



## August 2015 Member Update

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As August draws to a close, students, faculty and library staff are returning in force to our campuses after a welcome Summer break, bringing with them an influx of new ideas and enthusiasm. It is an ideal time to capitalize on this energy and provide concrete opportunities to help channel it into meaningful action promoting Open Access to articles, data and educational resources. As we here at SPARC can happily attest, there are no shortage of initiatives to point interested folks to where they can roll up their sleeves and immediately contribute!

From organizing campus support for national Open Access legislation currently being considered by Congress ([FASTR](#)), to working to develop new Open course materials for the start of a new semester, to simply informing incoming students that there is a whole world of “open” materials for them to explore, SPARC has resources available to help you turn this energy into action. Visit the resource center on our [website](#) for new ideas today!



- Heather Joseph, Executive Director, SPARC



## OPEN ACCESS

### **Got Three Minutes? Learn Why OA Matters and What You Can Do to Make a Difference**

One of the most common requests we get from SPARC members is for materials to help them make the case for Open Access, quickly and succinctly, to faculty and students on their campus. In this snappy [three-minute video](#), Jimmy O’Dea rises to the occasion, neatly encapsulating the problem of access that he and his cohort of AAAS Science & Technology Fellows face on daily basis, and offers quick, useful suggestions for actions that anyone can take to make a positive difference. Feel free to share widely!

### **Smithsonian Releases Public Access Plan**

The Smithsonian has released its [Plan for Increased Public Access to Results of Federally Funded Research](#), based on the principles outlined by the OSTP Public Access Directive. The Smithsonian’s plan calls for all applicable publications and supporting data resulting from its funded research to be made available through the [Smithsonian Research Online](#) website or the publisher-lead [CHORUS](#) database. The Smithsonian plan appears to be the first - and only - plan released by a Federal agency to date that does not

explicitly require the agency to keep a copy of all articles resulting from its research, but rather relies on links to publisher websites for long term access to articles.

### **Save the Date: SPARC MORE Meeting**

Planning is well underway on the program for SPARC's biennial meeting. Rebranded for 2016, the SPARC "Meeting on Openness in Research and Education" (MORE) will take place on March 7-8, 2016 in San Antonio, Texas. The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency in the heart of San Antonio's famed River Walk. The program will build on the "Convergence" theme of our 2014 meeting and will explore the increasingly central role libraries are playing in the growing shift toward Open Access, Open Education and Open Data. More details will follow soon - we look forward to seeing you there in 2016!



## **OPEN EDUCATION**

### **100 Organizations Call on White House to Take Action on Promoting OER**

A broad coalition of 100 organizations sent a letter to the White House this month calling on President Obama to take action to open up federally funded educational materials. SPARC played a lead role in organizing this effort, and is proud that more than 20 of our member libraries joined us in signing on. The letter will play a critical role in SPARC's ongoing advocacy efforts with the White House, as we seek to build on the Administration's commitment to public access to expand to open educational resources as well. It's not too late to add your institution to the list of supporters! To read the letter and sign on, visit [www.oerusa.org](http://www.oerusa.org).

### **SPARC Staff Visits Brazil to Discuss Open Educational Resources**

SPARC's Nicole Allen spent a week in Brazil this month speaking at a series of seminars on OER, and meeting with key government leaders to discuss OER-related policy efforts. Joined by long-time SPARC allies Hal Plotkin, former Senior Advisor in the Department of Education, and Jan Gondol, a noted open education advocate in the Slovak Government, the events reached hundreds of Brazilian educators and policymakers. One of the outcomes of the trip is a newfound collaboration between members of the U.S. and Brazilian Open Government Partnership teams in organizing a workshop this fall.

### **Open Textbook Network Summer Institute a Success**

The University of Minnesota's Center for Open Education, with support from SPARC, organized a three-day institute for members of the Open Textbook Network. The program focused on promoting strategies for advancing the adoption, creation and improvement of open textbooks on campus, and featured a detailed training which included copyright, discoverability and awareness raising. More information about the institute is available [here](#), and the social media feed can be found at #OTNSI15.



## **OPEN DATA**

### **NIST Releases More Detail on Research Data Sharing Plans**

The National Institute of Standards and Technology has released additional details on its plan for a comprehensive research data sharing policy. In addition to requiring individual

data management plans and creating a comprehensive NIST Enterprise Data Inventory, the agency will make a series of foundational improvements to its data management infrastructure. These improvements will center around four key areas: improving internal data management practices; creating a cloud-based data management framework; piloting a NIST public access data portal and accelerating the process of creating/deploying data exchange and research collaboration tools. More about NIST's leading efforts in this arena can be found [here](#).

### **CODATA Launches Data Citation Standards & Practices Workshop Series**

The CODATA-ICSTI Task Group on Data Citation Standards and Practices has organized a series of workshops to promote the implementation of data citation principles in the research policy and funding communities throughout the world. Each workshop will bring together stakeholders including representatives of government, funders, research institutions, research data archives, learned societies, publishers, journal editors etc, to establish how principles may best be turned into practice in each national research system and culture. For additional information on this series, visit the [task group's website](#).



## **STUDENT ACTION**

### **Launch of the OLH in the upcoming OpenCon Community Webcast**

Our "HSS takeover" OpenCon webcast series continues on Tuesday, September 15th, at 9am PDT/12pm EDT. [Martin Eve](#) and [Caroline Edwards](#) will host a webcast celebrating the official launch of the [Open Library of the Humanities](#) (OLH). Accomplished scholars, both Martin and Caroline are lecturers at Birkbeck, University of London and serve as editors for the *Illumin*, an Open Access journal dedicated to 21st-century literature. They'll speak about the launch of the OLH, including their innovative model for sustaining a mega-journal in the Humanities and discuss the role of Open Access in the humanities more broadly. You can find out more about joining this upcoming webcast in our recent [blog post](#).

### **Bring OpenCon to your Campus with an OpenCon Satellite Event**

OpenCon satellite events allow you to educate your colleagues and students, build local communities, and find champions by bringing OpenCon to you. OpenCon satellite events are held in partnership with the main conference and can be of any size, in any place, and are great low overhead events for Open Access Week or around OpenCon 2015 itself. OpenCon organizers provide support at every stage with programming, advertising, and connecting you with people interested locally. Join dozens of hosts around the world in [hosting a satellite event](#) and see some of the [events that are already happening](#).

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Thoughts on ways to improve this communication? Please send them to Shawn Daugherty, Assistant Director for Operations & Programs at shawn@sparcopen.org