

DRAFT

COMMUNICATION WITH UC FACULTY ON TOPICS RELATED TO SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

Systemwide Library Planning

April 18, 2003

As a result of the library and scholarly information planning initiatives that have been launched over the last year or so, the importance and urgency of communicating with faculty on a number of topics broadly related to scholarly communication and information has become increasingly evident. This communication effort is focused in three areas:

- **Shared (print) collections:** communicating to faculty the benefits of shared Universitywide collections, and in particular shared print collections. An informed faculty is critical to the success of the shared collection initiatives that SLASIAC has discussed over this academic year.
- **Publisher economics:** communicating to faculty the economic and other characteristics of the commercial publishers with whom we deal, and gaining support and consensus for a range of aggressive strategies for negotiation and collection management. SLASIAC Resolution F (**title**) is an important first step in this matter. It will be particularly important to begin this communication soon, in order to create a favorable environment for publisher negotiations that are expected to be at critical stages in the fall.
- **Alternative methods of scholarly communication:** communicating to faculty the availability of alternatives to traditional publishing models (for journals in particular) and exploring strategies that could be adopted Universitywide to promote greater faculty use of alternative methods, as well as assisting the faculty to understand and effectively assess these alternatives in academic personnel decisions. Obviously, eScholarship, and the eScholarship Repository in particular, plays a central enabling role in this area, and SLASIAC is aware of the planning currently underway for regional faculty seminars this fall to begin addressing these questions.

At present, there appear to be four primary channels to help shape and support this communication program:

- **The existing advisory/consultative structure:** SLASIAC, University Librarians and the UL advisory structure, Academic Council and its committees, etc.
- **A special faculty advisory group on scholarly communication issues.** A small and informal group is envisioned, including but not limited to representation from the Senate committees on Planning & Budget, Research Policy, and Library. The feasibility of forming a group like this is currently being explored.
- **The faculty seminars** mentioned above. In their first iteration, these seminars will focus on alternative methods of scholarly communication, but other issues could be introduced to provide context for the discussion. In the longer run, we envision the

possibility of a periodic (annual?) faculty seminar series in scholarly communication, in which we could both communicate broader and more nuanced messages to an involved group of faculty leaders, and obtain focused and high-quality advice on action steps.

- **The UC Libraries Web site.** CDL/SLP has proposed the development of a UC Libraries Web site that will pull together and highlight the variety of collaborative programs, services and planning activities that characterize UC's Universitywide library partnership, as well as providing a portal to the library services provided by the campuses and systemwide. From the inception of this concept, it was envisioned that it would host a major subsite on scholarly communication. Current plans call for the UCL site to be in production on the same schedule as a newly-designed CDL site, roughly in June.

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