

COPPUL Scholarly Communications Working Group

<http://www.coppul.ca/scholarlycommunications>

Report for the September 2018 COPPUL Directors Meeting

Background

The COPPUL Scholarly Communications Working Group (SCWG) was endorsed as a standing committee of COPPUL in March 2012 and has been fully operating since September 2012.

Current members:

- Robyn Hall, MacEwan University (AB, Chair, 2017/05 - 2019/06)
- Elaine Fabbro, Athabasca University (AB, Director representative, 2015/10 - 2020/06)
- Sonya Betz, University of Alberta (AB, 2017/09 - 2019/06)
- Leonora Crema, University of British Columbia (BC, 2018/07 - 2020/06)
- Devina Dandar, Royal Roads University (BC, 2017/09 - 2019/06)
- Patty Gallilee, Simon Fraser University (BC, 2015/01 - 2019/06)
- Carmen Kazakoff – Lane, Brandon University (MB 2016/10 - 2020/06)

Activities Since the Last Report

Membership Updates

The SCWG welcomed Leonora Crema to the working group in July of 2018 to begin a two-year term, while Elaine Fabbro, Patty Gallilee, and Carmen Kazakoff have agreed to renew their terms. The working group sincerely thanks Kathy Gaynor for her service and wish her best of luck in her new role as Interim University Librarian at Thompson Rivers University!

Regional Training Day

On May 18 the SCWG hosted its first Regional Training Day at MacEwan University. The program and presentation materials are available at: <https://coppulscwg.ca/training-day>. 45 librarians and library staff from COPPUL member libraries across all four Western Canadian provinces attended, as well as 5 librarians from local non-member institutions, and one student and one professor from the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta. Presenters included librarians, library staff, and professors local to Edmonton, each of whom shared their professional knowledge and perspectives on topics including undergraduate publishing, Open Journal Systems, ORCID, institutional repositories, “predatory” publishers, journal metrics, copyright, and open access publishing more generally. On the day prior to the event, 8 attendees working in scholarly communications met at the University of Alberta for an informal meetup. The group discussed current practices and recommendations around institutional repositories and open access journal hosting.

Evaluation survey feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with the majority agreeing that the event was better than expected, well organized, and provided useful, practical information as well as opportunities to network. Participants especially enjoyed a panel discussion with three faculty members from different disciplines discussing their perspectives on academic publishing.

Following the event, the SCWG met to debrief and discuss plans for next year, which are detailed in the 2018/2019 Work Plan that follows.

Issue Briefs

This year SCWG members put together two *issue briefs* on timely scholarly communications topics that are available on the group's website at <https://coppulscwg.ca/resources/reports>. Each report features information on what is happening locally and elsewhere, as well as recommendations and considerations. The reports are titled:

- Evaluating Open Access & Avoiding "Predatory" Publishers
- Funding Support for Open Access Journals

SCWG Website

Since the winter term, the SCWG obtained a new web domain (<https://coppulscwg.ca>) and continued to post content relevant to scholarly communications to the SCWG blog. The group also put together guidelines for guest contributions (<https://coppulscwg.ca/resources/blog-contribution-guidelines>) and invites anyone with content they would like posted to get in touch with Robyn at hallr27@macewan.ca

2018-2019 Work Plan

The SCWG is planning to continue to meet remotely monthly beginning September 19, 2018. Meetings will be focused on completing the following initiatives:

1. Scholarly Communications Regional Training Day

The SCWG is planning a second annual Scholarly Communications Regional Training Day to take place in either May or June 2019. Two member institutions have expressed interest in hosting. Details will be confirmed and shared with COPPUL members later in the Fall term, with registration opening early in the Winter term. Again, the SCWG would like to extend an invitation to non-COPPUL members after an initial registration period for our membership if spots remain. Registration will again be capped at approximately 50 attendees. The event will follow a similar format to that put in place at the first event and will include another informal meetup the day before or after to provide valuable networking opportunities for staff working in related areas of scholarly communications. Please do let any member of the SCWG know of any topics you would like included in the program.

2. Issue Briefs

SCWG members are planning to collaboratively work on up to two new issue briefs. If there is a topic relevant to scholarly communications that you would like the working group to focus on, please send suggestions to Robyn (hallr27@macewan.ca) by September 18 as topics will be decided upon shortly.

3. Website/Blog

This fall the SCWG will work on improving and updating its website content. Plans are also underway to revamp the blog and find ways to ensure content is posted on a regular basis, particularly that which highlights local initiatives and activities as much as possible.

COPPUL members are encouraged to sign up for email updates from the SCWG blog at <https://coppulscwg.ca> >> *Follow Blog*.

Submitted: August 31, 2018