



February 2015 Member Update

In mid-2013, SPARC ventured into uncharted waters and launched a new program focused on raising campus awareness of a burgeoning set of teaching and learning materials called Open Educational Resources (OERs). While a handful of libraries were active in this area, awareness across many others was low. For many, the idea of OERs simply evoked images of free textbooks and was dismissed as an issue primarily of interest to the campus bookstore. For others, the term conjured up the specter of MOOCs, and was passed over as an area for faculty and administrators to wrangle. What a difference a year (and a half) makes!

Over the past 18 months, we've witnessed a transformation in the library community's role in promoting the understanding of Open Educational Resources, and how their creation and adoption can benefit our campuses. SPARC members have hosted numerous awareness raising events for faculty, students and administrators. Our members have created a new educational network (The SPARC OER & Libraries Forum) to share ideas, best practices and resources related to OER. For the first time, the 2014 annual international Open Education Conference had an entire track devoted to libraries and interest.

As we get ready to mark Open Education Week next month, expect to see this trend continue to grow - and look for new SPARC-supported opportunities for your library to get involved in promoting OERs.



- Heather Joseph, Executive Director, SPARC



OPEN ACCESS

Two Federal Agencies Release Public Access Plans

Over the course of the past several weeks, two federal agencies, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ) released their plans to provide public access to articles and data resulting from their funded research. While the nuances of each plan differ, both agency's plans call for articles to be deposited into the National Institutes of Health's PubMed Central database, and to be made public no later than 12 months after publication in a journal. Additional details of the [NASA](#) and [AHRQ](#) plans, as well as links to the plans themselves can be found on our website.

Ford Foundation Announces Open Access Policy

Earlier this month, the Ford Foundation announced [a new policy](#) requiring that articles reporting on all of its grant-funded projects and research carry an open license - specifically a [Creative Commons BY 4.0 license](#). Effective immediately, the goal of this policy is to increase and improve transparency and access to the research they fund. This license-based policy is very similar to the policy released by the Gates Foundation earlier this year - and the Hewlett Foundation in late 2014 - and seems to signal a growing policy trend in the private foundation space.

HEFCE releases report on Monographs and Open Access

While much of the visible activity in the Open Access space has focused on journal articles, the monograph has not been forgotten. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) recently released [a major report](#) investigating the challenges and opportunities implementing Open Access for Monographs. This report follows HEFCE's decision to accept only Open Access journal articles during its next nationwide research evaluation process, which directly impacts funding to higher education institutions. The report appropriately stresses many familiar challenges in moving monographs to an Open Access environment, including finding appropriate business models, navigating third party licensing and the practicalities of digital books. However, the report is also careful to point out that that evidence that HEFCE has gathered in the UK does not support the often-express fear of a pending "monograph crisis."



OPEN EDUCATION

OER Institute at ALA Midwinter

SPARC co-sponsored an exciting pre-conference event at the ALA Midwinter winter in partnership with the ARL/ACRL Institute on Scholarly Communication. "Tackling Textbook Costs through Open Educational Resources: A Primer," a two-day workshop, featured OER experts including Dr. David Wiley and a team of librarians already running successful OER projects on campus. Participants came away with a deeper understanding of what OER is and how it can be used on campus, along with a foundation on how to better support the adoption of OER, and the outline of a customizable campus OER action plan. Feedback from participants have been quite positive, and SPARC will consider organizing similar programming in the future. More information about the event and links to resources can be found [here](#).

Open Education Week

March 9-13 is Open Education Week, a global event to celebrate the benefits of free and open sharing in education. SPARC's activities will focus on providing education and advocacy opportunities in support of the creation and adoption of OER. SPARC staff will be visiting campuses to speak at events and also will be organizing a webcast in collaboration with the student Right to Research Coalition showcasing exciting roles for student advocates in promoting OER. For ideas on how you can participate, check out our recommendations [here](#) and make sure to register your local events at:

www.openeducationweek.org.

OER Impact Calculator

An exciting new resource called the 'OER Adoption Impact Explorer' was launched this month by OER support company Lumen Learning. This web-based tool uses the results of OER efficacy research to generate customized projections for how adoption OER can positively impact student savings, grades, retention rates, and other vital factors on campus. These statistics can be exceptionally powerful additions to OER advocacy and awareness efforts. We encourage you to check it out at <http://impact.lumenlearning.com>.



OPEN DATA

Data Sharing Policy Initiative and Advisory Committee

Late last year, SPARC was fortunate to receive funding to develop an initiative focused on emerging policies for research data sharing. As SPARC implements this work, an Advisory Committee of issue area experts -- [full list can be found on SPARC's website](#) -- has been assembled to help guide the work through this initial phase. In addition, on our website we have compiled some data sharing policies and principles that are currently in existence, and are working on building resources to help the academic and research library community better understand this growing and developing space.

COAR/SPARC Conference - Registration Now Open!

Early Bird registration remains open for the upcoming [COAR-SPARC Conference](#), Connecting Research Results, Bridging Communities, Opening Scholarship, to be held April 15 and 16 in Porto, Portugal. The program features keynotes from [John Wilbanks](#), Chief Commons Officer for SAGE Bionetworks, and [Dominique Babini](#), Coordinator of Open Access Projects for CLASCO in Argentina. It will also feature international expert panels on topics ranging from organizational models for research data management services to the international open science policy environment. The conference will also offer a poster session which must be submitted while registering for the conference. The early bird conference rates for registration before March 13, 2015 are €55.50 EUR for COAR and SPARC members (approximately \$65 US) and €105.50 EUR for non-members (approximately \$120 US). Rates will go up after March 13, 2015 and space is limited, so we encourage you to register early to reserve your spot!

NASA Releases Plans for Strong Research Data Sharing Policy

As U.S. federal agencies begin to release their plans in response to the White House OSTP Directive calling for broad public access to the results of federally funded research, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's [\(NASA\) plan](#) stands out as being of particular note. The Agency, which has a long-standing commitment to data sharing, notes that it intends to use its new policy to "extend NASA's culture of Open Data access to all NASA-funded research." This commitment is underscored by the Agency's new requirement that investigators submit a Data Management Plan outlining how researchers plan on providing access to research data or else explicitly state why their research can not be made available – effectively setting the default mode for NASA-generated research data to "open."



STUDENT ACTION

Texas A&M and SPARC Help Advance Institutional OA, OER Policy Across SEC

From February 6-8, Texas A&M University and SPARC hosted a workshop to foster collaboration on Open Access and Open Educational Resources between libraries and student governments across the Southeastern (SEC) conference. The workshop was supported by the first grant awarded by the SECU through its inaugural Academic Collaboration Award. Over the course of a weekend, institutional teams consisting of two librarians and two student government leaders—one graduate and one undergraduate—developed campus action plans in support of Open Access and OER initiatives to be jointly implemented over the coming year. Participating institutions are already getting started on implementation of projects, and the efforts at [Texas A&M](#) and [Auburn University](#) have received coverage in their campus newspapers.

Oregon State Libraries See Dividends from OpenCon Scholarships

For the Oregon State University Libraries, sponsoring two students to attend OpenCon 2014 has returned dividends by actively bringing students into the campus conversation around scholarly communication reform. This month, SPARC interviewed Austin Fox, one of the scholarship recipients, and Shan Sutton, OSU's Associate University Librarian for Research and Scholarly Communication who supported the scholarships, to discuss OpenCon and how it is helping to create change at Oregon State. Read the full story [on the SPARC Blog](#). Information on sponsoring a scholarship for your campus to OpenCon 2015 will be available next month.

An Active Month for Student/Library Campus Actions

The Texas A&M-hosted SECU workshop has already led to the introduction of student government resolutions supporting Open Access and Open Educational Resources on a number of campuses, including the University of Missouri, the University of South Carolina, and Auburn University. At the University of Washington, the graduate student government recently passed a resolution supporting the establishment of an institutional Open Access policy, and the undergraduate student government is helping to lead the conversation on OER with state legislators. In British Columbia, two leaders from the Simon Fraser University Student Society, both OpenCon alumni, are pushing for wider adoption of OER by faculty, for increased government funding for the creation of high-quality open textbooks, and for other student unions across the country to follow suit.

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