George A. Smathers Libraries
Scholarly Resources & Research Services

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January 9, 2013

Dear POTENTIAL REVIEWER:

The University of Florida George A. Smathers Libraries are currently working to establish a facilitated peer review process to support the peer review of alternative scholarly works.

The facilitated peer review process is in development with the first phase to establish template materials and a standard process, and to apply the process to a pilot project. Such a process is critically needed across many fields to support scholarly efforts in multimedia publication, data curation, publicly-engaged scholarship, collaborative work, and other forms of alternative scholarly products that do not fit within established disciplinary traditions. This process is being established to support the peer review of alternative scholarly works specifically in relation to the tenure and promotion process.[1]

The Facilitated Peer Review Committee is comprised of UF faculty, and the Committee's role is to facilitate the new process of peer review. The Committee is akin to members of a journal editorial board or a publisher's on-staff editors in providing the framework for peer review. The Committee establishes the necessary policies, procedures, and documentation; locates the appropriate experts to conduct peer review; supports the process of peer review performed by those experts, wherein the experts conduct peer review and provide quantitative and qualitative feedback using the provided peer review form; and then synthesizes feedback from all reviewers into a letter and review packet to the author(s). The Committee is working to ensure the process is aligned with and supports individual authors as well as departmental, college, and institutional needs in terms of measurement and reporting for promotion and tenure within the University of Florida.

Short description and basic information on the specific alternative scholarly work to be reviewed. As Chair of the Facilitated Peer Review Committee, I am contacting you on behalf of the Committee and the UF Libraries to inquire regarding your availability to serve as a peer reviewer for the project.

Included with this letter are several template components developed for use with all scholarly works that undergo the facilitated peer review process.

[1] The University of Florida Promotion and Tenure (P&T or T&P) guidelines and information are online: http://www.aa.ufl.edu/tenure

The documents are:

1. *Application for Facilitated Peer Review Support for Alternative Scholarly Works:* provides background on the project and additional documentation about the impact, use, and reception of the work
2. *Peer Review Guide for Peer Reviewers and Submitting Authors*: provides an overview of the facilitated peer review process for peer reviewers and authors
3. *Peer Review Form for Alternative Scholarly Works*: provides structure for the reviewer's responses

Documents regarding the Committee's work for this process are online on the Committee website: http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/committees/fprc.

Please respond to this letter to confirm your willingness to serve as a peer reviewer or to discuss this process. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to speak with you about this process whether or not you are able to serve as a peer reviewer.

Please contact me with any questions, concerns, or to discuss this process. I am available via email (Laurien@ufl.edu) and phone (352.273.2902), and I am happy to contact you at your convenience.

Best regards,

Laurie N. Taylor, Ph.D.
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