



ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES



Association of College  
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A Division of the American Library Association

## Institute on Scholarly Communication

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### ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN EXERCISE

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#### Introduction:

All participants accepted for the Institute on Scholarly Communication's three day program development event perform an environmental scan assessing their local environment. The scan is completed prior to attending the institute and is shared with other participants and institute faculty.

Institute participants regularly comment on the usefulness of the exercise and it's value, particularly for teams, in identifying previous progress and building a shared understanding of their own and others' readiness for outreach around scholarly communication issues.

The institute sponsors believe that this exercise can be of broader utility beyond the context of institute preparation and are making it publicly available.

In addition, three institutions participating in the July 2006 have agreed to share their environmental scan documents as examples. Identifying details have been removed, but the set encompasses a large research institution, a masters-level public institution, and a private liberal arts college. All three examples are also available on the institute's public web site.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

*For the environmental scan please write at least two pages and up to five addressing the points below and any others that seem important to keep track of in describing your current campus environment. For teams, please work together to prepare a single environmental scan.*

Please answer the following questions:

1. **Background:** Describe your institution with regard to its faculty, mission, student body, library collections, etc. (1 paragraph minimum, 1 page maximum)
2. **Institutional Environment:** How aware are faculty of issues such as problems with journal publishing, problems with monograph publishing, author copyright transfer options, how commercial publisher practices differ from not for profit publisher practices, open access journals, institutional or disciplinary repositories, etc.? (Talk about which issues seem to be of greatest visibility on your campus now.)



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3. **Preparedness:** What has your library been doing to build understanding of scholarly communication issues and faculty perspectives among its own staff?
4. **Outreach Efforts:** What has your library been doing to actively work with faculty to raise awareness of scholarly communication issues and build support for actions that could improve the system of scholarly communication? (How are they responding?)
5. **Investment:** What has your library been doing to promote new models of scholarly communication such as new forms of publishing, use of open access journals, promotion of institutional or disciplinary repositories, etc.



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