

Guest Editorial: Navigating the Global Landscape of Scholarly Communication: A Special Issue Exploration

In the dynamic realm of scholarly communication, this special issue embarks on an exploration of global developments shaping the discourse. Topics include a pioneering approach to institutional repository development in Kosovo; the discovery of open resources and choosing library publishing platforms in the US, library publishing initiatives in Ireland; the impact of transformative agreements on the publishing patterns; an EDI-centered approach to institutional research data management work in Canada, and observations on Library and Information Science research outputs from the Global South. Each article in this collection enhances our understanding of global developments in scholarly communication.

Exploring New Ground in Kosovo

Our first piece, by Michele Gibney, centers on the development of an Institutional Repository (IR) in Kosovo. This case study, focused on soliciting student feedback in the creation and launch of the IR at the University for Business and Technology in Pristina, unveils a novel perspective. In a departure from traditional, library-centric methods, the article underscores the value of embracing student contributions, providing a compelling narrative of a new approach within the Kosovo context.

Enhancing Discoverability of Open Resources

While the endeavor to make scholarly resources open is laudable, the real impact is realized when these resources can be discovered. From Jia Mi, the article, "Making Open Resources Discoverable," delves into collaborative efforts aimed at improving the accessibility of open access resources. Highlighting the pivotal role of librarians, educators, and publishers, the piece underscores the collective expertise and cooperation required to unlock the full potential of open resources. The collaborative approaches discussed promise to benefit researchers, students, and the broader academic community.

Metadata Librarian for Open Access

Continuing the theme of discovery, another critically overlooked area in open access (OA) support is the creation of robust original metadata. From Jennifer Chan, Erica Zhang, Hermine Vermeij, and John Riemer, "Metadata Librarian for Open Access" presents a case study from a large academic library, showcasing the introduction of a metadata librarian position focused on describing OA resources. The article sheds light on the importance of robust metadata in facilitating the description and discovery of OA resources, a vital component in the landscape of scholarly communication.

Library Publishing: A Transformative Role

Library publishing emerges as a transformative force in the evolution of scholarly communication, embracing the principles of diamond open access. The article, "The Potential of Library Publishing Services to Transform Scholarly Communication in Ireland," by Dr. Johanna Duffy, delves into library publishing services initiated by several Irish third-level libraries. These services include the establishment and management of high-quality, library-published, peer-reviewed open access journals and Open Educational Resources. The paper not only provides insights into successful implementations but also advocates for a substantial shift in deploying subscription financial resources, transforming Ireland's scholarly communication system into one that offers open, unrestricted access to research.

Choosing the Right Platform

In the midst of the proliferation of publishing platforms, librarians, authors, and editors face the daunting task of choosing the right one. "Finding the Right Platform: A Report on Building a Publishing Platform Crosswalk" by Corinne Guimont, Cheryl Ball, and Matt Vaughn addresses this challenge, discussing the need for documentation that showcases multiple academy-owned publishing platforms. The paper covers the selection criteria, design considerations, outcomes of user testing, and plans for future expansion. The goal is to provide a comprehensive resource to aid library publishers in choosing platforms aligned with their projects.

Transformative Agreements: Impact on Publication Patterns

Transformative agreements have become a common model wherein libraries underwrite open access publication fees, combining with subscriptions. However, their impact on publication patterns remains a subject of inquiry. This article by Caitlin Bakker, Alison Langham-putrow, and Amy Riegelman called "The Impact of Transformative Agreements on Publication Patterns" seeks to answer whether transformative agreements increase open access publications and explores potential negative impacts on research publishing patterns.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Research Data Management Strategies

Research data management has gained prominence in scholarly communication, driven by the emphasis on data-driven research. In the article "Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Institutional Research Data Management Strategies" by Sabrina Wong explores how a racialized librarian at a Canadian university developed an institutional research data management strategy informed by critical librarianship research and contributive justice. The article examines the lack of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) principles in funder directives and RDM research literature, proposing an EDI-centered approach to institutional RDM work.

LIS Scholarship in the Global South

Despite a global increase in Library and Information Science (LIS) research output, there exists a noticeable dearth in contributions from countries like India in the Global South. Mantra Roy and Sutapa Chatterjee's "Barriers in LIS Scholarship in India: Some Observations" investigates the

challenges impeding active participation in scholarly communications by LIS researchers. The author, supported by ACRL's Research and Scholarship Grant and the Marcia Tuttle International Travel Grant from NASIG, reveals key findings, including the urgent need for Open Access and training in academic writing standards to address the identified challenges.

As we embark on this exploration of global development in scholarly communication, we invite readers to engage with the diverse perspectives presented in these articles. The continuously evolving landscape of scholarly communication demands ongoing dialog, reflection, and adaptation. We trust that this special issue will serve as a catalyst for meaningful conversations within the global community, propelling us forward into new horizons in scholarly communication.

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Guest Editors