

The Practical Commons: Viability and Next Steps

Saturday November 20, 2004

University of Maine

<http://library.umaine.edu/COIC/>

Preface

Perhaps we need to acknowledge that:

- Support of the public domain and increasing access to intellectual works begins at home.
- We hold much of the solution to our access problems in our own hands.
- Solutions are not for some “other group” to solve.
- Coalition of the willing should include, invite or engage faculty, students, university administrators, legislators, business people, community groups and interested citizens.

Potential Actions by Individual Professors

- (1) Use Creative Commons and similar “some rights reserved” licenses with your web sites, articles, audio, video, and other digital works whenever possible so that others are put on notice that they may use your work legally for many purposes without asking your further permission.
- (2) As your highest priority, always publish in open access journals. Commit your priority review and editing efforts to open access journals.

Potential Actions by Individual Professors (cont'd)

- (3) If publishing in an open access journal is “impossible,” deposit your scholarly works in an electronic institutional or discipline depository prior to submitting them so that at least pre-prints are openly available. At the very least, (a) place a preprint on your own web site and maintain it as an accessible link and/or (b) post print if possible.

- (4) Teaching materials: Assign only readings that are openly available on the web. Make your own class syllabi, class slides, lecture notes, reading and homework assignments, tutorial materials, textbooks, and audio and video recordings of class sessions available on the open web or open archive. Not difficult - just do it.

Potential Actions by University Campuses or the University System

- (1) Create an institutional repository for the creative scholarly output of faculty and students that supports increased accessibility and long-term archiving.
 - Important for standard metadata and search.
 - Necessary but insufficient
- (2) Create an institutional policy that ensures that copyright clearly resides in creators and encourages those creators to place their works in the public domain or open access licensing environments. (Already accomplished for UMS ... although updating would be appropriate)

University of Maine System Policy Manual

Section 209 Intellectual Property

<http://www.maine.edu/policysc209.html>

UMS Full Statement of Policy Governing Patents and Copyrights 2/22/02

- “It is the policy of the University that all rights in Copyrightable Works shall remain with the author(s) and creator(s) unless: ...” (narrowly proscribed) ... most materials created in the normal course of teaching and scholarly work presumed under the ownership control of the creator

- “Moreover in furtherance of the traditional academic principle of full and open exchange of ideas and to support the widest possible dissemination of scholarly works, authors and creators are highly encouraged to copyright any and all of their works through use of the University of Maine System Broad Application Copyleft License, as set forth in Appendix A (currently identical to “Design Science License”)

Potential Actions by University Campuses or the University System (con't.)

- (3) Pass a formal university policy stating that publications that are not legally available within an openly accessible archive:
- shall be deemed by the university to be of lesser value due to their limited availability and
 - shall be listed as such on all applications for promotion and tenure and all applications for teaching, research, public service and other honorary awards.

Example: Please list your scholarly publications in each of the following categories.

(1) Open Archival Peer Reviewed Publications

- cite / url / citation index or impact rating or acceptance rate of submissions

(2) Open Archival Books

- cite / url

(3) Open Archival Conference Proceedings

- cite / url / acceptance rate of abstract submissions

(4) Other Peer Reviewed Publications

- cite / url / citation index or impact rating or acceptance rate of submissions

(5) Other Books

- cite / url

(6) Other Conference Proceedings

⁹ - cite / url / acceptance rate of abstract submissions

Potential Actions by University Campuses or the University System (cont'd.)

- (4) Help professors and students to overcome publisher copyright release demands by providing an official university policy statement that may be attached to and made a part of all submissions to publication outlets. (e.g. SPARC)
- (5) Promote and support “recommender systems” among universities to supplement or replace prepublication peer review, article citation ratings and journal impact rankings (slash.dot or e-bay approach to ranking articles posted in depositories)

Potential Actions by Business People and Other Creators

- (1) In pursuing income generation from your digital works, consider and explore the broad range of alternative economic models for generating revenue through other than pursuit of restrictive access practices.

Examples: pursue logic of the free version, versioning for different markets, open versus closed approaches to intellectual property management, etc.

Further Actions to Suggest?

Next Steps?

- Should we take the bold step of changing the reporting system of the University of Maine System campuses to provide an incentive for all scholars to make their works more globally available?

Closing

Thanks to our volunteers!

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... plus all the presenters and all of our sponsors.



That's all folks.
Drive safe.