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Open Access and the Future of Scholarly Communication: Implementation

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OPEN ACCESS AND THE FUTURE OF SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION:

IMPLEMENTATION. Kevin L. Smith and Katherine A. Dickson, Eds. *Lanham, MD: Rowman &*

Littlefield Publishers, 2016, 329 pp., ISBN: 978-1-4422-7503-4, $45.00, e-book ISBN: 978-1-4422-

7504-1, $42.00.

As efforts to advance open access (OA) and develop scholarly communication programs

become increasingly pervasive in academic libraries, there is a pressing need for scholarship on the

diverse ways that librarians are responding to this trend and the practical issues and challenges they

encounter in implementing related programs and services. This volume is the tenth in the series

Creating the 21st-Century Academic Library, and the second of two volumes that address the topic of

OA in academic libraries. In contrast to the preceding volume - which focuses on OA advocacy,

related political and policy concerns, and requisite technical infrastructure - this volume takes a close

look at core and emerging themes and issues that arise in the practice of scholarly communication

professionals.

The 15 chapters of the book are grouped loosely around five different themes. The first three

chapters focus on copyright and intellectual property concerns related to author rights-retention, the

rhetoric of "protection," and the open distribution of student work. Chapters 4, 5, and 6 explore

opportunities and challenges related to three emerging service areas for scholarly communication

programs: campus OA publishing funds, open educational resource (OER) advocacy, and alternative

impact metrics. OA and undergraduate research is the focus of Chapters 7, 8, and 9, with attention

paid to engaging undergraduates in conversations about OA, supporting the open publication of

undergraduate work, and using the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy to further

undergraduates' understanding, use, and creation of OA resources. In Chapters 10, 11, and 12, the

authors explore important concerns around OA to graduate research, including the development of

electronic thesis and dissertation (ETD) programs, graduate students' anxieties over the consequences

of openness, and practical recommendations for easing these anxieties. The final three chapters

examine different strategies for advancing the cause of open data, including open government data

and related library services, OA to bibliographic metadata, and text mining of data underlying homegrown digital collections.

Overall, the book provides admirable coverage of the topics under discussion, with many superb contributions from leading voices in the field. The expertise of the editors is evident in the logical organization of the different chapters, flawless writing, and extensive index. One of the main strengths of the book is its in-depth treatment of specific themes and topics, particularly with respect to copyright and related legal concerns, emerging service areas for scholarly communication programs, and engagement with undergraduate and graduate students. By covering these topics in detail, the book provides a wealth of practical insights that are directly relevant to the work of scholarly communication professionals.

That said, this strength could also be a weakness for readers who are looking for a more comprehensive overview of core scholarly communication work areas, including institutional repository management, publishing services, and research data management services. Some of these work areas are addressed in more detail in the preceding volume of this series, which may explain why they are not prominent in the volume at hand. Nonetheless, while the book does cover topics related to these areas, the coverage is neither systematic nor comprehensive. Given that all of the authors are based at U.S. institutions, it is also worth noting that the coverage is focused on the North American context and may not be as relevant to practitioners in other parts of the world.

All told, the book makes an important contribution to the existing scholarship on OA in academic libraries and will be of great interest and value both to practicing scholarly communication professionals and to other academic librarians who are involved in scholarly communication initiatives. The book will also be of interest to library administrators and LIS students and professors, although the in-depth, practical focus of the contributions may lead these audiences to prefer more general treatments of the topics under discussion. Making the book available in academic libraries will directly benefit practitioners, teachers, and learners who have a strong interest in open access, scholarly communication, and the practical concerns of promoting the ongoing transition to more open forms of scholarship.

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