

STATEMENT ON OPEN ACCESS FOR CUNY

I. Definitions

According to the Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI), open-access literature is available free on the public internet,

“permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable for gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited.”

To quote Jennifer McLennan, director of programs and operations for the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC):

“Open Access (OA) has the potential to maximize research investments, increase the exposure and use of published research, facilitate the ability to conduct research across available literature, and enhance the overall advancement of scholarship. Agencies that back research, academic institutions, researchers and scientists, teachers, students, and members of the general public are supporting a move toward Open Access in increasing numbers every year.”

The two major vehicles for making literature available open access are open-access journals and institutional repositories. According to Raym Crow in “The Case for Institutional Repositories: A SPARC Position Paper” (http://scholarship.utm.edu/20/1/SPARC_102.pdf):

“Institutional repositories—digital collections that capture and preserve the intellectual output of university communities—respond to two strategic issues facing academic institutions: 1) they provide a central component in reforming scholarly communication by stimulating innovation in a disaggregated publishing structure; and 2) they serve as tangible indicators of an institution’s quality, thus increasing its visibility, prestige, and public value.”

II. Attitudes of Publishers

Recently a Study of Open Access Publishing (SOAP) project:

“ran a large-scale survey of the attitudes of publishers on OA publishing, with the results showing an overwhelming support for the idea of open access among the thousands who responded.”

III. Resolution on Open Access

WHEREAS there is a need for open-access models to assist libraries and institutions in dealing with the budgetary challenges presented by the ever-increasing costs charged by journal publishers; and

WHEREAS open-access institutional repositories do not replace traditional publishing but rather serve as an additional venue for maximizing access to the fruits of faculty research; and

WHEREAS numerous universities have created open-access institutional repositories and associated policies, and many more universities are currently working toward such repositories and policies; and

WHEREAS the City University of New York is committed to educating the public and making knowledge accessible and affordable; therefore let it be

RESOLVED that the University Faculty Senate supports the development of an open-access institutional repository for the City University of New York, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with best practices, guidelines for depositing materials into the CUNY repository should be created by faculty appointed by the UFS working with the Office of Library Services and should include recommendations to faculty to deposit finished journal articles, preprints, chapters, etc. The guidelines should encourage but not require faculty to contribute to the repository, and ensure that depositing a work into the repository will not affect the author's copyright.