

WIU Open Access Task Force Report



Introduction

- Public Act 98-0295 was passed by the Illinois Legislature in 2013 and signed by the Governor August 9, 2013.
- It states “*published research articles produced by faculty at public universities should be made as widely available as possible.*”



Public Act 98-0295 Requirements

- Appoint an Open Access to Research Task Force that will "consider how the university can best further the open access goals laid out in" the Act.
- “Review how peer institutions and the federal government are addressing issues related to open access.”



Public Act 98-0295 Requirements

- “Ensure that any institutional or statewide policies are consistent with steps taken by federal grant-making agencies.”
- “Consider academic, legal, ethical, and fiscal ramifications of and questions regarding an open access policy.”
- Submit a report to the Legislature & Governor by January 1, 2015.



Public Act 98-0295 Requirements

- Reports must address 10 issues, which are outlined in the Law.
- Task Force must also “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.”



Task Force Operation

- Divided into working groups to address issues required by the law.
- Wrote up summaries based on discussions with faculty groups, Department chairs & Personnel Committees.



Task Force Operation

- Requested and researched information on factors influencing:
 - Publishing in disciplines.
 - Selection of a publication medium.
 - Choice between an open access medium or a traditional publishing venue?
- Issues with a possible mandated open access policy.
- Issues with a possible university repository for open access publications.



Issues & Conclusions



How to preserve scholar's academic freedom to publish as they wish while providing public access to research

- In order to preserve academic freedom, any open access policy adopted at Western Illinois University should allow authors the choice to opt in or out of the policy and any associated distribution procedures on a case-by-case or work-by-work basis.



Design of a copyright policy that meets the needs of the public as well as of authors and publishers

- The WIU Intellectual Property statement in the Board of Trustees Regulations ensures that authors will retain rights to their works.
- It does not limit or restrict where or in what form authors' works can be distributed.



Design of a copyright policy that meets the needs of the public as well as of authors and publishers

- The proposed Open Access Policy and related procedures are consistent with WIU's intellectual property and copyright policies.
- It will provide authors an additional means to distribute their works.



Design of reporting, oversight, and enforcement mechanisms

- Electronic Theses & Dissertation submission
- Author Bibliography
- Authors can be asked to voluntarily submit either a record of their publications with a request to opt-out of the repository, or a pre-print or post-print of their work to be included in a repository.
- PAA was considered and eliminated.



Cost of maintaining and . . . creating institutional repositories

- Establishing a repository will require:
 - Technical personnel to develop, run, maintain and customize a repository.
 - Librarians & Clerical staff.
 - Equipment (server and storage space).
 - Software.



Cost of maintaining and . . . creating institutional repositories

- Funding will be needed to support:
 - Technical and staffing needs of an Institutional Repository.
 - Gold open access fees.
- The Task Force agrees that funding for this mandate should not be taken from the Libraries' materials budget.



Issues 5 & 6

- The potential for collaboration between public universities regarding the use and maintenance of repositories.
- The potential use of existing scholarly repositories.
- Not addressed (requires input from other universities and/or groups).



Fiscal feasibility . . . benefits and drawbacks . . . of institutional support for Gold open access fees

- Gold Open Access (where publication costs are covered by author fees rather than by subscription or advertising fees) could cost more than \$220,000 a year, although some publishers will waive these fees on a case-by-case basis.



Differences between academic & publishing practices in different fields and how these differences should be reflected in an open access policy

- Research & scholarship needs and value systems vary among Departments.
- Acceptance of electronic communication varies.
- Peer-review is important and should be maintained.



Differences between academic & publishing practices in different fields and how these differences should be reflected in an open access policy

- Publication in open access journals should not be mandated.
- The decision to include information in the repository, or to provide complete open access to the publication, should be left to the authors.



Which version of a research article should be made publicly accessible

- Only the final version (post-print) of a research article (or other text-based publication) should be made publicly accessible.
- Items that are not provided through the published article should not be made publicly accessible.



Which researchers and which research ought to be covered by an open access policy

- Students' theses and dissertations.
- Research conducted by State Agency employees.
- Research supported or sponsored by State grants.
- Published research of WIU faculty, including part-time, adjunct and non-permanent faculty.
- Research for which at least one of the co-authors is covered by the policy.
- Some consideration should be given to including Honor's Theses & papers.
- Authors should be able to opt out.



Open Access Policy

- Illinois Public Act 98-0295 includes the following statement:
- “The task force shall 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.”



Proposed Open Access Policy

- Copy of the proposed open access policy is available separately.
- Also available on the website.



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Questions & Discussion

