To: COPPUL Directors
From: COPPUL Scholarly Communications Task Group
Date: March 5, 2012.
Re: Suggested Actions & Recommendations for COPPUL Engagement in Scholarly Communications – COPPUL Strategic Planning Discussion Document

The Scholarly Communications Task Group was formed by COPPUL to determine a role for COPPUL in scholarly communications. Central to the Task Group's initial deliberations was an exploration of how COPPUL, specifically as a Western Canadian consortium, could benefit member libraries in scholarly communications. As a framework for our deliberations we reviewed COPPUL's mandate "to be a cohesive and collaborative organization which provides leadership in the development of solutions that meet the academic information resource needs of its member institutions" and COPPUL's guiding principles and Vision statement as stated in the 2008-2011 Strategic Plan: http://www.coppul.ca/keydocs/Strategic_Plan_2008.pdf.[1]

We also posed the following questions:

● What scholarly communications activities expand or enhance COPPUL's leadership role as represented in their mandate "to be a cohesive and collaborative organization which provides leadership in the development of solutions that meet the academic information resource needs of its member institutions."

● What is the gap in scholarly communications amongst COPPUL libraries that the Task Group could help solve?

● In what instances would a consortium arrangement in scholarly communication have significant benefit for its member libraries and/or solve economies of scale for its members in their scholarly communications activities?

● In what instances could COPPUL members' capitalize on their scholarly communications activities by their connection with an established collaboration that is unique to Western Canada?

The Task Group has compiled a comprehensive list of scholarly communications activities that we believe would be enhanced and well served by coordinated collaboration through COPPUL. We invite COPPUL Directors to consider our list categorized within three headings in order of priority: Advocacy, Community of Practice & Education and COPPUL Review of the Scholarly Communications Landscape (shortened to *Review of the Landscape* in the listing).

Advocacy

COPPUL has not traditionally taken advantage of its position and the collective potential

of its membership to pursue advocacy on issues of importance to post-secondary education and research. Open Access and the dynamic world of scholarly communication presents an excellent opportunity for COPPUL to take on more of an advocate role, building naturally on itshistoric and successful role as a consortia purchasing electronic resources. Open Access is an issue of importance to all COPPUL member institutions, to our libraries and our universities. COPPUL has an opportunity to advocate not only for our own shared and individual benefit but also to add voice and value to our parent institutions and to the creation of new knowledge. The Scholarly Communications Committee Task Group suggests the following potential actions for COPPUL around Open Access Advocacy

1. Explore how other consortia have advocated on and are engaged with Open Access and Open.

2. Create a toolkit of best practice in promoting OA in COPPUL. Build upon OA toolkits created by other organizations e.g. Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL).

3. Incorporate Open Access/Open Education/Author Rights principals and support for the movement into product negotiations.

4. Negotiate COPPUL memberships with publishers that will result in discounted article processing fees for authors in COPPUL institutions.

5. Where needed, negotiate with non-OA publishers to allow self-archiving of articles at COPPUL institutions.

6. Seek opportunities to highlight OA-related work in COPPUL and relevant issues through publications and activities.

7. Promote and award innovation in Open Access/Open Education in COPPUL institutions.

8. Investigate the creation of an COPPUL OA authors fund.

9. Coordinate the group purchase of OA promotional items (bookmarks/buttons/t-shirts, etc). Cost: $5,000.

10. Investigate joining the Scholarly Resources and Academic Publishing Coalition (SPARC) as a consortia/institutional member. Cost: minimum $5,600 US.

<u>Community of Practice and Education</u>

A 'community of practice' is most simply defined as a group of individuals or organizations who are carrying out like activities, often with aligned goals, in a

networked state of regular communication. In Canada, efforts to establish a community of practice for those who work on scholarly communication initiatives have thus far not taken firm root. Factors of challenge include costs of travel, a paucity of training opportunities in Canada,and reticence to share information publicly on listservs due to concerns around organizational competition. Moreover, it is not unusual for Canadian librarians working in scholarly communications to draw upon the expertise of communities of practice in other countries, primarily the United Kingdom and the United States, but these countries have different problems to face than Canadians, and overall scholarly communication programs in these nations are at more advanced developmental stage.

Canada needs an organized, sanctioned and supported, active community of practice in order to begin to collectively address immediate challenges in the scholarly communication landscape that are unique to Canada. COPPUL membership is in a unique position of having a number of experts within its member libraries who could be utilized for the benefit of all COPPUL libraries either in staff training roles or collaborating on external events and educational tools.

A lot of work has already begun since the formation of the Task Group last July 2011. The Task Group suggests the following potential actions for COPPUL around a community of practice and educational outreach programs:

1. Training and development opportunities for COPPUL academic librarians
Peer training and invited speaker events held in conjunction with regional conferences would reduce training and travel costs for scholarly communication training. Annual workshops are a feasible goal. The BC Research Libraries developed a scholarly communications training workshop in 2009 that may serve as a framework for COPPUL libraries. ACRL has also developed a successful scholarly communications training program for librarians. We suggest that COPPUL consider applying for this highly subsidized program:

Recommendation 1: Organize a Facilitated Scholarly Communications Workshop

Apply for a COPPUL sponsored ACRL Scholarly Communications one day workshop as an opportunity to provide all COPPUL members with the same base understanding of scholarly communications and to help advance COPPUL libraries in their engagement of the issues on their own campuses.[2] If successful, COPPUL could choose to use the workshop as an avenue to build collaborative networks on specific scholarly communications activities between COPPUL Libraries. Part of the focus of the workshop could be to ask participants to define such opportunities as an outcome of the workshop.

Budget:

· $2000.00 USD (ACRL's subsidized rate to bring two experts to teach and facilitate full day workshop on "Scholarly Communications: From Understanding to Engagement.")
· Hosted at a COPPUL Library for free.

· Optional costs include: $500.00 refreshments & catered lunch; webcasting/archiving talk $1500.00 to $3000.

Recommendation 2: Develop Scholarly Communications Toolkit in support of COPPUL's members' educational efforts.

The Task Group prepared a guide in support of COPPUL's Open Access Week events (http://guides.library.ualberta.ca/coppul_oa_lectures). The guide currently includes a listing of archived webcasts from COPPUL libraries. The guide could be enlarged as a COPPUL Scholarly Communications resource or toolkit for sharing resources. The Task Group would be charged with maintaining and recruiting content for the toolkit. The toolkit could also incorporate best practices in promoting OA as suggested in the Advocacy section, item 2.

Budget: $800.00
Hire a graduate student from a library school for 10 hours a week over two months @$20.00 per hour to build toolkit. Student reports to a member of the Scholarly Communications Task Group.

Recommendation 3: Open Access Week:

The Scholarly Communications Task Group takes a role in compiling and gathering COPPUL libraries engagement in Open Access Week activities and posting this information on the COPPUL website. COPPUL libraries, who have secured notable speakers for their own Open Access Week events, could be offered opportunities to live webcast these events to other libraries through COPPUL funded support.

Budget and Logistics:

· COPPUL members could apply to receive funding support to archive and live webcast speakers.
· A maximum of $3000.00 will be awarded for two speaking engagements. This is based on an average cost of $1500 for filming and archiving a one hour session.
· The Task Group will prepare applications and adjudicate awards based on a pre-defined award criteria.

2. Facilitating communication & networking opportunities for scholarly communications librarians
Generally, scholarly communication librarians in Canada report calling upon an 'underground network' of peers at other institutions, where complex questions can be evaluated with others, information about implementation experiences can be shared, and vendor solutions or products that relate to scholarly communication initiatives can be evaluated.

A forum that identifies shared agendas, promotes effective, and collaborative problem solving is needed for a community of practice to develop among COPPUL libraries. This COPPUL group can identify emerging issues of concern, early, that would demand the consultation and consideration of COPPUL Directors, including information likely to affect budget decisions, faculty relationships, supporting research, innovation, new and transforming skills for librarians, and emerging digital services. The area will be served by collective attention.

Recommendation 1: Establish an annual forum for COPPUL's scholarly communications librarians to meet at a designated conference or occurring COPPUL event.

Budget: $2000 to cover expenses related to reserving space at a designated conference to host a COPPUL members Scholarly Communications meeting and workshop.

Review of the Landscape

The Task Group believes there is a need for a group to conduct and provide/promote research that will inform the development of COPPUL scholarly communications activities both in the service of member libraries and also as means for COPPUL to determine where to best support members in this arena. Examples of data gathering and assessment related activities may include:

1. Develop a needs/assessment survey to determine types of services or activities where COPPUL member's institutions require assistance or would benefit from collaboration or coordinated effort and/or determine where they have particular strengths or expertise.

2. Inventory of COPPUL libraries scholarly communication programs to determine the status of key activities and special initiatives, key contacts, staffing complements, budget levels and sources of operational and/or research or special funding (consider budget relative to size - e.g. cost per student/faculty or as a proportion to overall collections budget), established system of metrics and measures of success, special initiatives, special focus (collections), and training kits and key policies, and particular successes (or failures) with OA policy implementations that may be shared.

3. Inventory content in IR's, scope of collection (especially strength or proportional distributions of particular collection types at different institutions) as a means to begin the work of providing Canadian benchmarks in this arena and an understanding of content in Canadian IR's. Add results from survey to COPPUL IR Registry (see below):
a. Create a directory/registry and common search interface for COPPUL IRs (e.g. http://library.uwinnipeg.ca/about-us/library-departments/search-coppul-institutional-repositories) and add a summary of key results from survey to the registry ; or
b. Contact ROAR eprints (http://roar.eprints.org/) and see if we can just refine to show a COPPUL ROAR 'page' or construct our own page with high level metrics and key info and then add in other attributes - i.e. can refine to country (= CA) and also include

COPPUL affiliation as a search parameter to refine the search:
http://roar.eprints.org/cgi/roar_search/advanced?location_country=ca&software=&type=&order=-recordcount%2F-date

4. Develop a primer on hosting OA journals (including hosting costs, development issues, business models, marketing, peer review, etc.)
a. Create a registry of COPPUL journal hosting sites at institutional level (may build on or use existing Synergies portal and/or COPPUL LOCKSS inventory lists)
b. Promote registry with other OA journal registries

5. Establish a small pool of research funds to help support more original research proposals with a particular COPPUL oriented focus beyond the common assessments and surveys that are routinely conducted. The Task Group could be tasked with the review of such research proposals and the award recommendations.

The Scholarly Communications Committee Task Group suggests the following potential recommendation for COPPUL around landscape review:

Recommendation: Mandate an annual review and analysis of COPPUL members OA and Scholarly Communications programs.

<u>Conclusion:</u>

In the course of the Task Group's deliberations, we came to feel strongly that there is an important, uniquely Western Canadian, coordinating role for COPPUL to play in scholarly communications on behalf of its membership as represented by our suggested list of actions. It is well understood that open access, open education, intellectual property concerns and other associated scholarly communications activities are fast becoming central to the teaching, learning and research missions of our universities. We feel it will serve COPPUL well to establish a place in this arena in support of its member libraries. We look forward to hearing the Directors' review of our suggestions and next steps for the Task Group.

Sincerely,

COPPUL Scholarly Communications Task Group:

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[1] COPPUL homepage, "Who we are" (accessed January 26, 2012: http://www.coppul.ca)
[2] Details of the ACRL Scholarly Communications one-day subsidized roadshow events can be found here: http://www.ala.org/acrl/issues/scholcomm/roadshow Typically applications are due early February each year. Five applicants a year are chosen at the subsidized rate. It is expected these workshops will occur from late April to August 31st of the same year. New in 2012, ACRL also offers opportunities for consortia or institutions to bring the workshop at a time of one's choosing for full cost.