Over the past year, while we continued busily advocating for open policies, producing educational resources for our members, and convening and participating in workshops and conferences around the globe, SPARC also undertook a comprehensive analysis of the current state of the open landscape, and re-assessed our role in it. It's clear we have generated tremendous momentum in our mission to make open the default for research and education. Now is the perfect time to capitalize on this momentum, and we're kicking off 2016 with a few big changes here at SPARC - a whole new website and a new online address - www.sparcopen.org. With this move, we've built a platform to help us better support our work with our members' and partners to more fully advance the Open Agenda.

As we enter this new and exciting phase, we're challenging ourselves here at SPARC to focus on the larger outcomes that a successful move toward open might have – the problems that can be more easily solved, and the new opportunities for innovation that can be enabled. We're looking forward to working with SPARC members, students, researchers, policymakers, funders, and decision-makers on campus and in government to collectively consider, “when we embrace open, what is possible?”.

Heather Joseph
Executive Director, SPARC

OPEN ACCESS

SPARC MORE Early Bird Registration Ends Tomorrow!
SPARC's extended early bird registration rates for our upcoming Meeting on Openness in Research & Education (MORE) are set to expire on Friday, January 22nd. Register now to take advantage of the member rate of $315. Visit the meeting website to stay up to date on sessions, speakers, the Innovation Fair and to register for our Campus OA Policy workshop. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting in March.

Open Library of Humanities Gains Momentum After September 2015 Launch
Since officially launching in September 2015, the Open Library of Humanities (OLH) has grown to include more than 115 library members—including many SPARC libraries. The OLH model uses “Library Partnership Subsidies” in which member libraries pay $500-$1,000 per year to cover the cost of publishing articles without author-side charges. OLH
expects to publish 150 articles in its first year at a cost of approximately $6 per institution per article. You can learn more about OLH by viewing an archived SPARC webcast with the two co-founders from last September and by visiting the OLH website.

Publishers Come to Together to Promote ORCID Identifiers
Under the leadership of PLOS, eLife, and The Royal Society, a group of publishers have called for an effort to speed up the adoption of ORCID identifiers. In an open letter published last week, the publishers noted that “ORCID provides a digital name – or iD – that uniquely and persistently identifies researchers and contributors. By connecting this iD to different research activities and affiliations across multiple research information platforms, ORCID helps enable recognition and reduce reporting burdens for researchers. It also enhances the discovery process and lays the foundation for trust in a digital research environment.” To date, eight publishers have committed to requiring ORCIDs. More information on this open letter and what it could mean for researchers on your campus can be found here.

OPEN EDUCATION

OER Included in K-12 Education Law Reauthorization
At the end of last year, President Obama signed into law the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which reauthorizes our national K-12 education law. Among the provisions in ESSA is an educational technology grant program, which explicitly indicates open educational resources as an allowable use of grant funds for local educational agencies. This development is significant because it codifies for the first time the term "open educational resources" into Federal law, and provides complementary support to the Department of Education's ongoing work to encourage more school districts to expand the use of OER. SPARC will be working to build on this victory as Congress turns toward reauthorizing the Higher Education Act.

Department of Education Receives Comments on Proposed Open Licensing Policy
The Department of Education has concluded its public comment period for their proposed open licensing policy for educational materials produced with competitive grants. SPARC worked closely with our allies to ensure that the Department received comments strongly supporting the policy, and continues to work with members of the higher education community to ensure that concerns are understood and addressed. Read SPARC's full comments here.

Department of Labor Adopts Open Licensing Rule
The Department of Labor (DOL) has also made a significant step toward opening up Federally funded resources by adopting an open licensing policy as part of its uniform grantmaking rules. DOL's policy formalizes the agency's practice of including an open licensing requirement in grant awards, such as the $2 billion TAACCCT workforce training grant program. The new DOL policy is final, and has been published in the Federal Register here.
Open Science Prize
The National Institutes of Health, Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Wellcome Trust are partnering on an 'Open Science Prize'. Teams that apply for the $80,000 grants are expected bring their ideas to prototypes in order to “unleash the power of open content and data to advance biomedical research”. Deadline to apply is February 29. More information can be found here.

Celebrate Open Data Day
Saturday, March 5th will mark “Open Data Day” - a gathering of citizens in cities around the world to write applications, liberate data, create visualizations and publish analyses using open public data to show support for and encourage the adoption of open data policies by the world's local, regional and national governments. While everyone is encouraged to participate, the event has specifically called on the library community to participate, noting: “Librarians: We hear you folks like books and eat catalogs of data for breakfast. You beautiful people are going to scour the earth for interesting data, help the rest of us figure out what's important, and generally be useful.” Now there’s an invitation that’s hard to resist...

STUDENT ACTION

OpenCon 2015 Video Recordings Released
OpenCon 2015 included presentations from many leading voices in the movement to open up research and education, and now you can watch their talks and see what they have to say. From Mike Eisen to Erin McKiernan to Jimmy Wales, there's something for everyone. Talks range from how we must change the way we evaluate researchers, to how to build great infrastructure, to how we can advance Open Education. They provide fantastic content for campus events or to keep you informed and inspired. Don't forget, you can remix the videos to make them shorter or splice several together! You can find these talks on the OpenCon site along with their slides and other resources.

Need Speakers for an Event? We’ve got you Covered.
Finding the perfect speaker for your events can be challenging, so we’ve made a resource to help. We've developed an Open Research and Education Speakers Database to provide access to speakers with diverse backgrounds who can speak on a wide variety of topics. The list currently contains over 150 speakers, and it can be sorted by location, interest, background, and more. If you've hosted or attended events before, please help build the list by adding your speakers.

OOOCanada: Organizing Students Across Canada to Push the Open Agenda
A new force for change is coming together in Canada. First conceived at the OpenCon 2014 unconference, the OOOCanada initiative launched in late 2015 with their first event being an OpenCon 2015 satellite event. OOOCanada, which has a presence on the campuses of McMaster University, Simon Fraser University, Université Laval, and others, will focus on a variety of issues such as campaigning against high textbook prices.
The organization is currently expanding to new campuses, so if there are students on your campus interested in these issues -- or you'd like there to be more -- get in touch with Lorraine Chuen at lchuen@marsdd.com.

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