

Frequently Asked Questions

1

What has prompted this concern about Open Access (OA)?

Almost the entire process of faculty research and scholarship – from manuscript production to the peer review process – is paid for with taxpayer dollars. The beneficiaries of these faculty efforts are the *for-profit* publishing companies that produce scholarly journals and publications. Faculty routinely provide these publishers with *free* content and *free* reviewing for their journals.

When a manuscript is accepted for publication, faculty sign their copyright over to the publishing company, i.e., they surrender the rights to their own research. As a consequence, university libraries must spend an inordinate portion of their (taxpayer-supplied) budgets *to buy back the scholarship that faculty gave away for free*. Even so, faculty, students, and the public often must purchase an article that is not available at their university library.

The **Open Access (OA) Policy** is intended to make scholarly communication freely available to the public who has *already paid* for it. The OA Policy insures that faculty research and scholarship can be accessed via the UHM Institutional Repository – *ScholarSpace* – in addition to whatever refereed journal a faculty member chooses to publish in.

“When a manuscript is accepted for publication, faculty... surrender the rights to their own research.”

2

Who is behind the Open Access Policy at the UHM campus?

The UHM Library Scholarly Communication Committee, working group of library and instructional faculty, spent the last two years determining how UHM might best participate in the global movement to help scholarly communication become more readily accessible. *Last Fall 2010 the Mānoa Faculty Senate voted overwhelming in support of the OA policy for the UHM campus, and recommended the policy to the Chancellor’s office.*

3

Is the UHM policy unique?

No. MIT, HARVARD UNIVERSITY’S FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, and the HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL, as well as STANFORD SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, have similar policies. The NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH now require posting of articles derived from research they fund in the open-access repository; the HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE (HHMI) as well as the WELLCOME TRUST require any scholarly articles on research they fund to be made openly accessible.

4

How will this policy affect faculty publishing in peer-reviewed journals?

Peer-reviewed research is still the coin of the realm, the gold standard of research and scholarship. The OA movement embraces and supports peer-reviewed practices. The OA movement is solely about ease of accessibility to scholarship.

“You write the papers. You review the papers. Why should you pay to read them?”

– Bjorn Brembs

“WHAT IS WRONG WITH SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING TODAY?”

5

Are there any benefits for authors associated with placing work in the Institutional Repository?

Studies are showing that scholarly articles available in OA are downloaded and cited earlier and more often than in traditional subscription journals.

The UHM Institutional Repository, *ScholarSpace*, will provide a persistent link to your article so that it can be easily accessed. You can refer to this link on your personal web page, your syllabi, social networking sights, or your digital vita. If anybody accesses your article via this link, they will be provided with full citation information for the published article.

Scholarship – even unpublished articles – can be easily found in UHM’s Institutional Repository. All participating universities’ institutional repositories are searchable, even via Google Scholar.

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How will the UHM Open Access policy affect tenure and promotion?

Journal publishers are coming around. An increasing number are receptive to authors’ retaining some level of copyright control over their work.

However, if a publisher balks at an author placing his or her work in the repository, the UHM OA policy has an easy “opt out” clause to accommodate this situation. *No faculty member need risk losing a publication because of the OA Policy.*

On the other hand, the institutional repository can provide additional metrics on how influential an author’s work is by indicating how often and from where an author’s work is accessed.



UHM OPEN ACCESS POLICY FAQ

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ScholarSpace

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