

The Scholarly Communication Landscape: Perspectives from Manchester

23rd April 2009, 10:00am – 4:30pm

Symposium Synopsis

Date	Thursday 23 rd April 2009
Time	10:00 – 16:30 Symposium 16:30 – 17:30 Reception to launch Manchester eScholar, <i>attendance by invitation only</i>
Where	Manchester Conference Centre, Sackville Street
Intended audience	All University of Manchester academic staff, contract research staff, research support staff and librarians; postgraduate research students; invited delegates from outside the University.
Registration	Individuals wishing to attend the event should register by emailing Erica Mackay, email: erica.mackay@manchester.ac.uk
Further information	Details available from the website, http://www.manchester.ac.uk/library/scl
Cost	The event is free to all University of Manchester staff and postgraduate research students
Follow up	Delegates will receive an information pack to take away on the day. We will make speaker presentations available online.
Posters and demos	Provided by: Research Information Network, UMIP and Manchester eScholar
Synopsis	<p>The what, why and how of scholarly communication has changed drastically in recent years and continues to change at a rapid pace. Finding, analysing and publishing research in a digital form is now common place, and often preferred and expected by researchers. Changes mean researchers are now faced with understanding an increasingly large set of complex issues. This symposium will attempt to clarify some of these issues and make researchers and support staff more aware of the opportunities that these developments enable and the risks that come with them.</p> <p>A significant financial driver for the current transformation in scholarly communication is the so-called 'Scholarly Communication Crisis'. This crisis refers to the fact that over the last 15 years, research journal subscriptions have risen over 200% with library budgets remaining largely static. As a response to these pressures, the Open Access movement has developed - a movement about which much confusion still exists in the academic community.</p> <p>Researchers now need to comply with funder mandates which require individuals to retain the copyright of their work and/or deposit it in an open access repository. The Research Excellence Framework (REF) is set to replace the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), a consequence of which is for the first time in the UK, bibliometric indicators will be used to guide measures of research performance.</p> <p>The World Wide Web continues to transform traditional scholarly communication. Repositories of digital content - institutional, discipline and funder specific - are growing, in their number, uses, content and quality. The emergence of personal blogs and online virtual spaces for the collaboration of research are playing an increasingly important role in scholarly communication.</p> <p>Ultimately, it is in individuals and institutions own best interests to understand the changing scholarly communication landscape so that they may safely navigate obstacles and maximise the potential of their research findings.</p>