May 2015 Member Update

The past month was marked by a flurry of action around campus Open Access policies - new policies have been put into place at no fewer than eight schools, with Penn State, Dartmouth College, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, University of Hawaii Manoa, Smith College, University of Washington, University of Arkansas Fayetteville and the University of Colorado Boulder all ratifying new policies supporting Open Access and Open Educational Resources over the past several weeks.

The timing of these policies is particularly crucial, as author’s rights to make their own articles available in a timely fashion in campus institutional repositories has come under fire with Elsevier announcing new restrictions on this front. These policies play an important role in our campus’ ability to determine the ultimate accessibility and utility of our faculty, researchers and student’s intellectual output. If your campus hasn’t enacted an Open Access policy yet, SPARC has resources to help you get started. Visit: http://www.sparc.arl.org/advocacy/on-campus for details!

- Heather Joseph, Executive Director, SPARC

OPEN ACCESS

SPARC and COAR release Statement and Recommendations on Elsevier Article Sharing Policy
SPARC joined with its colleagues at the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR) to issue a statement denouncing Elsevier’s newly-revised article sharing and hosting policy, as well as on releasing recommendations for amending it. The policy marks a significant departure from Elsevier’s original position, imposing new requirements for lengthy embargoes, in some cases requiring up to a four-year waiting period before an article can be shared in an institutional repository. The SPARC/COAR statement, which calls for Elsevier to reconsider this and other restrictions, has been signed by over 90 international library, academic, and research organizations. For full details, please visit the COAR website.

Bipartisan cosponsors of the FASTR Act respond to misleading OpEd
The bipartisan cosponsors of the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research (FASTR) Act joined forces to publish a rebuttal to a misleading OpEd published in The Hill, a Washington, D.C. political publication, earlier this month. Sens. John Cornyn (R-TX) and Ron Wyden (D-OR), along with Reps. Mike Doyle (D-PA), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) and Kevin Yoder (R-KS), wrote a strongly worded response to a piece critical of FASTR, that was penned by former Congressman Tom Allen. The bill's co-sponsors called out The Hill for failing to disclose that Allen is currently the paid head of the American Association of Publishers (AAP), the main lobbying group opposing the FASTR Act.

**DOAB welcomes 100th publisher**

In May, the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB) announced the addition of its 100th publisher, African Minds. The DOAB now makes available over 2,800 open access scholarly books. This [graph](#) shows the DOAB's rapid growth in publishers over the past five years.

**OPEN EDUCATION**

**SPARC Participates in Open Policy Workshop**

On May 19th, the White House Office for Science and Technology Policy held a workshop on "open policy" aimed toward helping unlock access to educational materials and other content by attaching open licenses to works produced as a result of federal grants. Sponsored by our coalition partner Creative Commons, the workshop was attended by more than 60 staff from 16 federal agencies. SPARC was there in force: Heather Joseph spoke on a panel relating experiences from the Open Access movement and Nicole Allen facilitated a breakout group for community partners and helped lead a follow-up "how to" meeting. This event was a positive signal that the hard work of SPARC and our allies over the past decade has built a platform for expanding openness beyond articles and data, to include other types of government-funded resources.

**Register to Attend the Open Education Conference**

Registration is now open for 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. SPARC proudly co-hosted the OpenEd conference last year in Washington, DC, and looks forward to being involved this year as a presenter on OER policy and campus action plan development. More information is available at: [www.openedconference.org](http://www.openedconference.org).

**Connecticut House Approves OER Bill**

Following a trend of state-level action this season, the Connecticut House unanimously voted to approve legislation relating to Open Educational Resources. The bill would require institutions in the state, including the University of Connecticut, to form a consortium to assess, promote and develop open textbooks as a solution to the high cost of textbooks. We will continue to monitor this bill as it continues to move through the legislative process in Connecticut.
SPARC original supporter of the Hague Declaration
Earlier this month, the Hague Declaration on Knowledge Discovery in the Digital Age was released to which SPARC was an original signatory. This declaration “aims to foster agreement about how to best enable access to facts, data and ideas for knowledge discovery,” such as Text and Data Mining (TDM) and computational analysis. The principles of the Declaration focus on the benefits of allowing information to flow more freely, and the legal/technical barriers that currently exist to prevent this from happening. The full text of the Hague Declaration can be found here.

SPARC at NIST for Day of Open Data Meetings
On May 8th, SPARC staff spent the day at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, for a series of discussions with Agency leaders and researchers on emerging Open Data policies. SPARC Executive Director Heather Joseph gave an invited presentation, which was also webcast to NIST staff in their Boulder and Charleston facilities. NIST leadership provided SPARC with the opportunity to meet directly with key leaders, including the NIST Associate Director, Richard Cavanagh, and Jayne Morrow, the Executive Director of the National Science and Technology Council. Several NIST lab directors provided SPARC with an in-depth look at their research and discussed their specific challenges in making research data effectively openly accessible.

STUDENT ACTION

3-week application period for OpenCon 2015 opens June 1st
Applications to attend OpenCon 2015 on November 14-16 in Brussels, Belgium will open on June 1st and remain open until June 22nd. The application asks prospective attendees to provide information about their interest in Open Access, Open Education, and Open Data as well as their ideas for advancing these three issue areas. Applicants can request a full or partial travel scholarship, which will be awarded to most of those accepted who require them to attend. Please help us spread the word about OpenCon 2015 by encouraging your students and early-career colleagues to apply! We’ve created a suite of resources for publicizing the call for OpenCon applications -- both on-campus and online - - which can be found here. The application form will be available at www.opencon2015.org/attend.

If you would like to guarantee a fully-funded spot at OpenCon for someone on your campus, a limited number of sponsored scholarships are still available: http://opencon2015.org/sponsor/selected-travel-scholarship.

First OpenCon community webcast series launched
To explore the career implications and benefits of a commitment to openness in research, SPARC has launched a new webcast series affiliated with our OpenCon program, titled “Open Research and Your Career.” The inaugural webcast, “How to Get Tenure* (“while practicing open science)” from Titus Brown, provided an in-depth perspective on how open
research practices can actually benefit career progression.

On June 1st at 12pm EDT, Meredith Niles, a Giorgio Ruffolo Post-doctoral Research Fellow at Harvard University and the first recipient of the Right to Research Coalition’s Next Generation Leadership Award, will present “Using Open as a Selling Point for an Academic Career.” Meredith will discuss how she has used “open” as an asset throughout her career, notably in obtaining her recent Harvard appointment. You can view the webcast at opencon2015.org/community/webcasts.

**SPARC/ARCL Forum at ALA Annual Conference**

Once again, SPARC and ACRL will be hosting a joint forum at the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco, CA, on Saturday, June 27, 2015 from 3:00-4:30pm. This forum, “Advancing ‘Open’ through Library Partnerships with Students and Early Career Researchers (ECRs)”, will discuss the benefits to academic libraries of working with students and ECRs, and will highlight some examples of successful collaborations. Speakers include Juan Pablo Alperin (Simon Fraser University), David Carlson (Texas A&M University), Abigail Goben (University of Illinois-Chicago Health Sciences Library), and Juliya Ziskina (University of Washington). More information on this event can be found [here](#).

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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