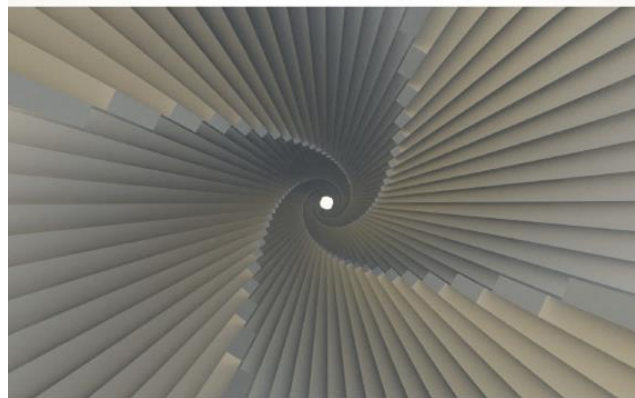


**OPEN AND EQUITABLE
SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS**
CREATING A MORE INCLUSIVE FUTURE



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ACRL Research Agenda for Scholarly Communications and the Research Environment

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Overview

- What is ACRL?
- The charge of ACRL's Research and Scholarly Environment Committee (ReSEC)
- What is the research agenda?
- Key findings: areas for engagement
- Enacting the change

Research and Scholarly Environment Committee (ReSEC)

ReSEC supports ACRL's goal: The academic and research library workforce accelerates the transition to more open and equitable systems of scholarship.

- Increase the ways ACRL is an advocate and model for more representative and **inclusive** ways of knowing.
- Increase ACRL's efforts to influence and advocate for more **open** and **equitable** dissemination policies and practices.

Research and Scholarly Environment Committee (ReSEC)

ReSEC supports ACRL's goal: The academic and research library workforce accelerates the transition to more open and equitable systems of scholarship.

- **Enhance members' capacity to address issues** related to scholarly communication, including but not limited to data management, library publishing, open access, and digital scholarship, and power and privilege in knowledge creation systems.

A Research Agenda

- ACRL has produced research agendas across its goal area committees
- Research agendas should identify promising practices and identify areas where further research is needed
- ReSEC last developed a research agenda in 2007

The Charge

“ACRL wants your help in identifying actionable steps that academic librarians can take to accelerate the transition to and build capacity for more open, inclusive, and equitable systems of scholarship.”

- Community-based consultation
- Process that includes voices not always represented in agenda-setting

Open, Equitable, Inclusive

- **Open...** refers to removing barriers to access and encouraging use and re-use, especially of the tools of production of scholarly content and to the outputs of that work.
- **Equitable...** refers to ensuring that systems, institutions, and processes function in a way that gives everyone what they need in order to successfully participate.

Open, Equitable, Inclusive

- **Inclusive**... refers to
 - (1) creating opportunities for greater participation in systems, institutions, and processes involved in creating, sharing, and consuming research;
 - (2) removing barriers that can hinder such participation; and
 - (3) actively encouraging and welcoming people to participate, particularly those whose voices have often been marginalized.

The work involved

- Understanding the landscape (literature review)
- Interviewing experts in scholarly communications, with focus on issues of inclusion
- Conducting an online survey
- Holding focus groups
- Conducting in-person roundtables
- Obtaining public feedback on the draft
- Refining the final version with ReSEC members

Our analysis

- Established better shared understanding of “openness,” “equity,” “inclusion”
- Led us to organize the agenda around three interrelated themes:
 - People
 - Content
 - Systems

People

To encourage a more open, inclusive, and equitable system...***a first step is to focus on the people who are involved in that system***, with the premise that greater involvement by more people in more roles at more levels...will eventually result in a fairer and more equitable system.

People

- Embracing Diversity and Inclusion
- Improving the Working Lives of People Engaged in Scholarly Communications
- Increasing Awareness Concerning Creators' Rights

People

- Embracing Diversity and Inclusion
 - **Enhancing representation within libraries**
 - **Creating a broader scholarly communications workforce**
- Improving the Working Lives of People Engaged in Scholarly Communications
- Increasing Awareness Concerning Creators' Rights

People

- Embracing Diversity and Inclusion
- Improving the Working Lives of People Engaged in Scholarly Communications
 - **Creating incentives for participation**
 - **Understanding the costs of un(der)recognized labor**
- Increasing Awareness Concerning Creators' Rights

People

- Embracing Diversity and Inclusion
- Improving the Working Lives of People Engaged in Scholarly Communications
- Increasing Awareness Concerning Creators' Rights
 - **Retaining and protecting intellectual rights**
 - **Intentionally limiting openness and knowledge sharing**

Content

Change within the scholarly communications system is needed in openness to innovative and nontraditional roles of communicating knowledge, in an emphasis on public scholarship, and in developing reward mechanisms for all who participate in the research and publication process.

Content

- Rethinking what counts
- Creating more representative and open collections

Content

- Rethinking what counts
 - **Addressing implicit and implicit bias**
 - **Creating metrics built on value**
- Creating more representative and open collections

Content

- Rethinking what counts
- Creating more representative and open collections
 - **Ensuring diversity of collections**
 - **Enacting effective strategies for revisiting copyright**

Systems

Many barriers ... could be reduced by addressing *challenges related to the systems we rely on to create, produce, and distribute intellectual work.*

- **Digital Infrastructure:** the virtual roads and bridges where content is created, hosted, accessed, and stored.
- **Financial systems** that permit people, organizations, and companies who invest their time to be fairly compensated for their labor.

Systems

- Supporting tech infrastructure that is sustainable
- Creating systems that permit more access to more people
- Building mission-aligned organizational and financial systems
- Advancing innovation in academic libraries

Systems

- Supporting tech infrastructure that is sustainable
 - **Determining the right scale and scope for infrastructure**
 - **Managing research data and enhancing discovery**
- Creating systems that permit more access to more people
- Building mission-aligned organizational and financial systems
- Advancing innovation in academic libraries

Systems

- Supporting tech infrastructure that is sustainable
- Creating systems that permit more access to more people
 - **Facilitating access for those with disabilities**
 - **Designing systems that focus on users**
- Building mission-aligned organizational and financial systems
- Advancing innovation in academic libraries

Systems

- Supporting tech infrastructure that is sustainable
- Creating systems that permit more access to more people
- Building mission-aligned organizational and financial systems
 - **Building business models to support scholarly communications**
 - **Investing in community owned infrastructure**
- Advancing innovation in academic libraries

Systems

- Supporting tech infrastructure that is sustainable
- Creating systems that permit more access to more people
- Building mission-aligned organizational and financial systems
- Advancing innovation in academic libraries
 - **Encouraging technological innovation and ongoing development**
 - **Driving transformation within libraries**

Collective Responsibility for Change

- Research Grants:
 - \$5,000 USD available per grant, for new research in areas suggested by this report. Proposals will be due September 30.
 - Keep an eye on *ACRL Insider* for the call for proposals this summer, concurrent with the release of the research agenda!

Release Activities

- July Webcast
- September issue *C&RL News*
- Conference presentations this year:
 - ACRL Conference, April 8-10, Cleveland
 - Library Publishing Forum, May 8-10, Toronto
 - ALA Annual Conference, June 22, Washington DC
 - IFLA World Library and Information Congress, August 24 - 30, Athens

Community Acknowledgements

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ACRL Research and Scholarly Environments Committee members

Thank you!

Any Questions?

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People

- What practices and beliefs influence recruitment and retention of a diverse library workforce?
- What are the labor costs in creating and maintaining open-source infrastructure to support scholarly communications?
- What does “open ethics” look like for publicly shared materials not intended for research purposes?

Content

- What are strategies to address biases (e.g., work produced in Global South, “non-white” research, gendered language)?
- What are current barriers for incorporating additional intellectual outputs (datasets, software, exhibitions, etc...) in PRT?
- How are academic libraries defining “diversity” in collections strategy? Are there differences across institution types, disciplines?

Systems

- How does institutional capacity to participate in new software/platform initiatives affect representation in development?
- How are community–led initiatives staffed and managed? Which organizational strategies have been most successful?
- What data standards are emerging across disciplines that need to be further socialized, encouraged, or mandated?
- To what extent do academic-led projects anticipate or actively pursue a public audience of users? What steps do they take to do this?