

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
October 10th, 2003
11:00 AM

Present: Karen Albertus; George Bergus; Carolyn Dyer; Yangbo Ye, Chair

Staff: Nancy L. Baker, University Librarian; Ed Shreeves, Director, Collections and Information Resources; Kelly Avant, Secretary

Absent: Maria Barbosa, Ken Cmiel, Pat Kenner

I. Call to Order

II. Open Access Journals

Baker brings this topical issue to the Committee as it is one that is pressing to libraries right now. Shreeves started by saying that for several years the Libraries has been talking to faculty about the high cost of scholarly journals, which has led to 5 -6 cancellation projects since 1990, and has suggested that those who publish look for alternatives to current system. In the last few years the open access movement has emerged, and there are now several open access projects which libraries would like to see succeed.

Shreeves and Baker asked the Committee if they had any questions or concerns about open access, and also any advice on how the Libraries can engage in dialogue with faculty about open access. Many open access publishers, such as the Public Library of Science (PLoS), charge the author but what is actually published is free to everyone. An institution can sometimes pay these fees so their faculty and scholars could publish without charge; the Libraries is currently doing this for journals affiliated with Biomed Central.

Bergus asked about the sustainability of open access, citing an example where a British journal was doing this well, but because of expense will starting restricting access. Dyer talked about problems of companies changing their URLs or editors who were not consistent. Shreeves said that libraries do worry about publishers taking responsibility for archiving. We do have, because of contracts, ownership rights of electronic data from many online products, and theoretically have rights to receive that data if a publisher goes under.

It was felt that more faculty need to be made aware that they can reserve certain rights in publisher's contracts, and that the University should offer them model language to use. An effort should be made to educate faculty; this could be done during new faculty orientation, through directors of graduate studies, or by educating graduate students.

Ye suggested the library have on their web site a list of open access journals with editors so faculty can see that the journal is reputable; and samples of copyright retention language that can be downloaded.

Note: A directory maintained by Lund University Library can be found at <http://www.doaj.org/>

III. Adjourned at 12:00 PM

Remaining fall semester meeting:

- Friday, November 14, 11:00 - 12:00 PM, Main Library Second Floor Conference Room