Investigating the scholarly communications needs of faculty at the University of Saskatchewan:

Is there a role for the University Library?

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“Scholarly communication can be defined as ...

the system through which research and other scholarly writings are created, evaluated for quality, disseminated to the scholarly community, and preserved for future use...”

Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
http://www.arl.org/focus-areas/scholarly-communication
Scholarly communication is changing fast: 

Technology
Scholarly communication is changing fast:

**Environment**

- New publishing formats and economic models for journal publishing
- Funder & institutional mandates on access and archiving
- New forms of peer review and impact metrics
- Rise of social media; scholarly networking sites
- **OPEN ACCESS (OA)**
Role of Academic Libraries

• 2012 ARL survey¹
  – 93% involved in scholarly communications services
  – Libraries “overwhelmingly” the leaders in the institutions on this topic

• 2009 survey of CARL libraries²
  – Majority of libraries involved in OA-related educational activities
Role of Academic Libraries

• Examples of services to support researchers:
  – Institutional repositories (IRs)
  – E-publication hosting and support
  – OA publication funds; memberships
  – Education/awareness-raising on OA tools/resources and author rights issues

• Many libraries have dedicated full-time librarians and staff to this
  – Scholarly Communications Librarians
  – IR managers
Objectives
Objectives

• To discover the current and emerging needs of U of S researchers in order to determine if scholarly communications services are in demand here

• To provide an evidence-based foundation for the potential future development of such a program of services
Objectives

• To understand the current publishing behaviours and attitudes of faculty, across all disciplines, at the U of S in response to the growing significance of OA publishing and archiving

Exploratory study
Methods

[Image: CC Zebble via Flickr]
Methods

- Short (~10 min) online survey
  Four parts:
  1. Current Research and Publishing Activities/Behaviours
  2. Open Access Behaviours, Awareness, and Attitudes
  3. Needs Assessment
  4. Demographics
Methods

- Personal email invite to all faculty in all disciplines
  - 1327 invitations sent
- Survey open for entire month Nov 2012
- Two reminders sent
- Results analyzed in SPSS
Results

CC Rosa Say via Flickr
Results

• 291 complete responses
  = 22% response rate
Awareness & Support for OA:

Self-assessed level of understanding of OA

- Understand it well: 33%
- Some knowledge of it: 58%
- Have heard of it: 8%
- Not aware of it: 1%

Total: 91%
Awareness & Support for OA:

Level of support for “philosophy” of OA (BOAI paragraph 1)

- Strongly/somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Don't know
Awareness & Support for OA:

Have you made your publications OA? How? (Check all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OA Journal/Book</th>
<th>Self-archive</th>
<th>Hybrid Journal</th>
<th>Not Sure How</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>105</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Awareness & Support for OA:

Publicly-funded research should be OA

- Strongly agree/agree
- Strongly disagree/disagree
- Don't know
Awareness & Support for OA:

I do not want to spend my grant funds on publishing fees
Awareness & Support for OA:

Are you aware of a subject repository in your discipline?

- Yes: 33%
- No: 54%
- Not Sure: 13%
Awareness & Support for OA:

Conclusions

= Already a high level of participation, awareness, and support for OA

...but resistance to allocating any grant funds to OA author’s fees

...and low awareness of where to archive (repositories)
Author Copyright Issues:

Researchers should retain their copyright

- Strongly agree/agree
- Strongly disagree/disagree
- Don't know
Author Copyright Issues:

How do you usually handle copyright terms in your publishing contracts?

- 99% Sign it as is
- 1% Modify terms
Author Copyright Issues:

How do you usually handle copyright terms in your publishing contracts?

“What choice do we have? If we want our work published then we must agree.”
Author Copyright Issues:

How do you usually handle copyright terms in your publishing contracts?

“I pay as little attention to them [copyright terms] as possible.”
Author Copyright Issues:

I do not have the time/interest/expertise to negotiate copyright terms

- **Strongly agree/agree**
- **Strongly disagree/disagree**
- **Don't know**
Author Copyright Issues:

Conclusions

= Highly supportive of authors retaining their copyright

...but in practical terms many are not fully aware of their rights

...and very few follow through on retaining their copyright
Support for Possible Library Initiatives:

- Hosting/support for OA journals
- Fund for OA Author’s Fees
- Repository for Research Data
- Repository for Publications

Legend:
- Strongly/Somewhat support
- Strongly/Somewhat oppose
- Don't Know
Support for Possible Library Initiatives:

- Hosting/support for OA journals
- Fund for OA Authors' Fees
- Repository for Research Data
- Repository for Publications

Top two:
1. Online guide
2. Seminars tailored to dept/discipline
Support for Possible Library Initiatives:

“If support and guidance were available, I would probably consider more seriously about publishing in an OA journal”
Limitations
Limitations

- Possible "non-response bias"
  - those who responded to the survey were already OA supporters
  - non-responders could have different views
Role for the Library

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Role for the Library

• Already a high level of general awareness and support for OA
• BUT researchers need more education and practical assistance with:
  - Author’s rights issues (e.g. retaining copyright)
  - Repository awareness and facilitation
  - Assistance with author’s fees
Role for the Library

• Relatively high response rate
• High number of comments
  (80 comments made on one question!)

  = possible indication of engagement with these issues, and a desire for a forum to discuss them in
Role for the Library

• *Short Term Recommendation:*
  - Online guides
  - Departmental workshops facilitated by librarians

• *Longer Term Recommendation:*
  - Advocate for partnerships with other units on campus to tackle some of the major initiatives
References
