

**Review of Smith, K.L., & Dickson, K.A. (Eds.).
(2016). *Open access and the future of
scholarly communication: Policy and
infrastructure*. NY: Rowan and Littlefield.**

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“Academic librarians support scholarly communication by making access to all forms of information as fast, frictionless, and free as possible” (Posner, 2016, p. 183).

Fostering such access is an inherent principle of scholarly research and collaboration. Posner goes on to explain the benefits of wide information access in policy, research, and creativity. This focus on providing “access” and the proliferation of online programs has led to smaller owned collections and larger database subscriptions. However, the rising cost of journal and database subscriptions combined with shrinking enrollments and budgets has forced many libraries to make difficult choices relating to this access, which has led to an increased interest in various aspects of Open Access (OA) and the role of the library in this trend (Ogburn; Pavy).

The opening chapter provides a strong historical foundation and OA’s ongoing growth in academia, beginning with early literature on electronic publishing and leading to four key documents: Tempe Principles, The Budapest Open Access Initiative, The Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing, and the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities.

With this strong foundation, the next six chapters address many OA concerns with methods for addressing such questions and advocating for OA publishing. The principles of academia and libraries focus on sharing and collaboration for the greater good. Each of the authors brings a unique perspective to various issues in OA. Folds begins the advocacy conversation in the second chapter looking at the need for publication literacy among faculty. Price et al. continue and expand on ways to educate faculty. Kippht-Smith and Carlson creatively address the question of lost revenue by using the explosive popularity of The Grateful Dead, achieved partially through the sanctioning of amateur live recordings and sharing. Both Pavy and Inefuku and Roh broaden the conversation to a more activist focus of breaking the proprietary publishing cycle to not only create more access but also to include more voices by increasing opportunities and allowing for niche or generalized publications that may not have enough commercial value but can contribute to academic discourse. Erdmann and Shaw-Munderback conclude this section with a case study applying many of the principles addressed in the previous chapters.

Moving from advocacy and education, the final six chapters of the book look at the increasing role of the library as OA publisher. Much as the rising costs of journals prompted Institutional

Repository (IR) and OA initiatives, many authors look at how academia pays for research creation and access, but publishing can shift funds away from publisher profits to more align with the collaborative goals of academia. Just as Pavy advocates the benefits of OA, Pitcher shows how OA textbooks can reduce student burden while allowing faculty to develop unique tools. Posner draws on the extensive infrastructure around ILL to demonstrate the library's ability to provide strong collaborative support and the fully established policies that would address many OA issues. Borchert, Simser, and Robinson outline various considerations for establishing an OA press. Mattson, Pickle, Gearhart, and O'Sullivan continue and expand the discussion, moving into the issue of sustainability. Dowding further shows how OA can merge the formerly divergent roles of preservation and access, and the shift of control away from publishers back to the creators. However, she also shows how this shift impacts curation and preservation and the role libraries must assume in the ongoing education of researchers. Adamich extends this discussion with a focus on the importance of standard metadata for accessibility. Martin provides the conclusion with a strong overview of current resources with an eye to the future.

For anyone interested in scholarly communication and OA, this book provides a wide variety of perspectives. The early chapters give a strong literature review-type foundation on which the other chapters draw. The chapters looking at case studies offer a variety of examples and institutions from which to draw generalized principles. And the application chapters take unique examples of current library practices and dissemination to provide strong insights into how libraries can continue to adapt to meet the OA challenges.

The chapters work together to create a strong overall quite cohesion, with a good progression of ideas that link together moving nicely from history of OA through the various levels of library involvement. Also, the mix of articles types provides a nice balance of intellectual and theoretical with practical application through case studies and guidelines. The one aspect missing from these chapters is any quantitative research study. While this field is new and shifting, some research studies of usage statistics, number of OA items appearing in more mainstream search tools, altmetric measurements, etc. could provide further information for ongoing refinement in this new and burgeoning field.

While library publishing is and should be a part of OA, having nearly half of the chapters focusing on this part of OA came at the expense of other key ideas. Additional areas would have been beneficial to the larger discussion of OA: Ways to educate authors in publishing literacy; How librarians

can stay abreast of true OA versus predatory trends; Whether cost savings or simply shifting funds back to academia is the goal and how to achieve that goal; Ways that academics and for-profit publishers may partner to increase and improve OA; and how to continue to advance OA initiatives into more mainstream readership. Obviously, no book can cover every aspect of a topic, but a more balanced approach would broaden the appeal of the whole to a larger audience.

While the text could have included some additional ideas and research studies, it is a recommended resource for any institution attempting to implement or strengthen its OA initiatives. The selections all convey a strong passion for OA, not just as a cost-saving measure but as a tool for improving academic discourse, providing a wider audience with increased access, and creating a more collaborative and inclusive scholarly exchange. This consistent passion and advocacy speak to and model the common goal of any library that seeks to implement or expand its OA policy.