

Report of the Library Affairs Committee Meeting to the IFC
May 7, 2013

The IUPUI Library Affairs Committee wishes to update the IFC (and, through you, the faculty) of two important initiatives, and to ask your help/suggestions in their implementation.

1. The first is a projected **survey** by the library of IUPUI faculty, regarding the extent to which they currently publish in and use Open Access Journals as well as other open access distribution venues. The survey team has received permission to use the survey instrument developed by the University of Toronto, with the necessary modifications for IUPUI, and IRB approval paperwork is presently being completed. They hope to start the survey this summer continuing into fall, and to have results by fall. The Library Affairs Committee asks the IFC to help circulate an announcement to the faculty in their respective schools and to urge them to participate in the survey when it arrives.
2. This fall, the library will conduct a **pilot project to support article processing fees** for those authors submitting articles to open access journals. Faculty in the schools of Medicine, Law and Dentistry would not be eligible, since these schools do not pay university taxes for the support of the library. The library would ask for a match from participating schools (e.g. 25% from the school and 75% from the library) for each author applying for these funds. There are still several issues that need to be ironed out – for example, co-authors and whether the research was grant-funded. This pilot project would be followed by next year’s Library Affairs Committee, prior to making a recommendation to the IFC that such a fund be set up permanently and funded by the University.

Rationale:

The Library Affairs Committee’s role is to facilitate faculty and student research and to protect faculty going up for Promotion and/or Tenure. Two main and related sea changes are currently occurring in the way research is disseminated and accessed:

1. The consolidation of academic journal publishing in 3 or 4 large international corporations (Elsevier, Springer, etc.), and the consequent rise in cost at twice the rate of inflation. For example, the School of Science journal budget at IUPUI is \$900,000 per year and rising. This interacts with economic pressures to contain (or even reduce) the budget of university responsibility centers.
2. In response to #1, above, “Open Access” journals are springing up. Some of these (for example, PLoS) are quite respected and successful, others are “predatory publishers,” taking authors’ fees but not disseminating their work in an adequate manner. OA journals work as follows:
 - a. There are no subscription fees. Any user can access the published materials, which are usually available only online.
 - b. Submitted manuscripts are peer reviewed in the normal fashion (at least in the non-predatory OA journals)
 - c. Some OA journals make the money they need to operate by charging an author’s fee, which may be as high as \$1,500. Others are sponsored by academic institutions for the research of their faculty.

For further information see the Directory of Open Access Journals <http://www.doaj.org/>

Also, see Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open-access_journal