Faculty Views of Open Access and Open Data Initiatives

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Overview

- Policies
- Research Study
- Findings and Implications
Policies:

* National Institutes of Health (NIH)
  * Public Access Policy
* National Science Foundation (NSF)
  * Data Management Plan
Faculty perceptions and experiences with compliance related to these federal policies remain relatively unexplored.
Objective

* To ascertain faculty attitudes and experiences with these policies

* To identify roles for positioning librarians as leaders on campus in these efforts
Part 1:
* Survey of 198 NIH-funded faculty at one institution investigating awareness and attitudes about open access policies/practices (N=94, 47% response rate)

Part 2:
* Comments from faculty regarding their views of the NSF Data Management Plan requirement
Survey Results (N=94)

- 30% of the survey respondents were either *unaware* or *not familiar* with the NIH public access policy.

- A significant number (98%) indicated that they usually signed their *copyright forms* “as is”.

- 29% of faculty indicated that they were not familiar with Open Access.

- Only 13% of faculty reported being knowledgeable about Digital Commons (Institutional Repository).
Challenges reported by NIH faculty awardees in complying with the public access mandate:

- Time
- Confusing instructions
- Unclear journal policies
Faculty Comments

* Comments on the NSF Data Management Plan Requirement:
  
  “A minor trouble”

  “Simple compared to IRB approval”

* Desired access to subject-specific repositories

* Not aware that the Institutional Repository (IR) could host data
Librarians can engage faculty across campus about open access, data management, and copyright issues.

Specifically, faculty members could greatly benefit from more education about what rights they can retain under their author agreements with publishers.

Services promoted as helping to “demystify” policies and assisting with compliance issues might resonate with this target audience.
Faculty services:

* Investigating journal policies and journal compliance with the NIH public access policy
* Reviewing copyright transfer agreements
* Contacting journal editors and publishers as needed
* Deposit services to PubMed Central
* Providing access to important copyright resources
* Providing templates for NSF data management plans, access to subject repositories, and education about how the IR can help fulfill requirement
Future Research

* Research that continues to examine faculty views of open access mandates, open data initiatives, and copyright practices would be useful.
This research contributes to our understanding of faculty perceptions and experiences with these federal initiatives

Such findings offer guidance for librarians supporting faculty researchers (i.e. can be used to prioritize resources, justify positions devoted to support)

Librarians can contribute expertise and leadership on campus through sustained engagement with issues such as copyright, open access, compliance with federal policies, and the data life cycle
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Thank you!

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