



November 2015 Member Update

Earlier this month, the editorial board of the Elsevier-published journal *Lingua* resigned in protest of the company's subscription pricing practices, pledging to launch a competing title using an open access business model. While this type of mass-resignation is not unique in and of itself, the deep response it provoked within the leadership of the U.S. higher education community was unprecedented.

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) quickly issued a statement supporting the editors' move and explicitly calling for deep reform in the scholarly communications marketplace. This call was immediately echoed by other higher ed associations, signaling a new willingness by our campuses for potentially fruitful collective actions.

In the coming months, SPARC will refocus our efforts in this arena, and also explore the possibility of launching an open access-focused version of our "Declaring Independence" guide for journal editorial boards.



- Heather Joseph, Executive Director, SPARC



OPEN ACCESS

Gate's Foundation Dick Wilder to Keynote SPARC MORE Conference; [Register Now!](#)

SPARC is pleased to announce that Dick Wilder, Associate General Counsel and a leader in creating the landmark Open Access Policy at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will keynote the 2016 SPARC MORE Conference. His talk will offer key insights into the process of developing the Gates policy, shed some light on their plans for implementation, and explore the Foundation's work with other research funders to increase the effectiveness of Open Access policies. [Register now](#) for this exciting event; early bird rates are in effect until January 15, 2016. Up-to-date information on the conference, such as hotels, speakers, can be found [on our website](#). We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio, TX on March 7 & 8, 2016.

Knowledge Unlatched Announces Second Round

Knowledge Unlatched [recently announced the second round](#) of its pilot program to collectively fund open access scholarly monographs. This round includes 78 titles from the

humanities and social sciences from respected scholarly publishers, including the university presses of Cambridge, Duke, Michigan, Toronto, and Yale. Participating in the pilot allows a library to play an active role in the design of the initiative, and ensure that the project successfully addresses the library's requirements. Knowledge Unlatched represents a significant experiment in the collective funding of open access content, and SPARC encourages its members to consider participating. The pledging window runs through January 31, 2016.

University of California Extends Open Access Policy to All Employees

The UC System has raised the bar for campus Open Access policies, issuing a new [Presidential Policy](#) which extends its existing Open Access policy to cover scholarly articles authored by all UC employees - clinical faculty, lecturers, staff researchers, postdoctoral scholars, graduate students, librarians, and beyond. The UC system is responsible for over 2% of the world's total research publications, and UC's collective OA policies will now cover more authors than any other institutional OA policy to date.



OPEN EDUCATION

SPARC Receives Additional Hewlett Grant for OER Program

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has expanded its generous support for SPARC's work on Open Education, committing funding for an additional two year period. This funding will allow us to expand our work on OER policy, practices and targeted campus programs, and underscores SPARC's continued leadership in this space.

New Global OER Movement Strategy Document Released

A document to support the development of [OER strategy](#) was released last week, providing a new roadmap for the global OER community. SPARC contributed to the crafting of the document, participating in the conception and drafting of this document. The strategy document provides a concise overview of where the OER movement stands and recommendations for future courses of action at the local, national and international levels.

Expensive Textbooks Continue to Make Headlines

Last month, a story hit the news about a California professor who was reprimanded for refusing to assign his department's traditional textbook, citing the high price tag of the book, and instead assigning OER and other low-cost materials. This action put the high price of textbooks squarely back into the spotlight. SPARC's Nicole Allen told [Inside Higher Ed](#), "Today there are high-quality open textbooks available in many of the highest-enrollment courses, and it's more important than ever before for these options to be on the table for consideration, whether the decision is being made by an individual faculty member or a department."



OPEN DATA

The Center for Open Science releases new TOP Guidelines for Research Funders

As one outcome of the recent joint SPARC, NIH, Wellcome Trust and PLOS-convened meeting on Open Data Policies, the Center for Open Science (COS) has released a companion to their useful Transparency and Openness Promotion (TOP) Guidelines for publishers specifically [geared toward research funders](#). The goal of the meeting was to promote harmonization among publisher and funder research data sharing policies, and this document provides excellent guidance to help achieve this aim.

Text and Data Mining (TDM) in the Spotlight

In recent months, the importance of libraries proactively enabling an environment that encourages the productive reuse of scholarly articles through computational techniques such as text and data mining has become increasingly clear. In July, SPARC [joined with 40 research and library organizations](#) in calling on Elsevier to withdraw its restrictive TDM policy. The company declined to do so, and earlier this week, another example of the impact that these restrictions can have on our researchers - and our campuses - came to light. For details, see the the SPARC blog "[The Right to Read is the Right to Mine.](#)"



STUDENT ACTION

OpenCon 2015 Convenes Next Generation of Leaders

On November 14-16, OpenCon 2015 brought together 115 students and early career academic professionals, representing more than 36 countries, in Brussels, Belgium—including participants from 19 SPARC member institutions. OpenCon seeks to catalyze and support next generation-led initiatives to make open the default for research and education. Many leaders from across the Open Access, Open Data and Open Education communities also participated in the event, including Jimmy Wales, Founder of Wikipedia, Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, President of the European Research Council, and Julia Reda, a 28-year-old member of the European Parliament. All of the presentations from OpenCon 2015 [are available online](#) under a CC BY license.

OpenCon Satellite and Community Events Continue

While OpenCon 2015 in Brussels has come to a close, there are still many OpenCon-affiliated events over the next month! On Friday, December 11th, at 1pm EST / 10am PST, SPARC will host an OpenCon community webcast on innovation in scholarly communication and changing research workflows with Jeroen Bosman and Bianca Kramer of Utrecht University Library. You can join that webcast [here](#). Over the coming weeks, OpenCon satellite events will also be held in Toronto, São Paulo, Oxford, Cambridge, Berlin, Tehran, Nairobi, Jakarta, and over a dozen other places globally. Here is a [complete list of satellite events](#).

Student Leaders Contribute to University of Washington's Open Access Policy

The [November edition](#) of ACRL's College and Research Libraries News features an article by two student advocates from the University of Washington, Juliya Ziskina and Gennie Gebhart—both OpenCon alumni. The article details the story behind the recent passage of the [University of Washington's Open Access Policy](#) and the student support behind the success. Their efforts demonstrate the leadership students can provide on campus as advocates for institutional policies. SPARC and the Right to Research Coalition are proud

to help support them in their efforts.

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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