced back to 1995 when an advisory committee (PUBLIC RESEARCH U Advisory Committee on Information Technology (ACIT) reporting to University Senate was formed to develop policies with respect to rights and responsibilities associated with use and management of new electronic resources and technologies relative to scholarly publication. The membership of the committee was drawn from faculty, librarians, students and others.

In 1999 the PUBLIC RESEARCH U Library launched the first of four annual library symposiums. These events were intended to promote awareness and discussion of the evolution of the university-based research library, as our collections and services became more digital and network-oriented. At our fourth Symposium in 2002, the leader of an influential library organization and one of the most significant innovators in the history of computing, were invited to present their future vision for the networked university research library. We also organized two panels and a half-day workshop to explore and discuss the future of the Digital Library.

This last event led to a nation-wide three day institute hosted by the PUBLIC RESEARCH U Library. Among the participants were key faculty, librarians, archivists, and museum curators from universities, archives and museums across the country.

In subsequent years, a joint PUBLIC RESEARCH U Library/PUBLIC RESEARCH U Library School *Distinguished Speaker series* was instigated to promote awareness and education of emerging trends within the Library. Speakers from MIT's Institutional Repository program and SPARC were among the distinguished speakers invited to present.

More recently, in order to ascertain the level of awareness about both OA and institutional repositories, and to raise the profile of changes in scholarly communication in our community, the Library conducted a survey targeted at faculty and graduate students to determine their level of knowledge of open access and institutional repositories.

As mentioned earlier, our survey results, tabulated in December 2005, clearly showed that an outreach plan was in order to educate our faculty and students on the issues. To begin this discussion, the Sciences Collections Librarian and several science librarians attended 6 faculty library advisory meetings across the STM portfolio where we spoke about the survey results, changes in scholarly publishing, and the intention to launch an outreach program in the next year.

Some first steps to educating our community took place. A well attended session on aimed at graduate students was delivered in our library graduate advisory teaching series. The Sciences Collections Librarian, who conducted the session, offered the teaching template to other liaison librarians who then used it for some of their classes. (A more coordinated approach to educating our liaison librarians to conduct such outreach programs is expected to take place in the coming year.) In June of this year, several librarians prepared a poster session and a presentation on Open Access, the Library's OA ejournal hosting program, Institutional Repositories, and Changes in Scholarly Publishing at the University's annual one-day University conference focused on e-developments across the university.

5.   Investment

As a result of the eLibrary Committee working groups mentioned in point 3 above, the Library now hosts two OA ejournals published on campus. We are looking for additional candidates to include as part of this pilot project. There are no charges for hosting the ejournals for the first 2 years. As part of the pilot we make open source software available to ejournal editors to manage the whole journal publishing process.

We are also close to implementing an institutional repository pilot project using DSpace. A one-year half-time position will be posted to get the project off the ground. There is a lot of interest in the project, and library staff have been invited to indicate their interest in getting involved in various aspects of the project.

The Sciences Collections Librarian together with the Collections Advisory Committee is developing a scholarly communications web site.

The Library supports OA publishing, e.g. via memberships of SPARC, BMC, and PLoS. We also make OA journals available via the Library web site by linking to individual titles in the Directory of Open Access Journals, and others.

The Library will participate in a national collaborative library project to transform scholarly publishing from print to digital, particularly in the social sciences and humanities.