OA, public access policies, and the academic library

Some questions

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Q: Who are you and what do you do?

- **Scholarly Communication Librarian (2013 - present)** at IUPUI ... soon to be “IU Indianapolis”
- I manage the [institutional repository](#), the [IUPUI OA fund](#), and the [IUPUI OA policy](#);
- I promote open science and digital humanities practices;
- I sometimes support our journal publishing and research metrics services;
- I also field a lot of copyright questions ... 
- AND ... the best part, [I edit Wikipedia with Jamie!!!](#)
Q: How do you understand the difference between “open access” and “public access”?

- When I use the phrase “public access,” I usually mean federal policies (like the OSTP policies) that require and provide free access to funded works and sometimes data.
- “Public access” at IUPUI usually means the NIH Public Access Policy.
- Not everything that’s “public access” is “open access” … this is a confusing point for authors.
- OA enables some reuse (in contrast, a lot of what’s in PMC is NOT available for reuse).
- When authors say “OA” they usually mean for-fee OA journals.
Q: How does your library support or promote OA adoption?

- I led the advocacy work for the eventual (2014) adoption of IUPUI OA policy: [https://openaccess.iupui.edu/](https://openaccess.iupui.edu/)
- We also sponsor a group of faculty and students interested in open science.
- Nonetheless, we focus more on outcomes (works made OA) than we do on knowledge and attitudes.
Q: But what about anxieties about journal quality and “predatory” publishers?

- We intentionally advocate against a culture that uses journal rankings as a proxy for research quality.
- We provide metrics support for faculty in the P&T system.
- I do not use the word “predatory”... I prefer “journals with poor peer review practices” or (sometimes) “fraudulent.”
- We completed a review of 2017 IUPUI publications and found very few (1.3%) that we considered problematic.
- I use questions about “predatory journals” as an opportunity to explain how the global publishing market is changing and what that means for their futures as authors.
Q: How does your library support OSTP public access policies?

- The IUPUI OA policy was adopted by the faculty in large part to facilitate compliance with the OSTP Holdren memo.
- We explain non-IU policy without defending or blaming it (websites, workshops, consultations).
- OSTP policies DO NOT require publishing in an OA journal ... or do they?
- We focus on making compliance less burdensome--data management strategies, mediated deposit (mostly NIH), notifications.
- The IUPUI OA fund for APCs is NOT meant as a tool to support federally funded research.
- We're also NOT motivated to make additional “transformative” agreements to support federally funded research.
Q: What's the biggest challenge you see in the next years as public access policies are implemented?

- Who pays for publishing?
  - For-fee OA market shift.
  - Publisher responses to Plan-S and the OSTP Nelson memo.
  - “Flat” budgets.
- Variety and irregularity in policy design and implementation
- Increased demand for library services while ... more “flat” budgets.
- Uncertainty in U.S. politics.