



ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES



Association of College
& Research Libraries
A Division of the American Library Association

Institute on Scholarly Communication

OPPORTUNITY ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT

Introduction:

All participants accepted for the Institute's three day program development event are encouraged to work with a selected department to complete an opportunity assessment 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 in highlighting the kind of information that is useful but usually not gathered regularly. The instrument often identifies previously unrecognized possibilities for library engagement with change in the discipline. The opportunity assessment also conveys the library's interest and expertise in scholarly communication issues and provides an opening for discussion and exploration of the scholarly communication landscape of a particular discipline with a faculty member in a department.

The instrument was developed by institute faculty member, Lee Van Orsdel, Dean of University Libraries, Grand Valley State University, who has generously agreed to share the instrument beyond the context of the institute's outreach program development event.

Using the Instrument:

Read through the Opportunity Assessment Instrument and select an academic department on your campus for the assessment. Complete as much of the Instrument as you can.

The purpose of the exercise is to help you look for openings—promising areas where the faculty might be willing to explore new behaviors or to learn more about the scholarly communication issues they see as having relevance or urgency.

Feel free to pick and choose the elements of the Assessment Instrument you want to complete. It's designed as a working tool that can be tailored to a given campus or academic department

Please note and remember any difficulties/discomfort you have getting the information or completing the inventory form. These could be indicators of areas where you need to increase you own knowledge or understanding of issues or may be struggling to embrace a new perspective on familiar issues.