

OA Policy Development across the University of Illinois Campuses

Open Access is a movement that balances the desire to expand access to the scholarship of researchers while maintaining their academic freedom to publish and use their research in a manner that serves the best interest of researchers and their discipline.

The University of Illinois respect and protection of its faculty and their research are clearly stated in the Board of Trustees guiding documents. The cornerstone element of the rights of the faculty is reflected in the University of Illinois' copyright statement: "It is the policy of the University to foster the publication of scientific and scholarly periodicals which are edited, published, and subsidized by the University. Authors and artists who are members of the academic ranks recognized in Article IX, Section 3, may copyright their works except works specifically commissioned by the University in writing and works prepared under terms of a university grant or contract which provides otherwise" (Statutes Article XII. Section 4). The General Rules also affirm the creators of scholarship as retainers of "copyright rights to academic copyrightable works" (Article III. Section 4(a)). More importantly, the Statutes consider research and publication as two of the main elements of academic freedom (Article X. Section 2).

It is important to affirm that the policy development and implementation of any Open Access policy should recognize that the campuses are as independent as possible in determining academic policy issues. The General Rules establish the importance of campuses "carry[ing] out their academic functions with a high degree of delegated authority. The campuses are expected to achieve intercampus cooperation, to avoid unnecessary duplication"(Article 1 Section 1). While campuses maintain independence on academic policy issues, common guiding principles in support of Open Access should be considered. The proposed policy encourages a balance by giving the responsibility to the campus to implement and review the policy and its implications. However, as stated above, efficiency is an appropriate concern therefore the faculty stresses the importance of the endorsement of a policy that allows for intercampus cooperation in the evaluation of the policy and the deployment and maintenance of the infrastructure required to support Open Access.