



**University of Washington
FACULTY SENATE
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**Resolution Concerning
Scholarly Publishing Alternatives
and Authors' Rights**

WHEREAS, the primary mission of the University of Washington is the advancement, dissemination and preservation of knowledge; and

WHEREAS, the products of faculty scholarship are generated for the public benefit, are supported in part by nonprofit or public agencies, and are created, peer reviewed, and edited by faculty with little or no direct remuneration; and

WHEREAS, scholarly journal publication, especially in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and medicine, is increasingly being dominated by and aggregated in the hands of a few large commercial publishing houses; and

WHEREAS, the costs to academic libraries of journals published by these commercial publishers have risen far more rapidly than inflation, thereby limiting free and open exchange of scholarly information; and

WHEREAS, the publication agreements offered by some publishers limit authors' rights to use their own work in their teaching and research and/or to archive their work in an openly accessible repository; and

WHEREAS, proprietary formats, new forms of digital protection, and new subscription models for selling "backfile" databases to libraries threaten to further restrict access to scholarly resources; and

WHEREAS, the continued increases in journal costs have impaired the Libraries' purchasing power and have forced the Libraries to conduct a serials review that will almost certainly result in widespread cancellation of journal subscriptions; and

WHEREAS, the current system for production and distribution of scholarly works is increasingly dysfunctional and fiscally unsustainable and restricts rather than increases access to and dissemination of knowledge; and

WHEREAS, the University of Washington Libraries has established an online, freely accessible and searchable repository, *ResearchWorks at the University of Washington (ResearchWorks)*, for the dissemination and preservation of scholarly works published by members of the University community; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that

1. the University of Washington prepare for a future in which academic publications are increasingly available through open sources by encouraging faculty members to:
 - assess the pricing practices and authors' rights policies of journals with which they collaborate (as authors, reviewers, and editors) and advocate for improvements therein; and
 - adopt and use an Addendum to Publication Agreement such as that provided by the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) in order to retain their rights to use their work in the classroom and in future publications and to archive final accepted manuscripts; and
 - publish scholarly works in moderately priced journals, in journals published by professional societies and associations, or in peer-reviewed "open access" journals; and
 - archive their work in the UW's *ResearchWorks* or other repositories supported by research institutions, professional societies, or government agencies in order to provide the widest and most affordable access to their scholarship; and

2. UW Libraries is encouraged to
 - provide relevant, current information regarding journal publishers, pricing, and authors' rights to departments and individual faculty members; and
 - maintain and further develop *ResearchWorks* and related services; and
 - allocate personnel to facilitate the deposit of faculty publications in *ResearchWorks*, and to obtain publishers' permission to deposit previously published works when possible; and
3. the University of Washington administration is encouraged to:
 - provide resources to the Libraries and to academic units to foster these efforts; and
 - work with departments and colleges to assure that the review process for promotion, tenure and merit takes into consideration these new trends and realities in academic publication.

*Approved by:
Faculty Senate
April 23, 2009*

*Approved by:
Senate Executive Committee
April 6, 2009*

*Submitted by:
Scholarly Communication Committee
Faculty Council on University Libraries
& Faculty Council on Research
April 6, 2009*

Background and Rationale:

The following resolution was drafted by the Scholarly Communication Committee, an *ad hoc* committee established by the Senate Executive Committee in October 2008, the membership of which consists of representatives from the Faculty Council on University Libraries, the Faculty Council on Research, and the University Libraries.

The rationale for the formation of the committee grew out of discussions in the Faculty Council on University Libraries about the escalating costs to the Libraries of both online and print subscriptions of scholarly journals, due partly to the increasing dominance of a few large commercial publishers that have restricted dissemination of knowledge by the imposition of monopolistic pricing and "bundling" policies upon institutional subscribers. One response to this challenge has been the development of "open access" journals, the publishing costs of which are borne by authors, educational institutions, and/or funding agencies rather than subscribers. A related issue of publishers' control over scholarly communication is the limitation of authors' rights to use material from their publications in teaching and in subsequent works. The charge of the Scholarly Communication Committee was "to draft a resolution about open access and faculty authors' rights."

Increasing appreciation of differing publishing cultures across academic disciplines resulted in alteration of the Committee's initial approach. Journals with the most egregious pricing policies tend to be concentrated in the sciences, technology, and medicine – the same fields in which the importance of immediate availability of information together with potential publishing support from funding agencies make open access most practicable. Open access publishing is arguably less feasible in the arts and humanities in which generally lower journal costs place less of a financial burden on libraries and authors' publication expenses are unlikely to be offset by funding agencies. The committee therefore broadened its advocacy to promotion of faculty members' awareness of journal pricing and publishing alternatives and of the impacts of their choices of publishers (by writing, reviewing, and editing) on the cost, availability, and dissemination of their work to scholars and other interested individuals around the world.

The resolution also seeks to promote faculty members' awareness of mechanisms they can use to retain rights to their work, such as adding an addendum delineating those rights to publishers' publication agreements (example attached). Included among these may be the right to deposit publications in a freely accessible institutional or discipline-based repository, such as the Libraries' "ResearchWorks at The University of Washington" <https://digital.lib.washington.edu/researchworks>. In support of this activity, the resolution calls upon the Libraries and the University of Washington administration to further develop, publicize, and facilitate faculty authors' use of ResearchWorks.

The resolution has been unanimously approved by the Scholarly Communication Committee and its two parent councils, the Faculty Council on University Libraries and the Faculty Council on Research, and unanimously endorsed by the Libraries Cabinet.