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Open Access Week at Dacus

This newsletter often highlights our ongoing needs. In this issue, however, we’re focusing on what we’re trying to do to reduce costs without reducing access. One way we’re doing that is through Open Access. In recent years, Open Access (OA, as it is sometimes called) has gained momentum. The OA market share, according to Delta Think as reported by Scholarly Kitchen, moved from $389M in 2015, to $470M in 2016. More importantly, the total market volume is now approaching twenty-five percent.

Dacus showcased Open Access during International Open Access week in October.

New Dacus Faces

To state the obvious – change happens. It can be a bit unsettling at first, but it can often lead to really good things. At Dacus, one big change is in the staffing. We have several new library faculty we would like to introduce to you.

Emily Cranwell joined us in June as the new Audio/Visual Archivist and Reference Librarian, which means she splits her time between the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections.
There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what isn’t true; the other is to refuse to believe what is.”  
S. Kierkegaard

Don’t Forget the Dacus Development Fund!

Some years ago your Friends Executive Board began a Dacus Development Fund. Today, that fund is inching closer to the $80,000 mark! When we reach $100,000, Dacus can begin tapping into those funds as specified by the Board at the fund’s formation. As Christmas nears, please consider a gift, or an extra one, to the Dacus Development Fund!

Perhaps you want to honor a friend, memorialize a friendship, or simply commemorate one of our retirees. Whatever the reason, your gift may well be the one that puts us over the top!
More Retirements Ahead

One point is inescapable in this issue of Dacus Developments: we have many new faces. This is hardly news to those of us in the profession, but it may come as a surprise to some of you. For those of you who like to follow such things, here’s the most recent study on the matter (http://bit.ly/2yuqUcK).

What is obvious, surely, is that many Baby Boomers are retiring at a rate faster than the library profession can replace them. For librarians holding administrative positions, the retirement rate is even higher, with as many as 40% now 65 or older.

The good news is we are hiring new professionals with many new ideas. This is, as Martha Stewart might say, “a good thing.” The bad news is that we are losing, and will continue to lose, a long institutional memory.

We’ll try to keep you informed as these changes take place, but count on nothing remaining the same!

Digital Commons @ Winthrop

If you haven’t spent time in Winthrop’s Digital Commons, then you must surf over there today (http://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu)! It houses what we like to refer to as the institution’s intellectual footprint. While the site is still in its infancy, the scholarly activity of the institution has been downloaded more than 70,000 times and viewed in more than 100 countries. More than once Winthrop’s research has led the way among all such digital commons. Take a tour or call DeAnn @ 323-2198.

New Faces, from page two

From left to right, Emily, Hope, Martha, and Regina.
and even four times as much as what an individual subscription would cost.

Costs for access to scholarly communication skyrocketed, even tripling in only a decade and a half. Library budgets did not. In fact, they hardly increased at all.

This way of acquiring scholarly communication remained entrenched for decades. Accrediting bodies made certain that libraries would have to pay the price, perhaps not intentionally, but practically, by requiring certain journals for accreditation.

To put the matter in perspective, when I came to Winthrop in 1999, we paid about $600,000 for all scholarly content. This year, we will pay about $1.2 million with only a small percentage new or different from what we took in 1999.

Scholars remain skeptical of OA, but that is beginning to change.

As OA matured, platforms like bepress [sic] made it much easier to share content locally and worldwide.

Today, OA and OER (online educational resources) are everywhere.

Winthrop maintains its own intellectual footprint with its Digital Commons. Additionally, some faculty are now using OpenStax or some other database of open access textbooks. Finally, more faculty are increasingly comfortable depositing their research in our Digital Commons, making certain that Winthrop scholarship is showcased literally around the world.