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Opting Out Is Not an Option: Why All Academic Librarians Must Understand Open Access

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Opting Out Is Not an Option

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Slides: bit.ly/optingout2018
Opting Out Is Not an Option

Why All Academic Librarians Must Understand Open Access
Opting Out Is Not an Option

A Manifesto
Not it!
Not it!

Not it!
Not it!
Not it!
Not it!
Not it!
Not it!
Not it!
Not it!
Not it!
Not it!
Not it!
Not it!
Not it!
OK, I'm it.
Analyses of Job Postings: ScholComm Ascendant!


Future Core Competency

“We may predict, given our data, that scholarly communication will soon be considered a core component of academic librarianship, alongside the traditional pillars of the trade (references and instruction, collection development, cataloging).”

— Finlay, Tsou, & Sugimoto, 2015, p. 22
Current Core Competency?

“Scholarly communication literacy has become a core competency for academic librarians.”

— Bonn, 2014, p. 132

Analyses of Job Postings: Silent on ScholComm


ScholComm on Core Competency Lists

Not mentioned:
   ALA Core Competences of Librarianship (2009)
   bit.ly/alacorecomps

Mentioned:
   ACRL Roles and Strengths of Teaching Librarians (2017)
   www.ala.org/acrl/standards/teachinglibrarians

Mentioned:
   Medical Library Association Competencies for Lifelong Learning and Professional Success (2017)
   www.mlanet.org/d/do/7992

Mentioned (duh):
   NASIG Core Competencies for Scholarly Communication Librarians (2017)
   bit.ly/nasigcorecomp
Current Core Competency?

“Scholarly communication literacy has become a core competency for academic librarians.”

— Bonn, 2014, p. 132

Current Core Competency for **Subject** Librarians

“The instructors frequently shared job advertisements from throughout the library profession with students. . . . [W]e are seeing a heightened expectation that librarians who support disciplinary scholarship are fluent in the language of scholarly communication and can address its opportunities and challenges. Scholarly communication literacy has become a core competency for academic librarians.”

— Bonn, 2014, p. 132

What about academic librarians not planning to re-enter job market?
Should they have scholcomm competencies?
Academic librarians have always had scholcomm competencies.
ScholComm in Academic Librarianship

- scholarly journals
- peer review
- journal evaluation
- citation counts
- university presses vs. trade presses
- etc.
All academic librarians should have moderately current scholcomm competencies.
What’s the big scholcomm trend of past 10+ years?
All academic librarians should have open access competencies.
How Much Knowledge?

All academic librarians should be conversant in OA.
What about Ossified Librarians?
Do I dare say it?
I’m going to say it...
Academic librarians who opt out of OA are not good academic librarians.
Opting out is not an option!
OA in Liaison Work

- science librarian
- health sciences librarian
- social sciences librarian
- arts librarian
- humanities librarian
- etc.

OA in InfoLit

- instruction librarian
- information literacy librarian
- teaching and learning librarian
- etc.

OA in Other Roles? Think – Pair – Share

- Systems librarian
- ILL librarian
- Serials librarian
- E-resources librarian
- Library director
- Collections librarian
- Acquisitions librarian

- Metadata librarian
- Instructional design librarian
- Discovery services librarian
- Outreach librarian
- Map librarian
- Emerging tech librarian
- etc.
Not it!

Not it!

Not it!

Not it!

Not it!

Not it!

OK, I'm it.
You’re it!!!
You're it!!
We’re all it!
...for the basics, anyway.
...and I’m always here for the OA complexities!
We must foster conversancy!
We Must Foster Conversancy

“Before librarians can effectively educate the rest of the academic community about the issues of scholarly communication, they must bring their colleagues and staff on board.”


How Can We Foster Conversancy?

Think – Pair – Share
How Can We Foster Conversancy?

- Presentations for colleagues
- Workshops for colleagues
- Upload-a-thons (or even Upload-a-thing)
- Invite colleagues into consultations
- Think of library as one of our liaison responsibilities
- Don’t actually call anyone a bad librarian!
Let’s chat!

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