

Open Access to Research Task Force  
Open Forum  
Tuesday, 11/18/14

Minutes

Committee members in attendance: Michael Lorenzen, Linda Zellmer, Dale Adkins, Lisa Miczo, Robert Hironimus-Wendt

Michael welcomed everyone (six people attended at the Macomb campus, 1 person attended in the QC). He hoped that everyone had a chance to review the report; and he reminded everyone that we were not asked to set policy for this, but to provide a report to the Governor and General Assembly. All public state universities were also asked to provide reports to the Governor by January 1. Due to technical difficulties, Linda Zellmer read the PowerPoint presentation of the overview of the law, the committee's charge and conclusions. The PowerPoint was also made available on the website: <http://wiu.libguides.com/OAWIU>

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**Q/C:** Simon Cordery (Department of History) asked about the definition of WIU research? If he hires someone right before their research is to go to press would they fall under this policy?

**A:** Michael stated that the individual would have the option to opt in or opt out regardless if they were employed by WIU.

**Q/C:** Esteban Araya (Department of Physics) asked if a masters' student's thesis could be kept from being available through open access.

**A:** Linda indicated that it is possible to embargo the work (i.e. make it available in-house, not available as full-text). There are options with the embargo so that no one can view the full text for one to two years. And there are options to request that the embargo be lengthened so that the article does not appear in full-text until the time of publication. That also protects other types of work such as patents.

**Q/C:** He also asked what is the mechanism for this?

**A:** Jeanne Stierman mentioned that when students submit their thesis or dissertation that is when they have options. If we were to make it open access, that would be the time the student could opt in or embargo it. Every student would have the option to opt in to having their thesis or dissertation included in the repository, embargo the work for a period of time, or opt out.

**Q/C:** Jeff Laurent (Department of Psychology) asked if the option to opt out defeats the whole purpose of the act.

**A:** Michael indicated that yes, maybe it does, but it will be beneficial for most to opt in since people will be able to find full-text works through internet searches. The more times work is cited the better. He feels that it is something that most people are going to want to do, but we cannot mandate this as it would be an infringement on academic freedom.

**Q/C:** He also noted that through his field most people publish in the American Psychological Association Journal; and it costs about \$39 for copyright fees to access one of these articles. How would WIU or any university address this? Robert mentioned that we have to remember that this process was mandated by the state for each university to come up with a model that it thinks would serve the institution best.

At some point these models will be developed at the state level. We (the committee) felt this was the model that would work best for our faculty, giving them the maximum amount of freedom. If a journal embargos an article and refuses to give us the right to publish it, we still have the pre-publication draft. We would be in a position to put this into the repository. Linda pulled up the open access policy for the American Psychological Association from their website; and their policy states that authors can post the submitted article to their website. Once the article is published the author can put the post-print up on their website, but the author must state that APA has the copyright to the document. Some scholarly organizations allow, after a set time limit, the author to put up a post-print. It varies among publishers.

**Q/C:** He also commented that APA has never had a problem if an author has their own personal website where they can post their own articles. Is there any way the repository can have items linked to these sites.

**A:** Robert reminded everyone that the mandate comes from the state and we are all state employees. The state wants all of our works to be available to the citizens of Illinois. The bottom line is whether an employee's obligation is to the state of Illinois or APA? If the state mandates that we must make available our materials, then we have to do it. If, on the other hand, the state makes this opt in or opt out (which is what we are striving for), then it comes onto the author's shoulders whether to submit or not. We would prefer to have one state repository, instead of separate repositories for each school; however, there wasn't much opposition to the idea of a repository.

**Q/C:** Basically, this is another unfunded mandate.

**A:** Linda indicated that yes it is. She had input on the law when it was being considered and she pointed out that open access would cost in funding for hardware, software, staffing, etc. at that time.

**Q/C:** Tom Finley (QC Library) asked if the \$220,000 figure that Linda provided is the yearly cost.

**A:** Linda confirmed that it would be the annual costs, but that was only for 67% of the articles from the Author's Bibliography. She could not find information on the rest. Robert added that the committee made it clear that we did not want this being funded by WIU Libraries.

Michael thanked to everyone for attending and apologized for the technical difficulties. Minutes from the open sessions as well as the final report draft are available on the website.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lora Adcock, Recording secretary