



## July 2015 Member Update

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SPARC has long supported the development of collective and cooperative publishing models for sustaining open access research output and infrastructure services. We are very pleased to continue that effort by collaborating with the Public Knowledge Project to design a two-sided cooperative model that is economically compelling for both journal publishers and academic libraries. The project will recruit publishers willing to participate in a cooperative pilot. It will also bring together key stakeholders—including academic libraries and funders, as well as society and other nonprofit publishers—to inform the cooperative's design.

SPARC's principal contribution to the initiative will be to model economic and governance structures capable of supporting a global cooperative publishing network. The models being explored will accommodate all types of journals, focusing on the humanities and social sciences, where the need for an alternative to APC-based models is most needed. We're hopeful that this project will help to provide compelling data to ensure that the open scholarly environment has a diversity of strong business models to ensure its long-term sustainability.



- Heather Joseph, Executive Director, SPARC



## OPEN ACCESS

### **New Open Access Monograph Platform to be Developed**

The Johns Hopkins University Press (JHUP) has been awarded a research and planning grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to explore the viability of a digital ingestion, aggregation, and distribution platform for open access monographs in the humanities and qualitative social sciences. The MUSE Open platform would facilitate the broad discovery and accessibility of OA monographs required by authors, researchers, and funders. The platform would be designed to address the needs of North American and international university presses and other nonprofit scholarly publishers. If successful, MUSE Open could provide a significant infrastructure component to support supply-side and other alternative funding models for OA monographs. For more information, contact Terry Ehling (TAE@press.jhu.edu).

### **The Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Bill Advances in the Senate**

Earlier this week, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee unanimously approved (via voice vote) S. 779, the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (FASTR), [as modified](#) by the Carper-Johnson amendment. The bill will now move to the floor for consideration by the full Senate. This makes the first time that a government-wide public access policy has been acted on by Congress, and marks an important step forward. This progress is a direct result of the actions taken by SPARC members, our allied student groups, and coalition partners, and we extend our sincere thanks to you all. We've [posted a blog](#) helping to put this latest action into context.

### **University Presidents Lead National Open Access Negotiations**

Late last year, the Dutch Minister for Education, Culture and Science announced that 100% of Dutch research articles will be made available via Open Access by 2024. As part of this move, the country's universities began negotiating with publishers to strike deals that would preserve their access to subscription-based journals, and ensure that all future articles produced by Dutch authors are published via open access for no additional charge. While a successful deal was reached with Springer, negotiations with Elsevier have reportedly broken down. However, what makes this situation particularly worth watching is that the deal is not being brokered by university librarians, but rather by Dutch University presidents, who have complained that Elsevier's journal profit margins are unacceptably high, and have vowed to organize a boycott of Elsevier if an acceptable deal is not reached.



## **OPEN EDUCATION**

### **SPARC Continues OER Policy Push**

In partnership with a broad coalition, SPARC is calling on President Obama to include strong commitments to Open Education in the forthcoming U.S. Open Government National Action Plan. Last fall, the United States became the first country in the world to address Open Education as part of its open government efforts. With the OER policy workshop held at the White House earlier this year, we believe there is a significant opportunity to advance commitments within the administration to ensure that federally funded educational resources are freely and openly available to the public.

### **Open Education Conference**

SPARC is pleased to be participating in the 12th Annual Open Education Conference ("OpenEd") on November 18-20 in Vancouver, BC. OpenEd is the OER movement's largest annual event, and covers a variety of different themes and interests, including a track dedicated to the role of libraries in advancing OER. If you are interested in attending, registration is currently open; register by September 30th to get an early bird discount at [www.openedconference.org](http://www.openedconference.org).

### **Tips to Save on Textbooks**

As Summer winds down, and students get ready to head back to school, many are once again preparing to deal with ever-rising textbook prices. In a recent Forbes piece, SPARC's Nicole Allen talks about how students have more options than ever before to save money on textbooks. The full article can be found [here](#).



## OPEN DATA

### **SPARC & Johns Hopkins University Partner for ‘Open’ Resource Development**

SPARC and Johns Hopkins University are pleased to be partnering in the development of a web-based resource that will track and synthesize the plans emerging from federal agencies calling for opening up access to federally funded research data and articles. This resource will help provide an increased level of understanding and comfort with regard to the requirements and expectations in each of the agency plans. This resource is slated to be completed by the end of the year.

### **SPARC Participates in Second Commerce Data Advisory Council (CDAC) Meeting**

In late July, SPARC’s Executive Director, Heather Joseph, participated in the second convening of the Secretary of Commerce’s Data Advisory Council, hosted at the headquarters of Intel Corp. The Council is tasked with recommending strategies and actions that the Department of Commerce and its twelve Bureaus should take to fully leverage the value of Open Government Data. The Director of the US Patent and Trademark Office, Michelle Lee, and the newly appointed Commerce Director for the Digital Economy, Alan Davidson, participated in the Council’s discussions. The meeting also marked the launch of the new “Commerce Data Corps,” a unique service to provide agile-development based Open Data consulting services throughout the Department.

### **SPARC to Convene Workshop on Open Research Policy Harmonization**

Open Science is more likely to be successful if funders, publishers and institutions harmonize their policies around sharing research outcomes - particularly data. That’s the premise around SPARC partnering with the National Institutes of Health, The Wellcome Trust and The Public Library of Science to host a day-long workshop to convene key stakeholders to identify areas of common interest - and potential pilot projects for collaborative action. The workshop will be held in Washington, DC on October 7, and will take place at the World Bank.



## STUDENT ACTION

### **Webcast Series to Focus on Humanities and Social Sciences**

Over the coming months, we’ll be turning the attention of our OpenCon webcasts toward the Humanities and Social Sciences. We’re pleased to announce two upcoming webcasts: The first on the role of Open Data in the Social Sciences and the second on the launch of the first mega-journal for the Humanities. On Friday, August 14th, at 1pm EDT, Temina Madon, Executive Director of the [Centre for Effective Global Action](#), will outline why Open Data is critical to the Social Sciences. On Tuesday, September 15th, at 12pm EDT, we’ll be joined by Martin Eve and Caroline Edwards for a webcast celebrating the official launch of the [Open Library of the Humanities](#). You can find out more about joining these upcoming webcasts in our [recent blog post](#).

### **Open Research Glossary Launched**

After an OpenCon 2015 event in London, two early career researchers, Jon Tennant and Ross Mounce, realized it is often difficult for people new to Open Access and Open Data to clearly understand the somewhat specialized vocabulary used by the community - and the idea for the Open Research Glossary was born. The two spent an evening putting together a first draft and released it to the community for input. Others, quick to see the value of such a resource, immediately began to contribute. Collectively, the community assembled a comprehensive glossary on open research that is easily discoverable, readily updatable, and exceedingly useful. The latest version of the Glossary is available on the [Right to Research Coalition website](#).

### **Students Help Lead Charge as FASTR Passes Senate Committee**

The deep collaboration between SPARC libraries and the student community continues to thrive, as students from Washington to Missouri to New York made their voices heard leading up to the recent Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee vote on S. 779, the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act. Students called their representatives' offices, expressed their support over social media (using the twitter hashtag "#MoveFASTR"), wrote letters, and made in-person visits to Capitol Hill. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students and the American Medical Student Association helped to lead the charge. Each organization ran a successful grassroots campaign to activate their membership ahead of FASTR's committee vote.

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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](mailto:shawn@sparcopen.org)