

Joint CDC/SCO Task Force  
Criteria to Determine UC's Support for Transformative  
Scholarly Publishing Models  
May 2007

According to [UC Library Investments in Transformative Scholarly Communications Models, 2005](#), "a publishing or distribution effort can be considered transformative when it is developed principally to a) remove or reduce impediments to the flow and availability of knowledge, especially of quality-filtered...materials; or b) create a more sustainable set of economic transactions among stakeholders..." This same document lays out eight criteria which, in addition to those contained in [Principles for Acquiring and Licensing Information in Digital Formats](#), should be used to assess a potential investment in a transformative scholarly communication resource:

- Potential for transformative influence
- Operational sustainability
- Disclosure/transparency (economic model, analysis of economic vitality, etc.)
- Uniqueness
- Scholar-led
- Protection from financial risk
- Non-profit status

The document also describes potential indicators for each dimension that can be used to judge a particular resource.

Recently CDC and SCO have been asked by several transformative publishers for additional funds to support their efforts. In discussing these requests, it has become clear that the criteria contained in the 2005 document need to be further delineated to help us make these decisions. The Task Force is charged to:

a. Review the criteria in [UC Library Investments](#) and determine if there are additional criteria that are needed. In particular, should the presence of a program that advocates transforming scholarly communication be one of the criteria used to determine support of a "transformative" effort? Are there tools or services that transformative efforts should include to warrant UC support? Are there particular benefits that UC should expect to derive from support of a transformative publishing venture? Do the criteria vary according to the type of model or approach taken?

b. Review the categories and/or types (e.g. membership fees) of support currently offered by transformative publishing ventures and suggest which are most likely to warrant investment at this time.

c. Recommend mechanisms and schedules for reviewing the level of support UC is providing to transformative publishers.

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**Proposed Timeline:**

Progress report = July 30, 2007  
Final report = September 31, 2007