

Special Footnotes Issue on Scholarly Publishing

On February 19th the Faculty Senate will sponsor another in its continuing series of Faculty Senate Forums. In what promises to be a stimulating afternoon, this Forum will focus on "New Directions in Scholarly Publishing." Topics will include OhioLINK initiatives, developments with electronic books, and experiences in publishing an electronic journal. In anticipation of this program, this issue of *Footnotes* offers several perspectives on scholarly publishing.

Faculty Senate Forum "New Directions in Scholarly Publishing", February 19, 3:30-5:00, Moulton Hall



From the Dean: Changes in Scholarly Publishing—What will this mean for you?

I.

The current approach to scholarly publishing is too costly for the academic community to sustain. The number of scholarly journals and their increasing cost, especially in the sciences, are making it almost impossible for academic libraries and the colleges and universities that support them to maintain collections adequate to serve faculty and students. Also, this financial pressure on library budgets contributes greatly to the increasing difficulty that scholarly societies and university presses, particularly in the humanities and social sciences, experience in publishing specialized monographs. As journal costs eat up a larger portion of academic library materials budgets, libraries order fewer and fewer books. This process forces small publishers to print more limited runs of titles and often to forgo publishing new titles, resulting in escalating prices for scholarly monographs. A lack of consensus within the academic community permits this very difficult condition to continue.

II.

Various academic stakeholders in the scholarly publishing process came together in March 2000 at a meeting in Tempe, Arizona, to build consensus on transforming the scholarly publishing system. The meeting was sponsored by the Association of American Universities, the Association of Research Libraries, and the Merrill Advanced Studies Center of the University of Kansas. The agreed-upon principles follow, along with questions for your consideration:

1. The cost to the Academy of published research should be contained so that access to relevant publications for faculty and students can be maintained and even expanded. Members of the university community should collaborate to develop strategies that further

this end. Faculty participation is essential to the success of this process.

Question: How has the increasing cost of journals affected your research?

2. Electronic capabilities should be used to provide wide access to scholarship, encourage interdisciplinary research, and enhance interoperability and searchability. Development of common standards will be particularly important in the electronic environment.

Question: Do you have the necessary networked environment and technical support for using these electronic materials?

3. Scholarly publications must be archived in a secure manner so as to remain permanently available and, in the case of electronic works, a permanent identifier for citation and linking should be provided.

Question: If your professional association publishes an e-journal or if you serve on the editorial board of an e-journal, has the publisher made a commitment for providing a permanently accessible archive?

Continued on page 2

4. The system of scholarly publication must continue to include processes for evaluating the quality of

Inside this Issue

- Page 2 Scholarly Publishing at KSU
Page 3 ARL and KSU 10-Year Journal Trend
Page 4 What is an E-Journal?
 Electronic Theses & Dissertations (ETD)

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY Footnotes

News from the Kent State University Libraries & Media Services

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From the Dean, continued

scholarly work, and every publication should provide the reader with information about evaluation the work has undergone.

Question: In your discipline, how are articles published in electronic journals regarded in tenure/promotion decisions?

5. The academic community embraces the concepts of copyright and fair use and seeks a balance in the interest of owners and users in the digital environment. Universities, colleges, and especially their faculties should manage copyright and its limitations and exceptions in a manner that assures the faculty access to and use of their own published works in their research and teaching.

Question: Do you know if the copyright agreements between authors and publishers for journals in your discipline allow you unconditional access and future use of your work?

6. In negotiating publishing agreements, faculty should assign the rights to their work in a manner that promotes the ready use of their work and choose journals that support the goal of making scholarly publications available at reasonable cost.

Question: Do you see as a role for faculty serving on editorial boards that of trying to influence the rights and pricing policies of a journal?

7. The time from submission to publication should be reduced in a manner consistent with the requirements for quality control.

Question: Are articles in your discipline published in a timely fashion?

8. To assure quality and reduce proliferation of publications, the evaluation of faculty should place a greater emphasis on quality of publications and reduced emphasis on quantity.

Question: Has your department considered a tenure/promotion policy that limits the number of publications that can be submitted as evidence of scholarship?

9. In electronic as well as print environments, scholars and students should be assured privacy with regard to their use of materials.

Question: Do you have any privacy concerns with regard to the use of electronic information resources?

Where do we go from here?

Now is the time for faculty, administrators, and others to discuss these issues. These discussions, hopefully, would focus on practical concrete steps that we can take here on this campus. Join us at the Faculty Forum on February 19 to continue this conversation!

Mark Weber
Dean, Libraries & Media Services

Scholarly Publishing at Kent State University

Home to several electronic journals, including:

- *Electronic Transactions on Numerical Analysis (ETNA)*
(<http://etna.mcs.kent.edu>)
- *Future of Print Media*
(<http://www.futureprint.kent.edu>)
- *Online Journal of Issues in Nursing (OJIN)*
(<http://www.nursingworld.org/ojin/>)

Online access to over 3,000 journals from more than 35 publishers through:

- The *OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center (EJC)*
(<http://journals.ohiolink.edu>)
- Cataloging and links provided in *KentLINK* for local subscriptions and EJC titles
(<http://kentlink.kent.edu>).
- Links to specific journal articles provided in selected research databases.

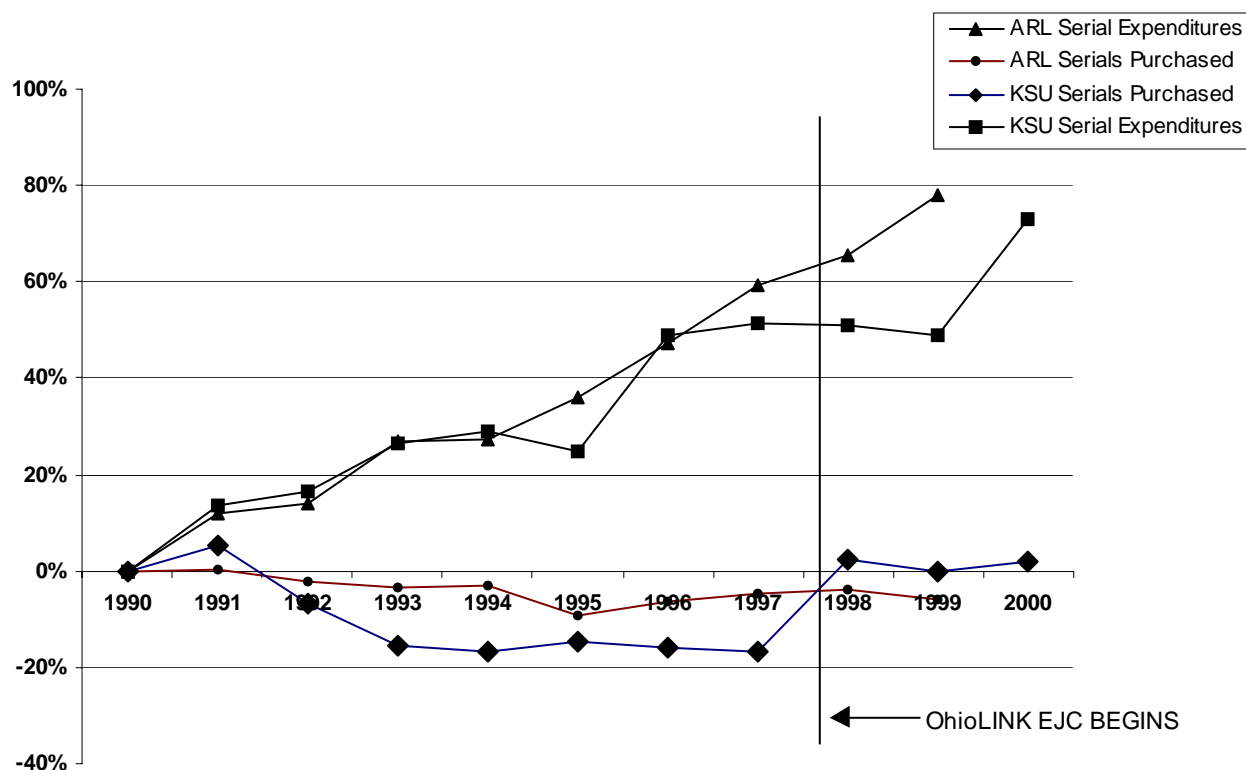
Electronic book availability:

- 7,000 titles on information technology through *IT Knowledge*
(<http://corpitk.earthweb.com/>)
- 1,500 titles on all subject areas through *NetLibrary*. This number will increase to 30,000 in late spring.
(<http://www.netlibrary.com/>).
- Cataloging and links provided in *KentLINK* for these books
(<http://kentlink.kent.edu>).

Electronic theses & dissertations (ETD)

- The *Digital Dissertations* database (formerly *Dissertation Abstracts*) provides online preview of 24-pages for titles published since 1997. Full access in PDF digital format is available for KSU titles submitted since 1997.
(<http://wwwlib.umi.com/dissertations/>)
- More on ETD on page 4.

The Association of Research Libraries & Kent State University Ten-Year Trend for Journals



This chart highlights the Kent State University experience in the context of the members of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL):

- The median expenditure for serials among all members of ARL has increased by 78% since 1990 while the median number of serials purchased has decreased by 6% during the same time period.
- In contrast, KSU paid 49% more in 1999 than in 1990 for the same number of subscriptions.
- In 1998, the introduction of the OhioLINK Electronic Journal Center (EJC) increased the number of scholarly journals available to the KSU community by 20%.
- The combination of the EJC, which includes capped price increases negotiated between OhioLINK and publishers, and a campus-wide serials cancellation project resulted in no increase in serials expenditures from 1997 to 1998.
- The OhioLINK EJC provides KSU access to more than 2,375 scholarly journals not previously available here.

What is an E-Journal?*

In truth, "e-journals" is not used very precisely as a label. There is lack of clarity about both the "electronic" and "journal" qualifiers. It makes sense to deal with "journal" first. The following is the hierarchy for classifying publications used by librarians to differentiate the various types.

Serials: Publications issued in parts indefinitely over time.

Periodicals: Serial publications issued at regular intervals greater than a year.

- Magazines: Periodicals containing a collection of articles, stories, pictures, or other features.
- Journals: Periodicals offering articles on a particular topic for a professional or scholarly audience.
- Scholarly journals: Journals with research or scholarly content that has been screened through a peer-review process.

Therefore, not all regularly issued publications are journals, nor are all journals "scholarly." This is true in both the print and electronic worlds.

With this in mind, then, what constitutes an electronic journal? Obviously, the mode of delivery must be electronic, but the extent of what is delivered electronically varies. In its purest form, an e-journal is "an edited package of articles that is distributed to most of its subscribers in electronic form" (Kling & Covi, 1995). The group of journals whose primary distribution is electronic is very small, although growing across all disciplines. Initially, these journals were developed independently by individuals without benefit of subsidy from institutions or professional associations and usually offered without cost to the user (Fisher, 1996). This lack of production support resulted in time in the cessation of some titles.

A more prevalent development at present is the dual form

of access provided by many conventional publishers, whose business is founded on print publication. Now, and often for an added cost, they are also providing access to an electronic archive of their print titles. So it is increasingly possible, depending on your personal or library subscription, to access an electronic equivalent of a print journal. Another variation by some publishers is the provision of a limited amount of content freely available online, which may be no more than table of contents and abstracts. This may be accompanied by a document delivery service by which it is possible to purchase an individual article.

Where do "e-zines" fit in this discussion? As with print magazines, e-zines offer content for special interest groups. "E-zine" has been defined as "a regular publication on some particular topic distributed in digital form....often distributed for free by enthusiasts" (Free On-line Dictionary of Computing, 1999).

REFERENCES

Fisher, J. (1996). Traditional publishers and electronic journals. In R. Peek & G. Newby (Eds.), *Scholarly publishing: The electronic frontier* (pp.231-242), Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Free On-line Dictionary of Computing. (1999). Retrieved October 30, 1999 from the World Wide Web: <http://wombat.doc.ic.ac.uk/foldoc/foldoc.cgi?query=ezone>

Kling, R., & Covi, L. (1995). Electronic journals and legitimate media in the systems of scholarly communication. *The Information Society*, 11(4), 261-271.

*Excerpted from: Schloman, B. (April 14, 2000). Using e-journals: Desktop nuts and bolts *Online Journal of Issues in Nursing*. Retrieved January 26, 2001 from the World Wide Web: http://www.nursingworld.org/ojin/infocol/info_3.htm

Electronic Theses & Dissertations (ETD)

The initiative to publish theses and dissertations in an electronic format began at Virginia Tech several years ago and is being adopted at universities across the country. Discussions at KSU are underway between Research & Graduate Studies, the Graduate Schools, and Libraries & Media Services.

The Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) highlights ETD development and lists participating institutions (<http://www.ndltd.org/>). ETD objectives include: expose students to electronic publishing; increase access to this material; lower handling costs; allow for the use of multimedia technologies; utilize digital library technology.

Several Ohio institutions are laying plans for electronic submissions of theses and dissertations. To support these efforts, OhioLINK has created the OhioLINK Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) site at <http://www.ohiolink.edu/etd/>. The site provides a free online database of master's and doctoral theses and dissertations from participating OhioLINK member schools.

