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.

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Developed by the Association of Research Libraries
Office of Scholarly Communication
The complete series is at www.arl.org/sc/brownbag/

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Author Rights II: Institutional Strategies for Enhancing Rights Management

Discussion Leader's Guide (May 2008)

Each brown bag session provides an opportunity for participants to deepen their understanding of a particular set of issues involved in the changing processes of scholars' communication efforts. This guide is designed for a simple hour-long lunchtime discussion. Prework will be essential in creating common ground and providing a foundation for the conversation. Distribute the assignment at least a week prior to the session. A list of discussion questions are arranged in sequence below, but feel free to skip some if you want to spend more time on particular questions. It is not necessary to distribute the questions before the session; however, if you think it would be helpful to your group in launching discussion, consider sharing a couple of the questions in advance.

Scoping Statement

As noted in “Author Rights: An Introductory Discussion,” the management of author rights is one of the hottest topics within the arena of scholarly communication. Two developments occurring early in 2008 have made it even more engaging. In January, the National Institutes of Health announced a new Public Access Policy. Complying with the policy requires funded authors to pay careful attention to their management of their copyrights in articles based on their funded research. The Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) announced a new policy for faculty management of their copyrights in journal articles. Unless a special exemption for an article is requested, they grant a Harvard a limited right to store and make their work globally available. As leaders within the academy suddenly begin thinking about appropriate policies for copyright management, the more sophisticated discussion of author rights is developing.

Goals

Participants will deepen their understanding of issues surrounding author copyright management.

Participants will prepare to discuss with faculty the role and value of institutional strategies supporting author rights management.

Optional Tools for Facilitating Discussion

• A flip chart or white board for brainstorming and gathering responses, particularly for the later questions.

Prework for Participants

(Distribute prior to the session.)

Further Reading


Discussion Questions

<r What is the difference between an author simply retaining deposit rights in a publication agreement and authors granting a limited license to use the work to their institution prior to submitting the manuscript for review?

<r What are some of the advantages for faculty members when their employer creates a policy automatically granting the institution a limited license to keep a copy of a work and make it available?

<r What concerns might scholars and researchers have about being subject to a requirement like this?

<r What are the pros and cons of pursuing a faculty-led approach develop an institutional policy? Seeking a policy developed by campus administration? Are there other options?

<r What kinds of roles can libraries play in encouraging the creation of an institutional policy on author rights management?

<r What kinds of support might researchers at your institution need if an institution-wide rights management policy were to be created?
