

## Scholarly Communications

What is Scholarly Communications? It is the system through which research and other scholarly writings are created, evaluated for quality, disseminated to the scholarly community, and preserved for future use.

([www.ala.org/acrl/nili/ilist1st.html](http://www.ala.org/acrl/nili/ilist1st.html)) Scholarly communication has been impacted by shrinking library materials budgets, increasing journal subscription prices and the demand for electronic scholarly material. The present state of scholarly publishing affects library collections in terms of serial reviews, journal cancellations and publisher negotiations.

This guide aims to offer avenues to understand the current issues affecting scholarly communication, suggested literature about the topic and encourage a reevaluation or reform of participation for future submissions of scholarly research.

## Organizations and Associations

- **Association of College & Research Libraries' Scholarly Communications Toolkit**  
<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/crlnews/backissues2005/march05/scholarlycommtoolkit.htm> - "ACRL's initiative to partner with library and higher education organizations to encourage reform in the system of scholarly communication."
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- **Association of Research Libraries (ARL)**  
<http://www.arl.org/osc/index.html>- "Association of Research Libraries site covers of concern to the Office of Scholarly Communication (OSC). This site is divided into five major sections: electronic publishing, intellectual property, libraries and consortia, Office of Scholarly Communication, and links to scholarly communications resources."
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- **Create Change** <http://www.arl.org/create/home.html> -"This site addresses the present crisis in scholarly communication from both a librarian and faculty perspective. Sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries, Association of College and Research Libraries, and Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)."
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- **Scholarly Electronic Publishing Bibliography**  
<http://www.arl.org/osc/index.html>- "This extensive "bibliography presents selected articles, books, electronic documents, and other sources that are useful in understanding scholarly electronic publishing efforts on the Internet and other networks. The table of contents includes economic issues; electronic books and texts; library issues; electronic serials; general works; legal issues such as intellectual property rights; license agreements; new publishing models; and publisher issues."

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- **SPARC Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition**  
<http://www.arl.org/sparc/> - "An alliance of universities, research libraries, and organizations, SPARC is an initiative of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) started in 1997 to be a constructive response to market dysfunctions in the scholarly communication system. SPARC's agenda focuses on enhancing broad and cost-effective access to peer-reviewed scholarship."

## Electronic Journals

- **BioMed Central**  
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/about/advocacy> - "A links page of resources to promote change in scholarly communication through adoption of open access research journals."
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- **Open Directory of Journals** <http://www.doaj.org/> - "This reference covers free, full text, quality controlled scientific and scholarly journals in all subjects and languages."
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- **Public Library of Science (PLoS)**  
<http://clinicaltrials.plosjournals.org/#> - "The Public Library of Science (PLoS) is a non-profit organization of scientists and physicians committed to making the world's scientific and medical literature a freely available public resource. The five open source journals include biology, medicine, computational biology, genetics and pathogens."
- **Project Euclid**  
<http://projecteuclid.org/Dienst/UI/1.0/PubSort> - Cornell University Library launched Project Euclid as an initiative to advance effective and affordable scholarly communication in theoretical and applied mathematics and statistics. There are open access journals as well as partially accessible and subscription journals listed.

## Toolkits

- **Scholarly Communications Toolkit**  
<http://www.acrl.org/ala/acrl/acrlissues/scholarlycomm/scholarlycommunicationtoolkit/toolkit.htm> - "An ACRL toolkit designed to support advocacy efforts that work toward changing the scholarly communication system and to provide information on scholarly communication issues for librarians, faculty, academic administrators, and other campus stakeholders."

## Articles

- ***The Bewildering New World of Scholarly Communication: Helping Faculty Understand the Issues***  
<http://www.acrl.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/crlnews/backissues2003/april1/bewilderingnew.htm>- "This report is offered as one such example of a productive alliance between librarians and faculty members to initiate an informational program at Rutgers University about scholarly communication issues." (April 2003)
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- ***Building A New Future: "Preparing New Faculty" and "Responsible Conduct of Research" programs as a venue for scholarly communication discussions*** <http://www.ala.org/ACRLPrinterTemplate.cfm?Section=october05&Template=/ContentManagement/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=108145> - How can campus conversations be shifted from the cost of journals to the benefit of scholarly communication, from library to scholar, from consumption of scholarly information to production, and from access to dissemination? Two authors, Richard Fyffe and Scott Walter, discuss an effective approach at the University of Kansas to promote discussions of the scholarly communication environment among the graduate student and faculty audiences. (October 2005)
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- ***The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition: An Evolving Agenda***  
<http://www.acrl.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/crlnews/backissues2006/february06/evolvingsparc.htm> -SPARC's Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition director highlights some of the organization's initiatives upon her July 2005 tenure. (February 2005)
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- ***SPARC and ACRL: Working Together to Reform Scholarly Communication***  
<http://www.acrl.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/crlnews/backissues2002/october/sparcacrl.htm>- "ACRL and the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) have worked closely together since SPARC's inception. As the two organizations move forward to achieve the goal of reforming scholarly communication, and as the ACRL Scholarly Communication Committee outlines its own objectives for the future, this article describes the ways SPARC expects to develop." (October 2002)

## Presentations

- ***Market Remedies: The Role of Open Access Publishing***  
<http://www.arl.org/sparc/oa/docs/02-05IAA.htm> - Rick Johnson, SPARC Director, discusses remedies for journal publishing market more specifically science, technical and medical journals. (February 2005)

- **Open Access: Unlocking the Value of Research**  
<http://www.arl.org/sparc/oa/docs/01-03osu/index.htm>  
SPARC Communications Manager, Richard K. Johnson, presents three ways to enhance scholarly communication. (January 2003)