This issue of the SC Digest shares news of CMU’s endorsement of two important developments, provides a brief update on our participation in the Elsevier-Mendeley study, and describes development plans to preserve and host access to CMU research data.

CMU Endorsements

After confering with the President and Provost, Keith recently endorsed, on behalf of Carnegie Mellon University, the Force11 Data Citation Principles and the Confederation of Open Access Repositories’ Statement about Embargo Periods. These initiatives advocate openness and sharing, and the recognition of data publication.

The Data Citation Principles are designed to foster human understandable and machine actionable data citation practices. The preamble to the Principles states:

Sound, reproducible scholarship rests upon a foundation of robust, accessible data. For this to be so in practice as well as theory, data must be accorded due importance in the practice of scholarship and in the enduring scholarly record. In other words, data should be considered legitimate, citable products of research. Data citation, like the citation of other evidence and sources, is good research practice and is part of the scholarly ecosystem supporting data reuse.

The Statement about Embargo Periods reflects our position on publisher use of open access embargoes to protect subscription revenue:

We consider the use of embargo periods as an acceptable transitional mechanism to help facilitate a wholesale shift towards Open Access. However, embargo periods dilute the benefits of open access policies and we believe that, if they are adopted, they should be no more than 6 months for the life and physical sciences, 12 months for social sciences and humanities. We further believe that mechanisms for reducing – or eliminating – embargo periods should be included in any Open Access policy.
Discover

Radical! Get rid of the library catalog

Utrecht University Library recently removed the search box from the library website. Faculty and students discover library resources in WorldCat or the Dutch National Library using Google Scholar or another search engine. The Library received no major complaints because most users had already abandoned the Library’s discovery tools.

No longer distracted by discovery, the Library is focused on enhancing delivery. For example, to facilitate access to licensed resources, the Library developed a bookmarklet that prompts users to login with their Utrecht ID and password.

The Library continues to maintain the library catalog as an inventory of holdings uploaded to the Dutch National Library and Worldcat. Users cannot search the catalog directly, but they can use features in the integrated system, e.g., to place an item on hold or check it out of the library.

Simone Kortekaas claims the library catalog as a search tool is dead and that there is no benefit to teaching users sophisticated techniques for searching the library catalog. Her presentation and slides are available here.

Data Management Plans

The University Libraries, Office of Research, and Computing Services are collaborating to preserve and host access to CMU research data. Plans include:

- Acquiring persistent identifiers, specifically ORCID identifiers, for CMU researchers and integrating ORCID IDs into selected campus systems. See ORCID Initiative @ CMU for details.
- Using EZID to acquire persistent identifiers for datasets.
- Using Research Showcase @ CMU as our data registry, with Dublin Core metadata describing the datasets and linking to the data in a data repository.
- Using ArchivalWare as our data repository, with DataCite metadata (much richer than Dublin Core) describing the datasets. EZIDs and ORCID IDs will be included in the DataCite metadata.
- Creating in ArchivalWare the repository metadata that will be harvested by the Registry of Research Data Repositories, which will then issue a badge recognizing our repository as a “trusted” data repository.
Create and Share

Envisioning data publication

According to Carly Strasser, we’re living in a digital dark age when it comes to data access and provenance, a dark age that is eroding public trust. The solution is to enable and incentivize data sharing and publication.

What does data publication mean?
It means data are available, but not necessarily open access; citable, though how data are to be cited has not been settled; and trustworthy.

What does data publication look like?
It could look like:
• A traditional research article (e.g., results, analysis, conclusions) with data published alongside or linked to in a data repository.
• A data paper describing the data (i.e., not the research results, analysis or conclusions) with the data published alongside or linked to in a data repository.
• Standalone data with rich metadata, published without an associated paper.

Revamping the path to OA publishing

Founded in 2012, Ubiquity Press ([u]) aims to return control of scholarly publishing to academic presses, to catalyze open access, and to out-compete legacy publishers. The [u] business model and technology infrastructure significantly lower the cost of Article Process Charges (APCs), enabling scholarly societies and presses to transition to open access publishing.

[u] needs a $400 APC to sustain operations. Societies and presses using [u] can charge an additional APC of $600-$1000 and the platform will still beat legacy publishers on price.

[u] publishes articles, books, data papers and software immediately upon acceptance and provides altmetrics. Data papers link to data deposited in a data repository under an open license and enable traditional citation formats and use of existing altmetrics, compensating for the current lack of data citation standards and unique identifiers.

Gather and Manage

Put it in your Pocket

Struggling to keep up to date? Need a way to find things easily later? Try Pocket.

With Pocket you can save web content to read or view later. Adding and deleting content are easy. You can add stuff to your Pocket using a web browser, email, or over 500 apps. You can access what’s in your Pocket on your computer, tablet, or smart phone. Simply sign up for a Pocket account, install the Pocket Button or Bookmarklet on your web browser and the Pocket app on your other devices. Content in your Pocket synchronizes across your devices.

Buffer your social media posts

If you want to share something on social media, including something in your Pocket, use Buffer. Buffer enables you to manage all your social media accounts simultaneously. You can schedule where and when to share content and get statistics on how your posts perform.

Sign up for a Buffer account, install the Buffer web browser extension, link your social media accounts and begin scheduling. You can also get Buffer for your smart phone. See Getting Setup, Scheduling and Posting.
Opening access in China

In May 2014, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) announced that research papers arising from their funded projects must be deposited in online repositories and made publicly accessible within 12 months of publication. The number of papers published by Chinese researchers is growing rapidly. The new policies will significantly increase the number of these papers available open access.

Modeling journal data sharing policy

The Journal Research Data (JoRD) Project confirmed that journal data sharing policies are nonexistent or inconsistent. Authors don’t know whether, where or how to share their data. In response, the Project developed a model data sharing policy based on quantitative data gathered from existing policies and qualitative data collected from concerned stakeholders. See Research Data Sharing: Developing a Stakeholder-Driven Model for Journal Policies.

Fostering open policies

Launched in May 2014, the Open Policy Network (OPN) aims to foster the creation, adoption and implementation of open policies and practices to advance the public good. The basic premise is that publicly funded resources are (or should be) openly licensed resources. The OPN provides advocates with information, materials and strategies. Members include Creative Commons, SPARC, and the Harvard Open Access Project.

Writing to be read

Also launched in May 2014, the Authors Alliance promotes authorship for the public good by supporting authors who write to be read. The Alliance provides resources to help authors understand and manage key legal, technological, and institutional aspects of authorship in the digital age. The Directors, Advisory Board and Founding Members are listed here. Join the Alliance if you are interested in author rights and related issues. Will the Authors Alliance and Authors Guild duke it out, Author vs. Author?

Did You Know?

People are counterfeiting journal websites. Pretending to be the website of a legitimate journal, they solicit submissions to the hijacked version and pocket the Article Processing Charge (APC). Jeffrey Beall maintains a list of Hijacked Journals in addition to his list of Predatory Open Access Publishers. Researchers should beware of both scams.

The ideal blog post tells a story, opens with short lines of text, hits a sweetspot at 1,500+ words (68% more tweets and 22% more Facebook likes than shorter articles), and includes soundbites known as “tweetables” because they tend to go viral on Twitter. See The Anatomy of a Perfect Blog Post: The Data on Headlines, Length, Images and More.

The Knowledge Unlatched pilot successfully demonstrated a business model for open access publishing of scholarly monographs. 297 libraries -- including the University Libraries -- participated in the pilot, exceeding the original target by almost 50%. This reduced the cost per participant from $1680 to $1195. Participants paid roughly $43 per book to open access to the 28 books in the pilot. See Pilot Proof of Concept Progress Summary 2014 for further details and next steps.

The Library Publishing Coalition (LPC) recently transitioned from a project to an organization. The University Libraries pledged to continue LPC membership through 2015.