

## About the Project

The Boston Library Consortium's Scholarly Communication Project illustrates how consortia can enhance cross-campus partnerships between member libraries and their faculty. In 2005, the Boston Library Consortium (BLC) formed a task force to address the "crisis in scholarly communication" for its member institutions. The group was charged with creating resources that would educate academic authors about issues of copyright amendment and open access, and "promote healthy scholarly communication practices among their faculty and at their universities." Emphasis was placed on creating materials that would be "branded" with the BLC logo but could be modified as needed by member institutions.

The group decided to emphasize a "what's in it for me?" approach, with the idea that focusing on benefits to individual faculty members, rather than to the consortium's libraries, would encourage their use of the BLC's Amendment to Extend Authors' Rights. To accompany the amendment document, the task force produced an informational leaflet about Authors' Rights, which can be modified for distribution on BLC member campuses. It also developed a website, hosted by the BLC, that provides information and further resources on the topic of authors' rights in scholarly communication.

By centralizing the development process at the consortial level, the BLC has emphasized the importance of educating faculty and advocating for change on member campuses, and has, in effect, created a library-faculty relationship that extends throughout the consortium.

## Helping Libraries to Educate and Advocate for Change

**Why do all the work from scratch when so much has already been accomplished?** This was the instigating question behind the creation of the BLC's Scholarly Communication Project. Because the concepts of open access and resource sharing are central to the reform of scholarly publishing, most educational materials in this area are made freely available for adaptation and use at other institutions. We built upon these established principles by creating materials at the consortial level, and are encouraging our member institutions to modify materials for use with their faculty.

Many advocacy groups, such as SPARC and Create Change, and other universities in North America and Europe, have created excellent materials that can also be used by BLC member institutions. Some of these groups are highlighted on our website and brochure, and their own links to other resources provide further options for branching out.

In order to be most effective, education and advocacy must emphasize the benefits of action on a large scale. By promoting reform of scholarly communication at the consortial level and beyond, the BLC aims to show that our combined strengths as an academic community have the power to effect positive and lasting change.

## Selected Resources

### Articles

Antelman, Kristin. "Do Open-Access Articles Have a Greater Research Impact?" *College & Research Libraries* 65.5 (Sept. 2004): 372-381.

See also: "Letters to the Editor." *College & Research Libraries* 67.2 (Mar. 2006): 103-105.

Gasaway, Laura. "The Open Archives Movement." *Information Outlook* 8.10 (Oct. 2004): 36-37.

Ramalho Correia, Ana Maria, and José Carlos Teixeira. "Reforming Scholarly Publishing and Knowledge Communication: From the Advent of the Scholarly Journal to the Challenges of Open Access." *Online Information Review* 29.4 (2005): 349-364.

Schmidt, Krista D., Pongracz Sennyey, and Timothy V. Carstens. "New Roles for a Changing Environment: Implications of Open Access for Libraries." *College & Research Libraries* 66.5 (Sept. 2005): 407-416.

Schwartz, Charles A. "Reassessing Prospects for the Open Access Movement." *College & Research Libraries* 66.6 (Nov. 2005): 488-495.

Wittenberg, Kate. "Librarians as Publishers: A New Role in Scholarly Communication." *Searcher* 12.10 (Nov.-Dec. 2004): 50-53.

### Websites

AAUP-ARL Statement on Scholarly Communication  
<http://www.arl.org/scomm/aauparlstatement.pdf>

Association of Research Libraries: Scholarly Communication  
<http://www.arl.org/osc/index.html>

BioMed Central: Advocacy  
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/about/advocacy>

Create Change  
<http://www.createchange.org/home.html>

SPARC: Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition  
<http://www.arl.org/sparc/index.html>

Transforming Scholarly Communication and Libraries (Cornell University Library)  
<http://www.library.cornell.edu/scholarlycomm/>

University of California, Berkeley: Scholarly Publishing: Statement of Principles  
[http://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/news/statement\\_of\\_prin\\_for\\_web.pdf](http://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/news/statement_of_prin_for_web.pdf)

University of Kentucky: Changing Scholarly Publishing  
<http://www.lib.utk.edu/colldev/ChangeScholarPub.pdf>