WIU Open Access Task Force
Report of Activities
About the Open Access Task Force

• Established by act of the Illinois General Assembly & signed by Governor Quinn August 9, 2013.

• Requires state universities to set up Task Forces to “review current practices and design a proposed policy regarding open access to research articles, based on criteria that are specific to each public university's needs.”
About the Open Access Task Force

• Task Force requirements:
  o Consider how the university can advance the open access goals.
  o Review how peer institutions and the federal government are addressing open access issues.
  o Ensure that institutional or statewide policies are consistent with these agencies.
About the Open Access Task Force

• Requirements, continued:
  o Consider academic, legal, ethical, and fiscal ramifications of, and questions, regarding an open access policy.
  o Report their findings and recommendations to the Legislature by January 1, 2015.
WIU Intellectual Property Policy

• Board of Trustees Bylaws & Regulations Section II. A17, part C.
• “Copyrightable works created using University resources usually and customarily provided (including internally funded grants) are owned by the creators.”
• “Works owned by the author may be copyrighted, published, and distributed by the author, or by others to whom the author has assigned such rights.”
• Also includes language about patents.
What Is Open Access?
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• The practice of providing free, unrestricted access to research results and literature.
• Open access means that scholarly articles can be read by anyone at any time without having to go to a library that subscribes to a journal or requesting it through Interlibrary Loan.
• Can include other works: theses, dissertations, photographs, artistic works, data, etc.
What is Open Access?

• A new model of scholarly publishing that frees researchers and libraries from limitations imposed by subscription prices for peer-reviewed journals.

• OA breaks the monopoly of commercial publishers by making information access more equitable.

• Allows authors to maintain control of the copyright of their work.
Open Access Models
Open Access Models

- Gold Open Access - author or institution pay a fee to publishers, who make peer-reviewed articles on their web sites available to all. Fees vary from minimal to nearly $5000 per article.
  - Gold Open Access could cost WIU at least $220,000 a year, probably more.
Open Access Models

• Green Open Access - author or institution archive peer-reviewed articles in open digital repositories as pre-prints or post-prints.
  o Pre-print – article that has been submitted but not peer-reviewed.
  o Post-Print – article that has been submitted, peer-reviewed and accepted for publication (not the publisher’s version).
Many publishers allow authors to place accepted versions of manuscripts in Institutional Repositories.
Why is Open Access Important?

- Research performed at public institutions is funded by taxes (salaries, facilities & grants).
- Articles describing results are submitted to journals (for free), selected by editors (who are not paid), peer-reviewed (for free) and published in journals, which are then sold back to university libraries.
- The cost of journal subscriptions has increased over 450% since 1986, much more than the rate of inflation (100%).
Open Access Myths
An Open Access policy means that I can only publish in open access journals, many of which are not as prestigious as others in my field.

• Open access can be provided by:
  o Paying a fee to a publisher to make an article openly accessible (Gold Open Access).
  o Providing access to a preprint or postprint of an article on the author’s website or in a repository (Green Open Access).
  o Publishing in an open access journal.
I have to pay a fee to make my article openly accessible

• In 2012, WIU authors published 198 articles in 164 different journals from 100 different publishers. Of those articles:
  o 106 (64.6 %) have some sort of Open Access option:
    o 93 (56.7 %) allow authors to place preprints on their website or in their institution’s repository.
    o 106 (64.6 %) allow authors to place postprints on their website or in their institution’s repository (Green Open Access).
I have to pay a fee to make my article openly accessible (continued)

- 16 (9.7 %) were published in open access journals.
- 75 (37.9 %) of the journals did not provide any information on open access, open access fees or whether authors could archive pre-prints and post-prints.
- 1 (0.5 %) does not have an open access option.
The law infringes on my academic freedom

• Grant-making agencies and organizations already impose requirements:
  o The National Institutes of Health requires that publications resulting from research that they fund through their grants be made publicly accessible within a year of publication
  o The National Science Foundation is requiring that primary data be shared.
  o Federal agencies must develop plans to provide public access to research and data resulting from their grants.
Implications

• WIU should consider developing and maintaining an institutional repository to collect scholarly publications authored by WIU Faculty and Staff.

• Could also collect and offer access to other works:
  o Theses & Dissertations.
  o Honors projects.
  o Photographs & artistic works.
  o Data.
Benefits

• Increase visibility of WIU’s scholarly & creative activity (can be found with Internet search engines).
• All research results will be permanently accessible and archived.
• Permanent location for scholarly work.
• Easily shared with students and colleagues.
Open Access Task Force Report

Report is at:
http://wiu.libguides.com/OAWIU

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Questions