

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 (72%) 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.

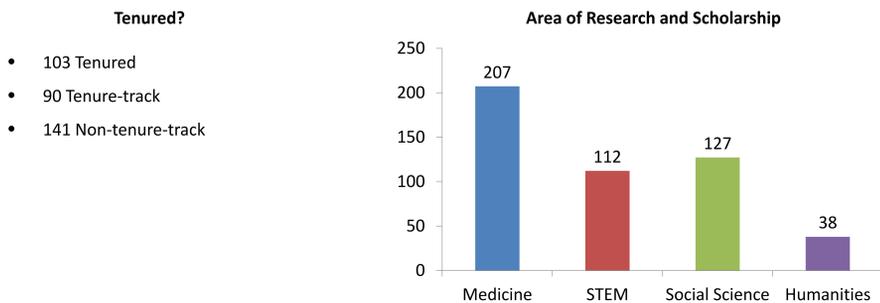
DEMOGRAPHICS

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 126 fields and requires roughly 20 minutes to complete.

Responses: 337 entered; 247 completed.



SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS: ATTITUDES

Making my work openly accessible to everyone with access to the internet--not only to those whose universities can afford the licensing fees--is a benefit to me:

- 67% Strongly Agree or Agree
- 12% Strongly Disagree or Disagree
- 20% Don't Know

There is a need to reform the scholarly communications system:

- 61% Strongly Agree or Agree
- 11% Strongly Disagree or Disagree
- 28% Don't Know

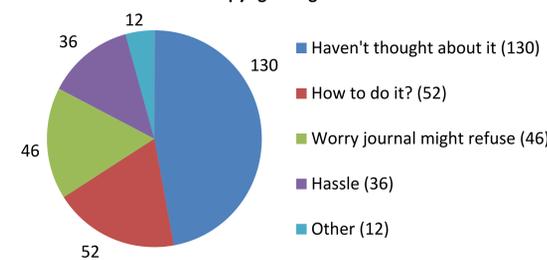
AUTHORS' RIGHTS

Opt-out open access policies help faculty preserve their rights as authors to reproduce and distribute their scholarly articles.

Attitudes

- 96% have not negotiated copyright terms
- 38% would be willing to modify copyright contracts to grant only "non-exclusive" rights to the publisher

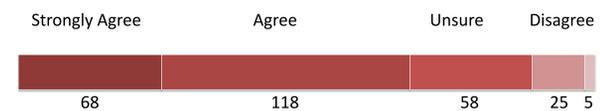
Barriers to Copyright Negotiations



Desired Assistance for Copyright Negotiations

- 65% would prefer precise instructions and examples
- 61% would prefer advice and support of their institution (i.e., IUPUI)
- 12% would prefer advice and support of a funder (e.g., NIH)

Management of Copyright is a Topic Faculty Need to Discuss

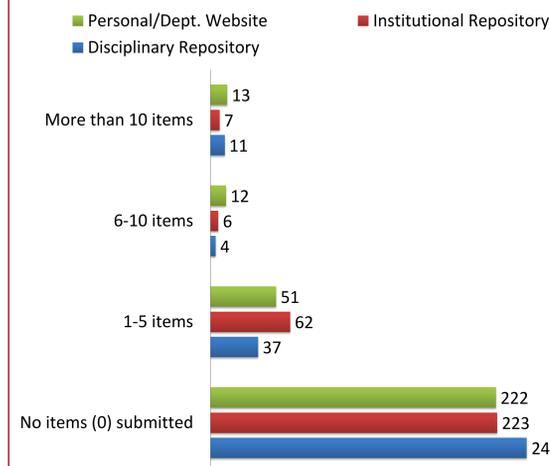


- "I wish I knew more about my options here."
- "We are asked to sign away our rights to our intellectual property in order to get a publication - this has never seemed right to me."
- "I think we should keep some rights and the university should help us in this process."

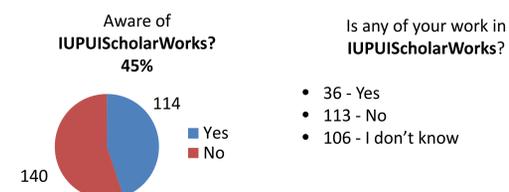
SELF-ARCHIVING

Number of responding faculty who report making a specified number of submissions or postings to

- an institutional repository
- disciplinary repository
- personal or departmental website:



However, only 24% report making publications available on an open access basis through self-archiving.



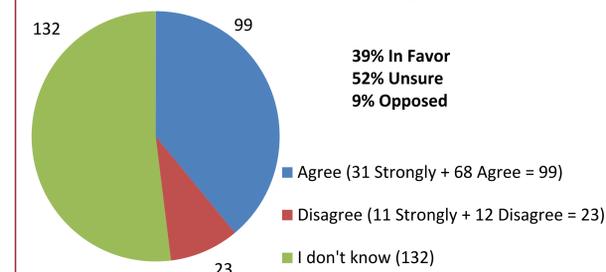
OPEN ACCESS POLICIES

Defined in the survey as "mandates or policies for faculty to routinely grant a limited, non-exclusive license to place their scholarly publications in a non-commercial publicly-accessible online repository."

Awareness of and favorability of pursuing a campus, opt-out OA policy:

- California study (2006): 75% Unaware; 47% In Favor
- Toronto study (2010): 70% Unaware; 67% In Favor
- IUPUI (2013): 72% Unaware; 39% In Favor

"Should IUPUI faculty consider implementing a similar policy?"



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

Supportive Comments (38)

- Share knowledge: 20
- Good for IUPUI: 10
- Common sense: 3
- Good for my readership: 3
- Retain my rights: 2

Opposed Comments (17)

- Choice of journals: 4
- It's MY work: 3
- Self publishing: 3
- It's a hassle: 4
- No benefit to me: 4
- Depends on the details: 1
- Not if for sale: 1
- Too expensive: 1

OPEN ACCESS POLICY COMMENTS

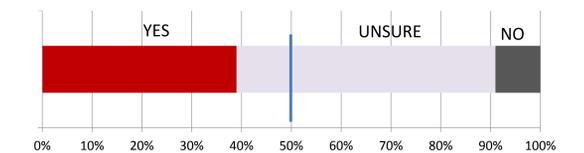
Pro

- "Open access is the future. It is inappropriate to not make knowledge widely accessible. We are an institution of higher learning, not an institution of secret knowledge."
- "Because it can enhance the reputation of IUPUI."
- "OA policies will increase the distribution and value of IUPUI faculty's research."

Con

- "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 can they 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."

Favoring Policy Discussions



DISCUSSION

Informed IUPUI faculty would support a campus-wide deliberation regarding the adoption of an opt-out open access policy. Key dynamics relevant to implementing a policy at IUPUI include:

- Knowledge vs Uncertainty:** An overwhelming majority (72%) were unaware of opt-out open access policies. However, after learning about policies during the survey, a portion (10%) of the respondents decided that they would support deliberations.
- Attitudes vs Actions:** Support is strong for reforming the scholarly communications system (61%) and a majority agree that making their work open access would be in their best interest as authors (67%); however, few (14%) have submitted an item to IUPUIScholarWorks. Similarly, very few (4%) have modified a copyright transfer agreement.
- Motivations vs Incentives:** A majority support increasing open access to knowledge (60%) and seek increased exposure (59%); however, for faculty adoption of an opt-out open access policy, these incentives must be obvious and barriers to participation (time, frustration and lack of knowledge) must be minimal.

REFERENCES

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