

Washington University Scholarly Communications Group Statement of Purpose

Scholarly communications pertains to the creation, transformation, dissemination and preservation of knowledge. It encompasses both teaching (the promotion and transmission of knowledge) and research (the creation of new knowledge). In essence, scholarly communications is at the heart of Washington University's mission.

In recent years, changes in the process of communicating and disseminating research findings have created challenges for teaching, conducting research, and providing library services to students and faculty. Some of these challenges include:

- Changes in information technology
- The use of the internet as the primary distribution method in many fields
- The transition from print to digital formats
- The complexity of research in the 21st century
- The evolution and transformation of traditional publishing models
- Library users' increased expectations for access
- The costs of access outpacing inflation

To meet these challenges, the Washington University Libraries, composed of the Danforth Campus Libraries and Bernard Becker Medical Library, have developed a joint scholarly communications program. We strive to serve the entire Washington University community by providing reliable and unbiased services, resources, and information related to scholarly communications issues. With our campus partners, we will be an active and visible player in exploring the dynamics of scholarly communication at Washington University. A group comprising representation from a broad section of the WU academic community will also be involved in this effort, forming the Washington University Scholarly Communications Group.

The Washington University Scholarly Communications Group at Washington University in St. Louis aims to:

- Increase awareness of the issues related to scholarly communications.
- Encourage discussion on scholarly communications issues at WU and in the broader community.
- Foster and promote traditional and alternative methods for dissemination and preservation of the scholarly output of WU.
- Provide author tools that will enable WU faculty, researchers, scientists and students to efficiently access, share, and transform content that results in new scholarly output.
- Develop programs to preserve licensed, owned and locally created digital content to ensure permanent and stable access.
- Reduce barriers caused by publisher-imposed licensing restrictions.
- Gather and address concerns/questions from the WU community regarding copyright, author rights and author publication agreements; distribution and preservation of digital works; open access issues; public access mandates; self-archiving options; digital repositories; data retention and storage; publication practices; funding policies; and other scholarly communications issues.
- In response to changes in law, custom and technology, develop and maintain informational content on the joint Scholarly Communications Group website.