

# University of Florida's Open Access Week 2009

## Overview

Open Access Week "is an opportunity for the academic and research community to continue to learn about the potential benefits of Open Access, to share what they've learned with colleagues, and to help inspire wider participation in helping to make Open Access a new norm in scholarship and research." ([www.openaccessweek.org](http://www.openaccessweek.org)) This international event is held annually in October. Supporting institutions include the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) of ARL and Public Library of Science (PLoS), a leading publisher of Open Access journals.

The University of Florida joined the international movement by participating in Open Access Week 2009.

## Planning

An informal group of librarians, from a variety of disciplines, assembled in early 2009 to discuss the possibility of participating in OA Week. There was widespread interest in holding local events on UF campus. At the time awareness of OA was low on UF campus, even among library staff. The group decided to start with the goal of increasing campus awareness. Two science librarians took on coordinator roles and worked closely with advocates from PLoS and SPARC to plan events. In summer 2009, detailed planning for the events began. A dozen librarians and library staff members collaborated to design PR, develop outreach sessions, and identify faculty involved with open access. The team scheduled dates for each session and reserved rooms. Individual librarians from the team took responsibility for each session, with the coordinators assisting with instructional design. Having an overall project plan with set deadlines and session coordinators listed for each day helped to manage the planning.



## Events

As librarians, we had so many topics that we wanted to increase awareness of on our campus. The first task was to limit these options to one week of events. We distilled the list of possibilities into 5 one hour sessions:



All programs are free and open to the public.

### Open Access: Is it the Future for All Scientific Publications?

Monday, 10/19 1:30-2:30 Smathers Library, Room 1A

Dr. Grant McFadden, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of PLoS Pathogens, will discuss open access and the impact it is having on traditional research cycles, including T&P implications. He will also discuss his experience as an open access editor and author.

### Copyright & Creative Commons

Tuesday 10/20 1:30-2:30 Smathers Library, Room 1A

What are your rights as an author and researcher? As a creator of new knowledge, learn about alternative licensing and how to retain your author rights.

### Digital Scholarship: Institutional Repositories & Open Textbooks

Wednesday 10/21 1:30-2:30 Smathers Library, Room 1A

Learn about publications available to researchers for free through digital repositories. As members of the University of Florida community, find out how you can contribute and access your academic materials using the Institutional Repository's new self-submittal tool.

### Public Funding = Public Access

Thursday 10/22 10:00-11:00 Health Science Center, C 1-17 Communicore Building

How public access initiatives speed research from bench to bedside: a presentation about the NIH Public Access Policy and Translational Science.

### Open Access @ UF

Friday 10/23 10:00-11:00 Smathers Library, Room 1A

A panel discussion about Open Access from the viewpoints of various UF stakeholders: researchers, librarians, academic departments, and students, followed by an audience discussion of what the next steps on UF campus should be.

- Keynote address by the editor of PLoS Pathogens, a high impact OA journal
- Librarian led workshop on author rights and Creative Commons
- Session unveiling the new IR self submittal tool
- Lecture for health sciences scholars and clinicians by the Senior Vice President of Health Affairs
- Panel discussion with the major Open Access stakeholders: faculty, librarians, and the next generation of researchers

For the remainder of the ideas, we created 10 posters. Topics on these posters included journal economics, legislative initiatives (FRPPA), and society journals that had moved to OA models. The UF libraries graphic designer assisted with poster layouts and developed handout templates for additional information. Copies of these posters were displayed in the Health Science Center Library and in the lobby surrounding the OA Week events. They have been reused for displays in the Marston Science Library and the Health Sciences Center Library.



Open Access Week 2009 Posters

## Outcomes

Open Access Week 2009 was the first time that the University of Florida Libraries participated in any organized OA events, and it was the first time that any coherent effort had been made to raise the level of awareness on OA issues throughout the campus. This in itself is an accomplishment and a great step forward for the library as an advocate for these timely issues.

While the sessions were well presented and offered a solid grounding in the issues, it is unfortunate that more faculty and students from across campus did not attend. Average session attendance was 37, with the Health Science Center lecture drawing the largest crowd of about 75. Main campus events were attended primarily by librarians with a few faculty and University Press staff. Undergraduate Students for Free Culture participated and became involved in promoting a local SPARKY (OA video contest). Overall, the campus consciousness about Open Access was not altered by the event, however the insightful sessions raised awareness among librarians and library administration.

The lasting value of OA Week 2009 is the variety of connections we made on and off campus. We were able to discover Open Access allies in fellow librarians, library administration, UF faculty, student organizations, university publishers, SPARC advocates, and administrators from Tallahassee.

## The Future

Our approach to last year's Open Access week was broad – encompass a variety of issues and raise awareness. In 2010 we plan to narrow the focus to one event detailing Open Access Publishing Funds. Our goal will be to promote the provost sponsored UF Open Access Publishing Fund (UFOAP).

Need help funding your article in an Open Access Journal?

The UF Open Access Publishing Fund can help.

Any UF faculty, post-doctoral researcher, staff or student author may request up to \$3,000 per year to pay for article-processing fees.

[www.uflib.ufl.edu/oa](http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/oa) for details

Advertising for the UF Open Access Publishing Fund (UFOAP): Posters, flyers, and web banners. The Provost-funded project will begin July 1 and promoting the UFOAP will be the focus of UF's Open Access Week 2010.