Open Access Champions at University of Central Florida

Barbara Tierney, University of Central Florida

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/barbara-tierney/48/
With regard to Open Access, who do academic faculty really listen to ... librarians or other academic faculty?

What if your library had a group of academic faculty members who publicly supported Open Access on your library website?

Would such visible faculty endorsement for Open Access get the attention of other academic faculty across campus?

Open Access Champions at UCF

Dr. Bruce Janz

“Open access in the scholarly and research areas (as opposed to creative and literary areas, which I think has some different dynamics) is a major step forward in the smooth exchange of cutting-edged scholarship. I’m a supporter of this at both a local and an international level. In one of my areas, African philosophy, open access makes it possible for work to flow internationally without the restrictions of pay walls and without the differential access that so often plagues research. If advanced work is openly accessible, we’re all on the same page, and we can start to see the stimulating local conversations that occur elsewhere. So in my area, a project like AJOL (African Journals OnLine), which has a great deal of open access content, is a major boon to both Africans and those like me who want to be in conversation with them.”
Dr. Mark Kamrath

“Open access at UCF and in higher education enables researchers, teachers, and students to share resources and research with the general public. Just as “the contribution of each created the book capital of all” in Benjamin Franklin’s day, so the open access initiative in our day disseminates knowledge around the globe and contributes to cultural and intellectual capital of those who seek it.”

Dr. Peter Larson

“Open Access lets faculty and students explore and innovate in ways that weren’t possible even ten years ago.”

Dr. Barry Mauer

“As a professor in the Texts and Technology Ph.D. program at UCF, I am looking for ways to develop collective intelligence, information sharing, and distributed knowledge, all aspects of the Open Access movement. The more we pool our talents and wisdom, the better off we will all be. Open source software, open archives, and open access research offer the public
valuable entryways into scholarly and creative work. Furthermore, the products of these collaborative efforts have already borne tremendously valuable fruit (witness Wikipedia)."

Dr. Rudy McDaniel

“As a digital media professor interested in studying the evolution of media texts and technologies and the impact of this evolution on society and our everyday lives, I am a big believer in information sharing, distributed knowledge, and collective intelligence, three major components of the Open Access ideology. Without the principles of open access, the Internet as we know it today would not exist. I look forward to seeing where open source software as well as open access research take us in the next decade.”

Dr. Joyce Nutta

“The Open Access movement democratizes the exchange of ideas and scholarship, contributing innovation to the knowledge bases of multiple, interconnected disciplines, and giving everyone access to the most timely research and creative works in academia. I am proud to co-edit “The Tapestry Journal,” an open access publication that makes the latest research, theory, and practice on K-12 students learning English as a second language accessible to all those who can benefit from it.”
Dr. Chrysalis Wright

“Open access journals are a wonderful addition to the scientific community! They allow free access to recent research, lower the costs of conducting academic research, and provide access to current findings by the general public. I’m proud to have published two peer-reviewed articles in the open access journals Revista Latino-Americana de Geografía e Gênero (Latin-American Journal of Geography and Gender) and The Journal of Men, Masculinity, and Spirituality.”

Dr. Maria Santana

“In a world of immediacy, scholarship has to adapt and reflect the needs of a society. Open access journals allow us all to communicate and to learn from one another. I know my students can’t always buy or pay for memberships in their field. Open Access Journals allow them to keep current and to grow in their field. As educators, we need to be part of this movement.”

Dr. Kimberly Voss

“Open Access encourages the exchange of ideas and creates a community of scholarship. It is important to the democratization of research and the exploration of knowledge. I have
published two articles in the peer-reviewed Open Access Journal, Media History Monographs."

In 2014, the American Library Association LLAMA Division named the University of Central Florida Libraries the 2014 Best of Show Award Winner for their "Open Access Week 2013 Wall Exhibit" which featured large color posters of UCF Open Access Champions, in the main foyer of the John C. Hitt Library. https://www.flickr.com/photos/prxchange-awards/14462670891/
University of Central Florida (UCF) Background:
The University of Central Florida (UCF) is a public research university located in Orlando, Florida and is a member of the State University System of Florida. It is the country's second largest university by total enrollment (60,810) with 52,532 undergraduates and 8,278 postgraduates and an academic staff of nearly 2,000. The university offers over 200 degree options through thirteen colleges and twelve satellite campuses throughout Central Florida.

UCF Libraries Scholarly Communication program:
How does an academic library go about growing its own Scholarly Communication program with no budget, no staff, no dedicated office space, no partners, and no experience? The University of Central Florida Libraries responded to such a challenge during 2012-15 by creating a grassroots SC program staffed by a volunteer 20-member library staff advisory group.

The group began its work by creating an innovative “Research Lifecycle” model to help define an evolving menu of scholarly communication resources and services that could be turned on, as available, to UCF constituents.

Other steps to achieving success included creating a “Publishing in the Academy” workshop series with the College of Graduate Studies, a Grants Writing workshop series with the Office of Research and Commercialization, and a strong slate of academic faculty “Open Access Champions.”

Creating the UCF Libraries’ “Open Access Champions” program
During spring 2013 planning for UCF Libraries’ “Open Access Week 2013,” the UCF Scholarly Communication library staff advisory group began their deliberations by asking themselves how best to get academic faculty involved. They pondered the following questions with regard to Open Access:

Who do academic faculty listen to... librarians or academic faculty colleagues?

What if UCF Libraries had a distinguished group of academic faculty who would publicly support Open Access on the UCF Libraries website?

Would endorsement of Open Access by academic faculty colleagues get the attention of other academic faculty across campus and increase support for Open Access on campus?

Once the UCF Scholarly Communication staff advisory group decided to go forward with their “Open Access Champions” idea, the next question was:

What would be the best way to identify academic faculty willing to serve as Open Access Champions? Their answer……why not ask UCF’s new Subject Librarians to get involved.

• In spring 2013 UCF Libraries created a new Subject Librarian service model
The new Subject Librarians got to work profiling their assigned academic faculty and departments.

Subject Librarian profiling revealed faculty who were involved with Open Access journals.

Subject Librarians reached out to these likely faculty via email [see below sample notes] and invited them to become UCF “Open Access Champions” by submitting their photos and “Open Access statements” for publication on the UCF Libraries website.

Junior faculty seemed especially interested in supporting Open Access. Having their photos and Open Access statements displayed on the UCF Libraries website (and later on large color posters displayed in the John C. Hitt Library main foyer, 2013) and in the UCF Honors College lobby, 2014) appealed to them.

Open Access Champions also were invited to make presentations relating to their Open Access activities at the 2013 and 2014 Open Access Week programs sponsored by UCF Libraries and were presented with “Certificates of Appreciation” (please see below sample).
2013 Open Access Week events

*Thursday, October 17, 11:00-12:00 Library room 223*
How librarians can help researchers navigate open access choices – webinar synopsis and Q&A

*Monday, October 21, 3:00-4:00 Library room 223 – Guest speaker!*
Social Media for Academics: Promoting Your Research, Creating Community and Increasing Access

Watch the recording of Kimberly Voss’ presentation on Social Media for Academics at

*Wednesday, October 23, 1:30-2:00 Library room 223*
UCF Open Access Champions Meet and Greet

*Wednesday, October 23, 2:00-3:00 Library room 223*
ASERL’s Open Access Week Chat with Peter Suber

2014 Open Access Week events

- Dr. Peter Suber, answering questions about open access submitted by attendees
- Dr. Barry Mauer, Lost Data: The Specter of the Information Age
- IEEE, Publishing in open access
- Springer, Publishing in open access
- Gale, Publishing in open access
- Taylor & Francis, Publishing in open access
- Q & A session with IEEE, Springer, Gale, and Taylor & Francis
- Dr Nancy Stanlick, Open Access Journal Publication
- Dr. Scot French, Open Access and Digital Public History
- Dr. Bruce Janz, Digital Humanities, Open Access and Scholarship in Africa
- Dr. Joyce Nutta and Dr. Florin Mihai, Publishing using the Open Journal System platform
Sample Letters used during recruitment of Open Access Champions:

Letter from UCF Libraries Scholarly Communication Office to Subject Librarian asking him to profile his academic faculty:

Hi _____,

Thank you very much for joining the UCF Libraries “Subject Librarian Initiative”! Penny and I are delighted to have your participation!

As you work to profile the academic faculty in your assigned academic departments, would you please keep a lookout for any of your faculty members who appear to be publishing in “Open Access” journals, or, who appear to be interested in Open Access and Scholarly Communications issues and activities.

As Scholarly Communications Librarian, Penny is interested in creating a UCF Libraries “Scholarly Communications Web Page” which might be populated with photos/vignettes of “UCF Faculty Open Access Champions” (identified by their Subject Librarians when they are “profiling” their assigned faculty) who will share their stories about publishing in the various open access online journals and other publications in their discipline.

The Library Web Page might be divided into sections, by UCF College, and have the faces of one of two Faculty members from each college populate each section of the Web page.

Each chosen “Open Access Faculty Member” could serve as a “Champion” for our UCF Libraries Scholarly Communications unit and could work with their Subject Librarian to “tell their story”.

The Scholarly Communications Advisory Group believes that most UCF Faculty would be very interested in hearing the “Open Access stories” of other UCF Faculty. Perhaps a UCF Libraries Web page that focused on “UCF Faculty Open Access Champions” would capture a faculty audience for other open access, scholarly communication information that we wish to promulgate to the UCF community.

Letter from Subject Librarian to academic faculty member asking them to become “Open Access Champions”: 

---
Dear Dr. _____,

Congratulations on your work with the open access journal “________________.”

UCF Libraries cordially invites you to be featured as an “UCF Libraries Open Access Champion” on the UCF Libraries’ Scholarly Communication Web page: http://library.ucf.edu/ScholarlyCommunication/.

With your permission we would include your photograph and your brief message in support of Open Access in a scrolling display of photos of UCF Faculty Open Access Champions on the UCF Libraries’ Scholarly Communication Web page.

Your Open Access support might be publishing articles in Open Access journals http://library.ucf.edu/ScholarlyCommunication/ScholarlyPublishing.php#WhereToPublish

or supporting UCF Senate Faculty Resolutions on Open Access: http://library.ucf.edu/ScholarlyCommunication/SenateResolutions.php

or involvement with one or more of the Open Access support organizations or other Open Access activities.

Thank you for letting us know if UCF Libraries may include you on our Scholarly Communications Web page as a UCF Libraries Open Access Champion.

_______________________________________

Letter from UCF Libraries Scholarly Communication Office asking an Open Access Champion to submit his photo, open access statement, and signed photographic release form:

Dear Dr. ________,

UCF Libraries is delighted that you have chosen to become one of our UCF Faculty Open Access Champions!

We look forward to including your photo and open access statement on our Scholarly Communication Web page.

Would you please be so kind as to fill out the attached “UCF Libraries Photographic Release” form so that we will be able to do this.
(It would be fine if you scanned the completed form and emailed it back to me). Many, many thanks for joining our circle of UCF Open Access Champions!

Photographic Release Form (UCF Libraries Scholarly Communication Office):

I do hereby give permission to the University of Central Florida Libraries, its agents, and others working under its authority, full and free use of video/photographs containing my image/likeness. I understand these images may be used for promotional, news, research and/or educational purposes.

I hereby release, discharge, and hold harmless the University and its agents from any and all claims, demands, or causes of action that I may hereafter have by reason of anything contained in the photographs or video.

I do further certify that I am either of legal age, or possess full legal capacity to execute the foregoing authorization and release.

Print Name: 
Signature: 
Date: 
Address: 

Where are we now?
The UCF Libraries’ Scholarly Communication Office, Fall 2015:

The UCF Libraries’s grassroots Scholarly Communication program proved to be so successful (2012-2015) that in 2015 UCF Libraries received a UCF Technology Fee award to finance a bepress “Digital Commons” institutional repository and also received funding to hire a full-time Scholarly Communication Officer.

The Open Access Champions initiative is still very much in existence. As part of a new initiative to increase academic faculty involvement with the Scholarly Communication Office, a new Scholarly Communication Faculty Advisory Board has been created that includes eleven UCF academic faculty members. Several of the original “Open Access Champions” are now members of this new advisory board.
Acknowledgements:


UCF Libraries’ Staff who assisted with Open Access Champions

Barry Baker, Director, University of Central Florida Libraries.

Dr. Penny Beile, Associate Director, Information Services/Scholarly Communication, University of Central Florida Libraries.

Cynthia Dancel, Senior Art Specialist, Information Services/Scholarly Communication Division, University of Central Florida Libraries.

Lee Dotson, Digital Initiatives Librarian, Information Technology and Digital Initiatives, University of Central Florida Libraries.

Davina Hovanec, Technical Assistant, Information Technology and Digital Initiatives, University of Central Florida Libraries.

Barbara Tierney, Head, Research & Information Services, University of Central Florida Libraries.

UCF Open Access Champions:

Dr. Bruce Janz, Philosophy Dept. (College of Arts & Humanities)
Dr. Mark Kamrath English Dept. (College of Arts & Humanities)
Dr. Peter Larson History Dept. (College of Arts & Humanities)
Dr. Barry Mauer English Dept. (College of Arts & Humanities)
Dr. Rudy McDaniel (College of Arts & Humanities)
Dr. Joyce Nutta Teaching, Learning, & Leadership (College of Education & Human Performance).

Dr Maria Santana Women’s Studies Program (College of Arts & Humanities)
Dr. Kim Voss Communication, Nicholson School of

Dr. Chrysalis Wright Regional Campuses – UCF South Lake