

Virginia Commonwealth University
VCU Libraries Advisory Committee
Cabell Room, James Branch Cabell Library
November 13, 2015

Attending:

Matt Bogenschutz, Mary Boynes, Blythe Bowman, Lelia Brinegar, MaryBeth DeMarco, Jose Dula (chair), Les Harrison, Cheng Ly, Whitney Newcomb, Valerie Robnolt, Jennifer Roudabush, Jeremy Stultz, Kayla Scott, Leigh Small, Kenneth Warren, Keith Zirkle,

Staff: John Duke Dennis Clark, Kathy Bradshaw, Jeanne Hammer, Teresa Knott, John Ulmschneider, Antonia Vassar (recording secretary)

Review and approval of agenda

The agenda was approved as presented

Review and approval of minutes from September 2015

The minutes were approved as presented

Physical location of DVD and CD collection: update (Dennis Clark)

This summer, the physical DVD and CD collection was moved to 500 Academic Center in order to free up space. However, some faculty members expressed disappointment with the 1-to-2 business day retrieval time, and felt it compromised their responsiveness to evolving classroom needs during the session. The VCU Libraries revisited the decision to move the DVD and CD collection, and decided to reverse that decision. Consequently the VCU Libraries will find space to return the collection to Cabell Library. The DVD and CD materials will be available in Cabell Library by the start of the spring semester.

Open Access Publishing Fund for VCU (John Duke – PowerPoint presentation, handout)

The VCU Libraries launched a new open access publishing fund in summer 2015. The new fund is intended to:

- help faculty publish their research in open access journals
- create a culture of sharing and encourage the free flow of ideas across scholarly landscape
- combat the high cost of scholarly journals

Open access journals are among a number of emerging alternatives for faculty publication of their work, and for the public to access research and scholarship. This kind of openness can encourage faculty research and broaden the impact of research findings.

Over the past 6 years, over 50 institutions (including MIT, Duke, Harvard, VA Tech, University of VA, George Mason) have created campus open access funds with a combined commitment of over \$2.2M. VCU's open access publishing fund this year is \$25K allocated from acquisitions budget. Several criteria guide use of these funds.

- Articles are published only in open access publications (no hybrid publications)
- Faculty, post-docs, researchers, and graduate students can apply for funding
- Only journal articles are supported by the fund at this time
- There is a cap of \$2K per article or \$3K per faculty member per year for funding
- Individuals must agree to deposit journal articles supported by the fund into VCU Libraries Scholars Compass after it is published.

The VCU Libraries has undertaken other open access publishing initiatives in the past few years. Among these are subscriptions to publications that allow VCU authors to publish for free or reduced fees; creating a platform for journals published by VCU faculty or in cooperation with VCU faculty; listing open access scholarly journals and other resources in the library catalog; and hosting open access journals and conferences through Scholars Compass.

In the near-term future, the VCU Libraries hopes to increase campus publicity for its open access programs and encourage broader use. The VCU Libraries will monitor patterns and adjust as needed, expand to other formats such as data and monographs, broaden the pool of eligible applicants (possibly including undergraduates), and expand the funding base through partnerships. As of the meeting date, VCU's open access publishing fund has supported 3 articles, with another on the way, in fields including management, surgery, and focused inquiry.

Open access funds generally cover the article processing charges (APC) for publications in open access journals. The VCU Libraries can directly reimburse faculty authors for APCs or pay publishers directly. These APCs also can often be built into grant applications to supplement library funds.

One member asked how payments are handled in the case of multiple authors. If multiple authors are all from VCU, then the VCU Libraries will try to accommodate all of those authors. If authors are outside VCU then it is only possible to support the VCU authors. Right now the open access publishing fund criteria do not distinguish between primary and secondary authors.

Action Items: Send out comprehensive list of open access journals to VLAC list (John Duke/John Ulmschneider)

Open educational resources (John Ulmschneider, PowerPoint presentation, handout)

Open educational resources (OERs) are teaching, learning, and research materials released under an open license that permits their free use and repurposing by others. OERs can be textbooks, full courses, lesson plans, videos, test, software, or any other tool, material, or technique that supports the classroom experience.

According to a recent survey, about 66% of faculty have no awareness of OERs. Of those who do know about OER, the larger fraction are older faculty, with fewer younger faculty aware of OER. Awareness varies across disciplines: health sciences and natural sciences show the greatest awareness. Faculty in 2 year institutions are more aware of OERs than their counterparts in 4 year institutions. Those faculty who have some awareness of open educational resources believe that OERs have better value and significant advantages over paid resources.

There do exist clear barriers to broader use of OERs. There is no comprehensive catalog or finding aid for what is available; it can be difficult to find what's needed for specific classroom environments; there are not enough resources for specific disciplines; and the permissions structure for use and reuse can be



confusing. The VCU Libraries hopes to mitigate some of these obstacles through its new work in this area in coming months. Textbook costs can play a major role in which courses students decide to take and how many courses they are able to take. Research demonstrates clearly that student performance in classrooms using OER is equal to or better than classrooms that use fee-based resources such as traditional textbooks. It is clearly in the best interest of VCU students to strengthen the capabilities of the VCU Libraries and VCU in the arena of OER.

Examples of OER collections include Open Stacks College (<https://openstaxcollege.org>, Rice University); Affordable Learning Solutions (<http://www.affordablelearningsolutions.org>, California State); and Open Course Library (<http://opencourselibrary.org>, Washington State).

A range of models exist for paying authors who create OERs, including grants and university supports, with some services supported by universities. It does cost something to write these materials; they are free to students but are not free to create. However, the evidence shows that most faculty members are not writing textbooks for money but instead create textbooks and other materials to improve educational outcomes for students. The income stream to faculty members is less important than compensating the faculty member for the time needed to create OERs.

Dennis Clark reported that a University College sub-committee is looking at the issue of OER resources. In response to a question about what open access materials are appropriate for specific faculty/courses, John Ulmschneider reminded the committee that the VCU Libraries provides a vast range of online resources, including books, that may be appropriate for course support needs. Faculty can consult with the appropriate library liaison for assistance in finding the appropriate resources.

Update on new library building and hard hat tour

Following the meeting, attendees joined John Ulmschneider of a tour of the new library building.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05pm.