

Collection Development Plan to Support Sustainable Collections: A Proposal
DeWitt Wallace Library
Macalester College
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“We will be using a new lens: assessing potential purchases in relation to whether they transform the scholarly communication system towards openness, or make a positive impact on the scholarly communication environment in some way, whether via licensing, access, pricing, or another dimension.”¹

Academic libraries are in the midst of major changes. These changes involve all of our services, including our collections, our instruction programs, and our spaces. Our collections in particular are impacted by increasing external pressures. College library collections traditionally focus on supporting the current curriculum. We are continually evaluating how to best maintain a vibrant collection that meets the needs of faculty and students in a wide range of disciplines while also working within the available budget.

Budget constraints are placing the most pressure on our collections. The cost of our subscription resources continues to increase at a rate that outpaces our annual budget allocation. For example, journal costs average 5-10% increases every year while our budget is flat or increases by only 1%. Monograph and textbook costs have also increased, thereby limiting the number of titles we are able to purchase in a year. As a result, we are seeking ways to build more sustainable collections. One pathway that has emerged is an increased emphasis on open access initiatives that are intended to change the scholarly publication landscape.

Memberships/Open Access Collection Support

On our own campus, we developed an [institutional repository](#) (IR) that provides open access to student honor projects and award-winning papers, peer-reviewed open access journals, and faculty publications. Resources in our IR have been downloaded more than 2 million times from around the world. In 2010, we set aside a small fund to pay author fees (Article Processing Charges, or APCs) for some articles, written by faculty, co-authored by students, to make them openly accessible. Beginning in budget year 2016-17, our library leadership team agreed to set aside 1% of the overall library budget to support open access initiatives.²

For two decades we have joined or supported a variety of open access initiatives that are working to “transform the scholarly communication system toward openness.” We supported [SPARC](#) (originally Scholarly Publishing and Research Coalition) at its inception in 1997 and we have been a member since 2002. We expanded our financial support to include open monograph publishing initiatives such as [Lever Press](#), [Open Book Publishers](#), and [Knowledge Unlatched](#). Our commitment to the advancement of openly accessible resources has had a long history and trajectory. Additional OA initiatives that we support through membership, ongoing purchases, or single payments include:

- [Open Humanities Press](#)
- [Open Library](#) (Internet Library)

¹“What organic food shopping can tell us about transforming the scholarly communications system”, IO: In the Open, Libraries, Scholarship, and Publishing (blog); posted March 23, 2016 by Ellen Finnie.
<http://intheopen.net/2016/03/what-organic-food-shopping-can-tell-us-about-transforming-the-scholarly-communication-system/>

² Another initiative underway is a 2.5% Commitment initiated by David Lewis.
<https://scholarworks.iupui.edu/handle/1805/14063>

- [Open Textbook Network/Open Textbook Library](#)
- [DigitalCommons@Macalester](#)
 - [Himalaya](#) - OA scholarly society journal supported by library staff and published in DC
 - [Captive Audiences](#), [Rupture of the Virtual](#) - OA monographs supported by library staff and published in DC.
- [Intersections Series](#) - a new ebook monograph series highlighting faculty work that crosses multiple disciplines

Faculty Support

As mentioned above, we have supported paying APCs in order to make articles written by our faculty and students openly accessible. We have funded more than 28 articles since 2010. Beginning in budget year 2018-19, we are making an adjustment to our funding. APCs for articles co-written by faculty and students will continue to be fully funded for all journals, but APCs for other articles will only be paid if they are published in fully open access journals, not in commercial journals with a hybrid model of open access for a fee. We will be using the [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) (DOAJ) to determine eligibility. We are also a member of [MDPI](#) a publisher of open access journals that provides reduced fees for publishing for members.

Open Textbook Support

We are currently running a pilot program to provide stipends to faculty for adopting, adapting, or creating open textbooks. For more information, see our library guides: [Open Educational Resources \(OER\): A Quick Guide](#) and more information will be found on [OER Toolkit: Getting Started](#).

Conclusion

The current system of scholarly publishing has been under stress for more than three decades. In November, 2017, Shan Sutton wrote a blog post, [Accelerating academy-owned publishing](#), emphasizing that changes are underway because the “...current system of scholarly journal publishing is [too expensive](#), too slow, too restrictive, and dominated by entities using [lock-in business practices](#). Fortunately, there are a growing number of [scholarly communities embracing services and platforms](#) that accelerate research sharing and increase participation in scholarship.” Sutton predicted that “academy owned publishing” will be accelerating in the future. In fact, this was the theme for the Library Publishing Forum annual meeting, May 21-23, 2018 in Minneapolis, with a pre-conference entitled, “Owned by the Academy.” We are also seeing more support from faculty in the humanities. A forthcoming publication by Kathleen Fitzpatrick, [Generous Thinking: The University and the Public Good](#), discusses open access and the benefits of public engagement.³ An increasing shift to academy-owned publishing will naturally affect how we provide access to scholarship in the future. We are asking faculty to join us in supporting open access to scholarship and endorse our efforts to focus a portion of our budget on purchases that contribute to transforming the scholarly communication system toward openness.

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³ Chapter on Public Access, <https://generousthinking.hcommons.org/4-working-in-public/public-access/> visited 8/8/2018.