

INFORMATION LINKS

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE EVANS LIBRARY
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FROM THE DEAN'S DESK - SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING IN PERIODICALS – PART 2: Paradoxes, Players, and Points of View

Research faculty submit articles to publishers; provide editing and peer review services at no cost; may relinquish rights to their scholarship; may pay page and illustration charges – in exchange for publication. University libraries buy back from publishers what they already own – at exorbitant prices.

Taxpayers fund government-sponsored research and pay again to read the outcomes of research. The public pays for what it already owns.

These paradoxical buy-backs at increasing costs prompt libraries, faculty, governments, individuals, professional societies, and even publishers to foment reform or outright revolution in the scholarly journal publishing industry.

Angels or devils, depending on points of view, these stakeholders exert pressure, like tectonic plates, to determine who pays and how much, to publish and to gain access to the outcomes of scholarly research. Should research results be free and accessible in "humanity's knowledge commons"? Or will they be "gradually confiscated for the benefit of smaller and smaller scientific and business elites"? (Guedon)*.

Commercial publishers dominate the 'conventional' publishing market. In an uncompetitive market, they will increase the prices of their journals and market share by starting new journals and buying journals from scholarly societies. If libraries cancel subscriptions, publishers will recover lost revenue through higher rates to other institutions (or to the same institutions for retained subscriptions).

Scholarly and professional societies depend on their library subscriptions revenue stream to subsidize many activities in addition to publishing journals. Elizabeth Marincola, Executive Director of the American Society for Cell Biology, argues that society publishers should break their dependence on library subscriptions (Marincola, 2000). Clifford Lynch, Director of the Coalition for Networked Information, argues that universities "should not subsidize the works of scholarly societies through library acquisition budgets" (Hepfer, 2004).

A few individuals have developed scholarly publishing alternatives. Harold E. Varmus, Nobel Prize winning president of Memorial-Sloan Kettering Center, and founder of the Public Library of Science, is considered "the most prominent leader of the so-called open-access movement" and open access is believed to be "the most articulate and serious threat to the conventional publishing model that we've seen" (Guterman, 2004). Foundations have invested millions to fund open access initiatives to create competition and to exert downward pressure on commercially published journal subscription prices.

Open access makes articles freely available to the public on the Internet. Authors or research sponsors pay an article charge to the electronic publisher. Authors pay Public Library of Science \$1,500 for each peer-reviewed, electronically published article. Authors in member institutions receive discounts. Authors pay \$300-\$1500 per article for publication by BioMed Central. Fees are waived for BioMed Central member institutions.

NIH policy, a government initiative, recommends that authors deposit their articles in the National Library of Medicine open repository, PubMed Central, within a year of publication. Public pressure is mounting to require that publications resulting from publicly funded research be openly accessible without embargo.

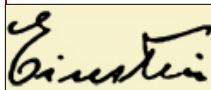
The Co-Library of the campuses of the University of California is an example of an institutional electronic repository of working papers, pre-publications, and research reports (McKiernan, 2003). About 434 open access archives have been established worldwide, the CERN archive being one of the largest and fastest-growing. MIT's DSpace is an open-source software product for institutional archiving.

Library initiatives include the Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), an alliance of about 200 universities, research libraries, and organizations worldwide, established to create new electronic journals to compete with commercial publications. SPARC intends "to create a more competitive scholarly communication marketplace in which prices are lower, quality is enhanced, and publisher responsiveness to market needs is rewarded" (SPARC, 1998).

Florida Tech and the Evans Library are stakeholders and participants. How? Tune in next month . . .

*Sources are available on request

DISPLAYS



"Still 'Miraculous' After All These Years", the Library's Einstein display, continues to be improved and enhanced! This display now features a signed, first edition of *Relativity: The Special and General Theory*. This 1920 publication was lent to the Library by Dr. Terry Oswalt, Vice Provost for Research and Professor of Physics & Space Sciences. Commemorating the World Year of Physics 2005, the display celebrates the 100th anniversary of what has been termed Albert Einstein's "miraculous" year. In 1905, he published three of the physics world's major works, his papers on special relativity, Brownian motion, and the photoelectric effect. From now through October, visitors may visit the first-floor lobby to review this collection of books, government documents, videocassettes, Internet sites, and periodical articles and may also visit the display's Web version in the LINK's Library News – Library Displays section.



Continuing through September is the Library's "A History of Radio" lobby display. Offering a variety of available books, journal articles, government documents, and Internet site resources, this display also showcases a sampling of vintage radios and original sound bites from the early years of radio. Its colorful Web version can also be found in the LINK's Library News – Library Displays section.

Also continuing this month is a timely third-floor display of government information on "Natural Disasters."

UPCOMING SPECIAL HOURS

Through Friday, August 5, the Library will continue to observe its summer hours, which are:

Monday – Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday
2:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Beginning Saturday, August 6, and through Sunday, August 21, the Library will observe the following break hours:

Monday – Friday
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday
CLOSED

When classes begin on Monday, August 22, the library will be open its normal semester hours. These are:

Monday – Thursday
8:00 a.m. – midnight

Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday
10:00 a.m. – midnight

The Library will be closed Monday, September 5, in keeping with the campus Labor Day holiday.



Nate Hosburgh



Shane Santana

WELCOME!

The Library welcomes two new Service Desk staff, Nathan Hosburgh and Shane Santana. Nate has a bachelor's degree in psychology, with a minor in business administration. He comes to Florida Tech with experience in academic and public libraries, as well as in teaching. Shane's bachelor's is in politics and government. Aside from his previous work in both academic and public libraries, he has recent experience in community corrections.