Authors’ Rights to Share Scholarship: A Survey of IUPUI Faculty Attitudes

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INTRODUCTION
Faculty who take an active role in the dissemination of their research are more likely to make an impact on a field of scholarship. Online, full-text archiving is a key component of being a self-advocate as an author and for building a scholarly reputation. In fact, posting a version of a published article in an open access repository, such as IUPUIScholarWorks, increases an author’s citation rate. Most journal publishers (77%) permit authors to upload a version of their article to IUPUIScholarWorks; however, faculty may be unsure of how to exercise this right. Do IUPUI faculty self-archive their articles? Do they examine or negotiate the terms of their copyright transfer agreements? Would IUPUI faculty consider implementing a campus policy to maximize their rights as authors?

METHODS
To explore attitudes related to these questions, we conducted a campus-wide survey of IUPUI faculty in the Fall semester of 2013. The survey adapted an instrument used in similar campus-wide research conducted in 2006 at the University of California and in 2010 at the University of Toronto. This broad survey addressed attitudes regarding many factors relevant to publishing, peer review and scholarly communications.

DEMOGRAPHICS
Recruitment: The email invitation was sent twice to all faculty during the Fall 2013 semester. IRB? Yes.
Scope: Scholarly communications: publishing, peer review, promotion and tenure, and more.
Length: Study data were collected and managed using REDCap electronic data capture tools hosted at Indiana CTSI. The instrument includes 136 fields and requires roughly 20 minutes to complete.
Responses: 337 entered; 247 completed.

SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS: ATTITUDES
There is a need to reform the scholarly communications system:

- 61% Strongly Agree or Agree
- 12% Strongly Disagree or Disagree
- 26% Don’t Know

Attitudes
- 56% have not negotiated copyright terms
- 38% would be willing to modify copyright contracts to grant only “non-exclusive” rights to the publisher
- 45% would prefer precise instructions and example
- 61% would prefer advice and support of their institution (e.g., IUPUI)
- 12% would prefer advice and support of a funder (e.g., NIH)

Management of Copyright is a Topic Faculty Need to Discuss

- 52% Unsure
- 39% Strongly Agree
- 10% Agree
- 5% Disagree

Open access policies:
- 39% in Favor
- 52% Unsure
- 5% Opposed

Opt-out policies for IUPUI: Why or why not?

- 46% Agree (11 Strongly + 35 Agree = 46)
- 23% Disagree (5 Strongly + 18 Disagree = 23)
- 22% Neither
- 1% don’t know (132)

Op-out open access policies help faculty preserve their rights as authors to reproduce and distribute their scholarly articles. Faculty who take an active role in the dissemination of their research are more likely to make an impact on a field of scholarship. Opt-out open access policies: Why or why not?

DISCUSSION
Management of Copyright is a Topic Faculty Need to Discuss

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- 12% would prefer advice and support of their institution (e.g., IUPUI)
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OPEN ACCESS POLICY COMMENTS
- “Open access is the future. It is inappropriate not to make knowledge widely accessible. We are an institution of higher learning, not an institution of profit.”
- “Because it can enhance the reputation of IUPUI.”
- “OA policies will increase the distribution and value of IUPUI faculty’s research.”
- “It’s MY work. Why should the university be able to tell me what to do with it?”
- “Whether IUPUI and its library want it to be the case, requirements like that fly in the face of academic freedom. If the majority of my field looks down on them comparatively, it doesn’t matter what the university thinks of them. And they can really require me to do something that hurts my standing in the field just to make a point?”
- “We already have too many different levels of mandates, and time burdens, which adversely impact productivity.”

REFERENCES