Library Council Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2024
RL 249
Start Time: 9:30 AM

Agenda:

1. Welcome (Kyle Bradbury)
2. University Librarian Updates (Joe Salem)
3. Journal Models: Opportunities for Innovation (Elena Feinstein and Paolo Mangiafico)

Present: Jonathan Mattingly, Kyle Bradbury, Misha Angrist, Dracine Hodges, Steven Asher, Maria Tackett, Jameca Dupree, Blue Dean, Marc Brettler, Ann Saterbak, Megan von Isenburg, Joe Salem, Emily Daly, Tim McGeary, Naomi Nelson, Rachel Porter, Elena Feinstein, Paolo Mangiafico

Absent: Amy Laura Hall, Bruce Jentleson, Kimberly Lamm, Cecilia Marquez, Charles Muiruri, Michael Reiter, Harris Solomon, Gennifer Weisenfeld, Heather Raslan, Julian Liber, Dean Smith, Tracie Canada, Rachel Ingold

1. Welcome (Kyle Bradbury)

- Kyle welcomed everyone to the meeting and all in the room introduced themselves.
- Overview of the meeting's agenda and thanks to Elena and Paolo for joining us and their time.

2. University Librarian updates (Joe Salem)

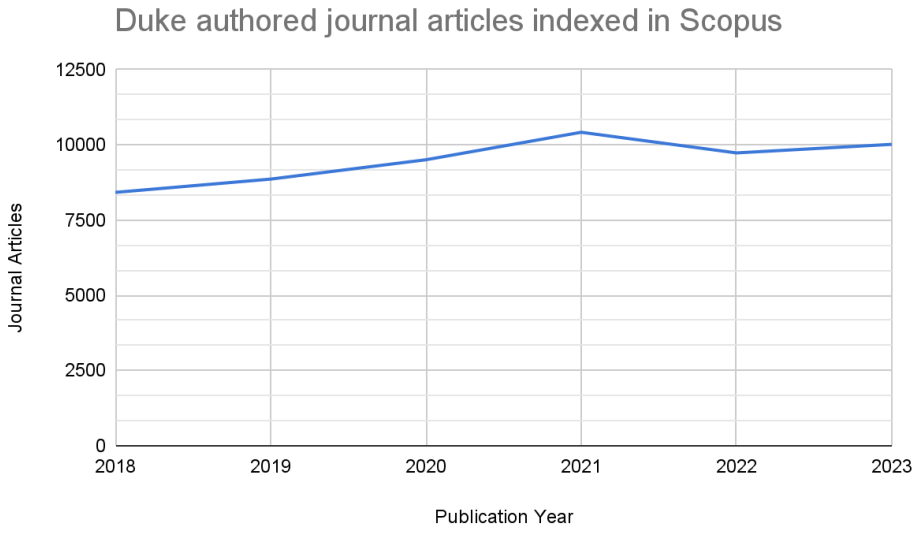
- First update: The Library has completed its Strategic Planning. The public facing documents are being developed and will be shared with all our stakeholder groups, including Library Council. Our end product from this planning process is more than just a framework, it provides the Library a roadmap for the next 5 years and will guide us in developing our yearly operational plans.
- Second update: We proceeding with our space utilization study. We have selected the firm Shepley Bulfinch to conduct the study. This will be a West Campus review of space and will focus on use patterns, space repurposing, staff space needs, and campus use. Overall, we are looking for a better use of our space. We plan on having Library Council be one of our stakeholder groups in the process.
- Third update: We are working towards the implementation of our new library system, ALMA. ALMA is replacing FOLIO which represents a switch from community sourced system to a vendor driven system. We will transition from one system to the other in July which is cause a couple of issues of note for faculty:
  - There will be a hold on acquisitions. We will have a deadline for requests by April 1.
  - Summer course reserves will be impacted. We are in direct communication with those who have previously used summer course reserves
  - We are working on a communication to go out to all faculty about this transition and its impacts.
- Final Update: The Lilly Project continues to move forward. We have recently received a major gift towards the project and are confident that our fundraising remains on track. The plan to close Lilly, along side the transition to ALMA means some of the Lilly collection will be offline from April until Fall.
- Questions/Comments:
  - Question: *Regarding the ALMA transition, what do faculty need to know/how can they help with this transition?* The largest impact will be on our summer course reserves. ALMA discovery will look the same as our discovery now. ALMA will allow us to have more enhancements, so the user experience will only improve. In addition, all TRLN partners are moving to ALMA which will provide more connectiveness.
  - Comment: *Duke in general has moved away from open-source technology to vendor based. Are we going to regret that in the future?* DUL has learned from the strengths and weaknesses of

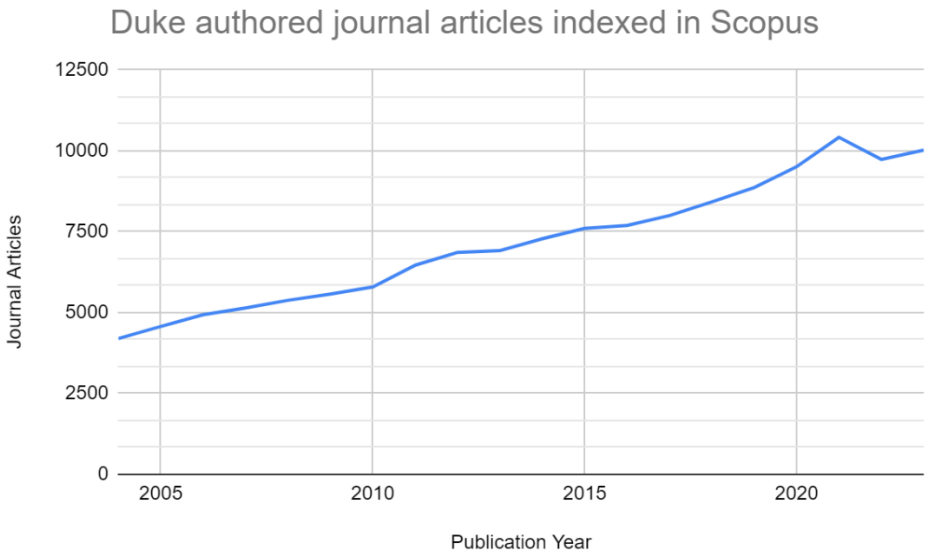
community driven software. We must weight the difference between large scale uses vs. narrow focused use.

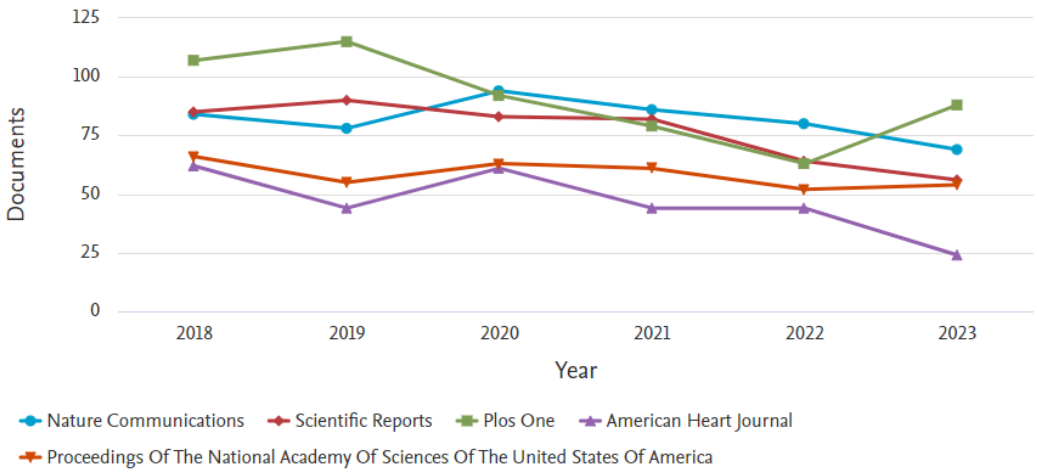
3. Journal Models: Opportunities for Innovation (Elena Feinstein and Paolo Mangiafico)

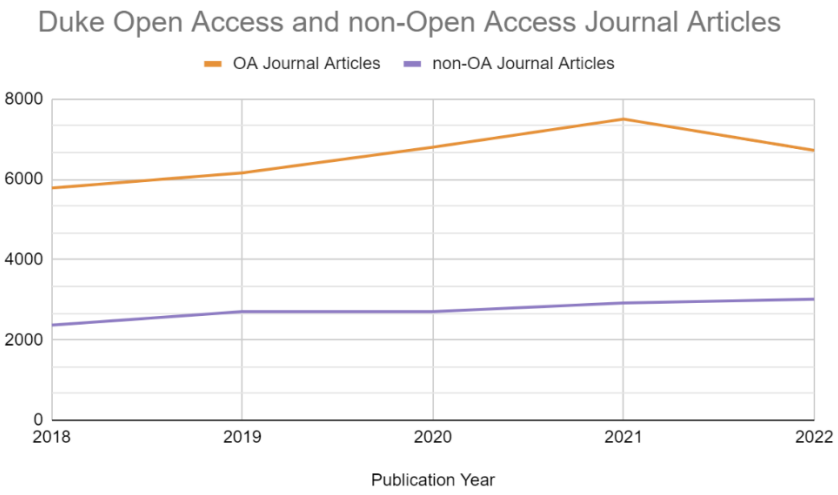
- The presentation will be broken into two part with Paolo focusing on big picture trends and Elena looking into Duke specific data.
- There is an increasing movement towards more open scholarship
    - authors and researchers want more and easier access for themselves, and want more readers and impact for their own work
    - authors and institutions are increasingly aware of the dysfunctional nature of the scholarly publishing system, where researchers do most of the work for free, and institutions rent back the publications their own researchers did
    - subscription costs have been escalating faster than inflation, and much faster than library and university budgets, making continued subscription model unsustainable
    - publishing industry consolidation, which allows the major conglomerates to command 40%+ profit margins, higher than companies like Google, Apple, WalMart, etc.
- Most of the growth in the number of scholarly articles being published in the past decade has been open access.
- Note: In 2010, Duke Open Access Policy was put into effect.
- *Question: According to this policy , are we allowed to put your article on the web?*
    - There are different types of of open access out there. Gold Open Access = the whole journal is open (they charge the author) or a hybrid options which is a subscription service and there is also an fee for the author.
    - *Follow up question: Is there a specific place at Duke?*
    - Scholars@Duke profile is a good place to start, through it about 400 articles per month are uploaded (not including books). Using this will make articles easier to find on google.
- Responses to these trends from the key players:
    - rise of pre-print servers where authors post their work for others to read for free, with infrastructure largely funded by research institutions ("green" open access)
    - universities and faculty adopting open access and rights-retention policies, making it legally possible for authors to "self-archive" their publications in open access repositories, even if the publishers say they shouldn't ("green" open access). This is needed because typical publishing contracts have authors give up all rights to the publisher, with publisher now owning the content.
    - funding agencies (both public and private) requiring rights-retention and open access (or at least public access)
    - publishers recognizing these trends, and looking for ways to continue to make handsome profits under these new circumstances
- The are shifting costs in an increasingly open access publishing environment
    - authors expected to pay APCs (author processing charges), between $500 to over $10,000 per article - levels set by prestige of being published there, not what it actually costs to publish an article
    - "hybrid" journals that remain behind a subscription paywall, and then also ask authors to pay APCs for their individual articles to be made open (universities getting double charged, most of journal still inaccessible without payment)
    - acceptance of an author-pays models leads to increase in fraudulent journals that will publish anything as long as you pay
    - universities now expected to continue paying for subscriptions while also helping pay APCs
- Question to consider- Are we doing the right thing to incentivize publishing?
- Emerging models that attempt to sustainably fund a transition to more open access while containing costs

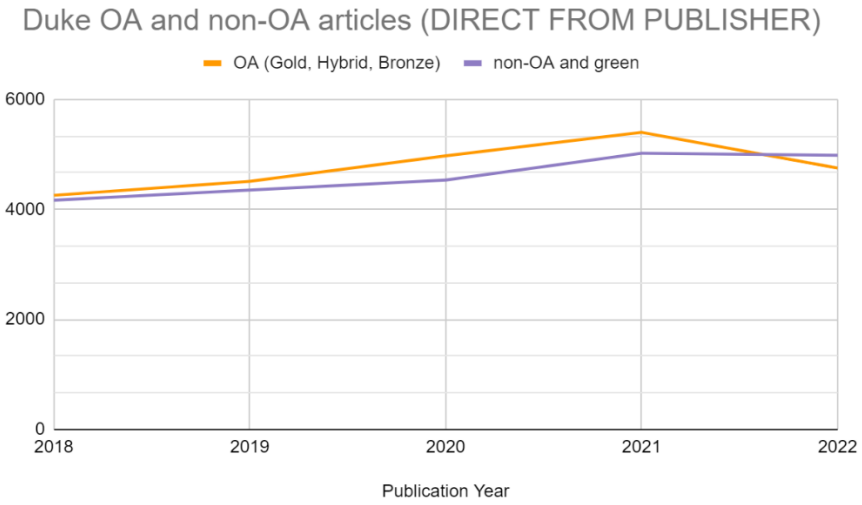
    - Read and Publish - continue to pay for subscriptions, authors from your institution get waived or reduced APCs for open access to their publications
    - Publish and Read - pay for a bundle of open access APCs for authors from your institution, and get waived or reduced subscription costs
    - these kinds of deals create a different kind of inequity - they privilege authors at institutions that can afford to make this kind of deal, and big publishers that have the scale to make this kind of deal feasible.
    - on multi-author papers, it creates an incentive to privilege authors from institutions that have this kind of deal, to the detriment of other co-authors
    - PLOS Community Action Publishing - transparently calculated flat fee to institution, covering both corresponding and contributing authors, with return of revenue to institutions if target exceeded.
    - S20 (Subscribe to open) and SET (Subscription-Equivalent Transition) - pay what you would have paid for a subscription, get open access to all publications, with no fees to authors
    - Lyrasis Open Access Community Investment Program (OACIP), Open Library of the Humanities (OLH) - crowdfunding to meet target of overall publishing costs, with no paywalls or fees to authors. Examples: Environmental Humanities, Demography, Cultural Anthropology
    - SCOAP3 (Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics)
    - For books: TOME (Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem), Direct to Open (MIT Press), Path to Open/Fund to Mission (University of Michigan Press)
- Publishers' pivot toward services, infrastructure, and analytics
    - big publishing conglomerates are seeking additional revenue streams as they start to worry that the subscription cash cow is going away
    - shifting from selling content subscriptions (i.e. journals) toward selling service subscriptions, data analytics, and controlling a lot of the infrastructure scholars depend on (not just the publication process)
    - often they're selling to research and admin offices, going around the library
    - often their goal is vendor lock-in - they're going to collect and control the data and the tools, and rent out access to them to universities - if you stop paying, you lose access to critical tools and intelligence
    - these are likely to become a new kind of "big deal" that universities will get locked into - forgetting the lessons libraries learned about previous big deals - we need to learn from the unhelpful situations we found ourselves in in the past, and prevent it from happening again
    - these companies are also increasingly relying on analytics about researcher activities ("surveillance publishing") as a revenue stream - selling intelligence on what researchers do - and recognizing the value for training AI models of all the content we've given them for free over the years
    - They're going to find ways to keep making huge amounts of money from universities, even as we try to push a shift to more openness and transparency and try to contain costs.
- What is happening at Duke University?
    - Elena shared some data about where Duke authors are publishing to illustrate important issues that the library is facing, as well as sharing information about initiatives that we're currently supporting or choosing not to support and why.

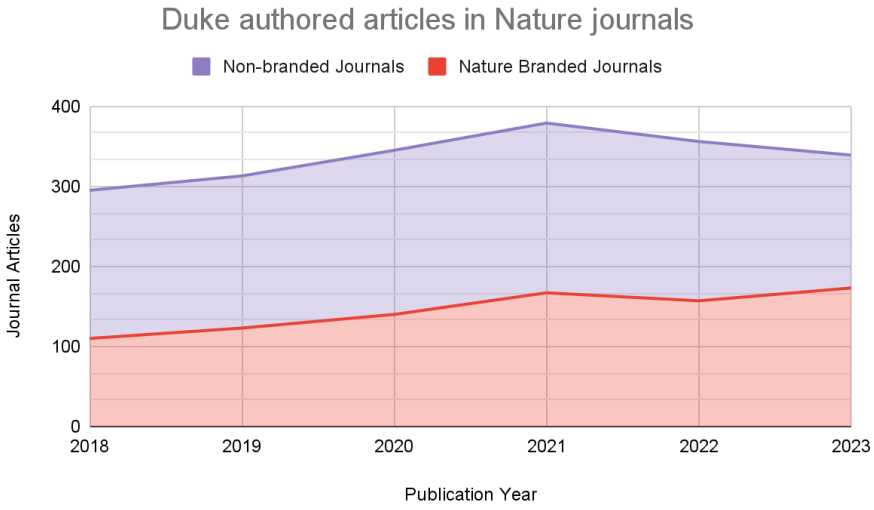

Duke authored journal articles indexed in Scopus
12500
10000
7500
5000
2500
0
Journal Articles
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
Publication Year


Duke authored journal articles indexed in Scopus
12500
10000
7500
5000
2500
0
Journal Articles
2005
2010
2015
2020
Publication Year


125
100
75
50
25
0
Documents
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
Year
Nature Communications
Scientific Reports
Plos One
American Heart Journal
Proceedings Of The National Academy Of Sciences Of The United States Of America







- There are currently 141 (or 193, depending on how you count) journals published under the Nature imprint,

    - which is a small subset of the Springer Nature publishing group. (SN, under its various imprints, now publishes 3,855 journal titles.)
    - 46 of these are "Nature Blank" titles like Nature Ecology & Evolution and 26 are Nature Reviews titles.
    - Nature has been spinning up new journal titles at a very fast pace over recent years, and they have such prestige as an imprint that they will always see a lot of manuscript submissions to those new titles. They also have an incredibly robust pool of submissions to their flagship titles that they can direct to new titles - authors may get rejected from Nature but offered an acceptance at a Nature [ ] title instead.
    - There is, of course, lots of demand from faculty that the library subscribe to all of these new journals, which cost upwards of $10 to $12K a year each (for Nature and Nature Reviews). If we picked up all the new Nature branded journals, we could be looking at $50K in new subscriptions in some years, which would require us to cancel other subscriptions, massively reduce book budgets, or make other cuts.
    - And this is just one publisher among many. It's simply unsustainable.
    - In 2024 we'll be renegotiating our big Springer Nature journal package. Based on patron interest, we should consider an all inclusive Nature package, if that's on offer. I anticipate an unattainable price tag on that, and entirely separate from budget concerns, we should think twice about rewarding Springer Nature for practices that aren't in the interest of scholarship. This business model succeeds and will continue as long as libraries pay them for it.
- Current DUL support for OA initiatives
    - In the library we engage with initiatives across the full spectrum that Paolo described
    - We are quite skeptical of so-called transformative agreements, in the sense that extremely few of them seem to be transforming anything
    - For commercial publishers they're a strategy to keep making profits off libraries as the publishing ecosystem shifts, and they perpetuate problematic APC-based models
    - But there are exceptions, usually from society or other smaller publishers, like the ACM OPEN model, and I'm happy to describe what's better about them but don't know that we have time to get that granular
    - We also elect to transfer subscriptions to subscribe to open, whenever possible, and have long participated in a variety of sponsorship models, for journals, books, small independent publishers, and preprint and other infrastructure

Topic to be picked up at a future meeting.
Adjourn.