

Here's How Temple Faculty Can Put Open Access Into Action

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During the week of October 24, Temple University Libraries [hosted a number of activities in celebration of Open Access Week](#), an annual event that promotes the benefits of Open Access (OA) in the academic and research community. Core tenets of OA include free online access to scholarly research and the right to use and re-use those results in your own academic work. The important implications for academia, medicine, science, and society as a whole speak to an overall advancement of scholarship, as OA increases the exposure and use of published research.

In addition to a panel on “Open Access and the Future of Scholarly Publishing” on October 27 that was moderated by Rebecca Kennison of the Open Access Network and featured Temple faculty members Janelle Bailey (Education), Erik Cordes (Biology) and Hector Postigo (Media Studies), the Libraries offered “Pop-Up Open Access Tables” at Anderson Hall, Gladfelter Hall and the SERC. After a good conversation about open access at Temple University, Faculty Herald editor Paul LaFollett, asked Temple Libraries to contribute an article about open access. I am pleased to do so on behalf of Temple Libraries, where we are committed to working with faculty colleagues, research libraries, global advocacy organizations and citizens to explore new opportunities to achieve open access – the free, immediate, online access to the results of scholarly research, and the right to use and re-use those results as you need.

Temple University Libraries spends millions of dollars each year to purchase subscriptions to thousands of journals across the disciplines. We do so to support the research and learning needs of our community members who have unfettered access to scholarly research. But consider the student who graduates, moves to the workplace and then seeks to use the research literature. They will likely be blocked from doing so unless willing to spend \$35 or more to acquire or just access online a single article. These prohibitive costs establish a formidable barrier to members of the public who need access to scholarly articles. The result is the [expansion of systems designated for the illegal sharing](#) and downloading of research that is behind paywalls.

Imagine what Temple University Libraries could do with all the money spent on access to scholarship, much of which is authored by university faculty who then freely give it to the commercial publishers that in turn charge us considerable fees to access – not even own – this information. Along with other research libraries Temple University Libraries is looking for ways to support faculty who wish to share their research in open access journals. We recently started a pilot project to assist faculty with Author Processing Charges (APCs) for publication in journals whose primary funding comes from APCs. Our Library Publishing and Scholarly Communications Specialist can assist faculty to identify open access journals, obtain an ORCID number, craft an addendum to an author publishing agreement or provide guidance for depositing articles in open access repositories.

While we encourage faculty to work with us to achieve open access, there is much that faculty can do on their own or with colleagues to promote the advance of open access. This year's Open Access Week theme was “Commit to Putting Open in Action”, and it encourages action at the personal level. Nick Shockey, Director of Programs & Engagement for SPARC and founding Director of the Right to Research Coalition, compiled a list of actions individual faculty members could take to in order to promote open access in their department, institution or discipline. Because Nick assigned a Creative Commons License to his article, we are able to freely share his ideas simply by agreeing to provide attribution.

Make a list of Open Access journals in my discipline I would consider publishing in and share it with colleagues. The [Directory of Open Access Journals \(DOAJ\)](#) is a community-curated online directory that indexes and provides access to high quality, open access, peer-reviewed journals. The DOAJ is a great starting point that allows you to browse open access journals by discipline and discover open publications which might be a good fit for your work. You can also use resources like [Think. Check. Submit.](#) to evaluate journals before deciding to submit a manuscript.

Start a conversation about Open Access during a research group meeting, journal club, or staff meeting. Find opportunities to start a discussion with those in your department, lab, or research group about Open Access and how sharing research openly can increase the visibility and impact of their work. Use videos such as [Open Access Explained](#) from PhD Comics to help start the conversation.

Send at least one manuscript to an open-access journal within the next year. Once you have a list of open access journals that are a suitable venue for your work, commit to sending one of your publications to an open access journal over the next year. You can use [WhyOpenResearch](#) to find no-cost or low-cost open access options as well as tips for reducing the cost of publishing in journals that do charge fees and finding funding to cover related costs.

Deposit at least one of my articles into an open-access repository within the next year and encourage colleagues to do the same. A [growing number of studies](#) show a strong correlation between making an article publicly accessible online and a significant increase in views, downloads, and ultimately citations for that article. Using tools such as Sherpa-Romeo or Dissem.in, you can determine what rights you have to make already-published work publicly accessible ([an estimated 80% of publishers](#) allow authors to



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make some form of their article publicly accessible), and the Directory of Open Access Repositories lists more than 2,600 repositories—both institutional and discipline-specific—among which you can find a good fit for your work.

Use the [SPARC author addendum](#) on your next publication to reserve rights to make a copy of your work publicly accessible. When you sign a copyright transfer form, you can decide which rights you want to keep, and which you want to give away. The SPARC author addendum is a legal instrument that you can use to modify your copyright transfer agreements with non-open access journal publishers. It allows you to select which individual rights out of the bundle of copyrights you want to keep, such as distributing copies in the course of teaching and research, posting the article on a personal or institutional Web site, or creating derivative works.

Contribute to a conversation on campus about institutional support for Open Access. Increasingly, colleges and universities are supporting faculty in making their research and scholarship open—from institutional open access policies to expressing support for Open Access in promotion and tenure guidelines. Using [ROARMAP](#), you can explore which institutions and funders already have policies requiring research results to be made publicly accessible. If your institution already has supportive policies in place, work with colleagues to help make them more effective. If not, start a conversation about the importance of Open Access, how OA can benefit both faculty and the institution, and the various policies institutions are using to support faculty in making their research and scholarship open.

Sign the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment](#) (DORA) and commit to not using journal-based metrics in evaluation. Moving away from flawed, journal-based metrics of evaluation is an important step to help enable a larger shift toward Open Access. Now signed by more than 12,000 individuals and 900 organizations, DORA is a commitment not to use journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, to assess an individual scientist's contributions, or in hiring, promotion, or funding decisions.

Sign up for Impactstory to discover your #OAScore and get an ORCID. [Impactstory](#) is an open-source website that helps researchers explore and share the online impact of their research. In addition to many other metrics, Impactstory provides a badge that tracks what percentage of your articles are accessible online—your OAScore—and will measure progress in opening up your work. Impactstory uses ORCID, a persistent digital identifier that distinguishes you from every other researcher and supports automated linkages between you and your professional activities ensuring that your work is recognized.

As you can see there are many options an individual faculty member can choose from to support open access. I would like to add one more: **Partner with Temple University Libraries to support global open access.** Invite us to visit you personally or join your department for a discussion about open access. Ask us how we can help you to retain your author rights or recommend quality journals that offer author-friendly publishing agreements. Let us assist you to identify Open Educational Resources or open textbooks that your students can access openly in order to avoid paying for costly textbooks. Work with us to develop policies and procedures for depositing research articles into open repositories. Let us assist you with the creation of an ORCID identification. There are many ways every Temple faculty member can work with us to contribute to open access. We are asking you, our faculty, to be open to the possibilities for creating change in scholarly communication. Together, we can accomplish something great.

During Open Access Week 2016, colleagues at SUNY offered several webinars related to open access, author publishing rights and Open Educational Resources. These webinars were recorded and can now be viewed from this page: <http://commons.suny.edu/openaccess/webinars/>

Faculty interested in learning more about these topics will find these webinar recordings highly informative.