

Alliance News

GWLA Board Approves Opportunity Fund to Encourage Innovation and Collaboration Across Consortium

GWLA has established an Opportunities Fund to advance its strategic initiatives. GWLA committees, task forces, and groups can apply for grants of up to \$10,000 for a year to plan, create, and implement projects that will have an impact on GWLA libraries.

Proposed projects should seek to advance one (or more) of GWLA's strategic areas of focus: Access, Collections, Preservation, or Organizational Effectiveness. More information about GWLA's goals can be found at www.gwla.org under *Governance*.

Proposals may be submitted at any time during the fiscal year by completing the application form on the GWLA website (www.gwla.org under *Initiatives*).

Send a completed application to Joni Blake, Executive Director at joni@gwla.org; your proposal will be reviewed by the GWLA Board of Directors in a timely manner. Groups receiving Opportunity Fund awards will submit a progress report to the Executive Director prior to Membership meetings.

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NIH Public Access Policy in Effect; Institutions Work Toward Compliance

The new NIH Public Access Policy, which went into effect on April 7, 2008, requires NIH-funded researchers to deposit the final manuscript of an accepted peer-reviewed journal article into the PubMed Central repository, which shall be made publicly available not more than 12 months after the journal publication. The policy applies to any manuscript that is peer-reviewed; accepted for publication on or after April 7, 2008; and is reporting on research that is partially or fully funded by the NIH.

The goal of the policy is to ensure that the taxpaying public has access to the approximately 80,000 research papers which result from NIH funding each year. In 2005, NIH established a voluntary public access policy, but only a small percentage of the manuscripts submitted were deposited under that policy.

With the revision to require manuscript deposits, "we believe that public access after a reasonable embargo period of up to a year to research funded by NIH will help advance science and improve human health while preserving peer review and the value of scientific publishing," said NIH Director Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D.

(from http://www.nih.gov/about/director/03262008statement_publicaccess.htm)

Compliance with the policy is the responsibility of the grant recipient and their institution. As such, universities have been developing internal compliance workflows to ensure a smooth transition; many partnering organizations such as ARL and SPARC have provided guidance.

The Deans and Directors of GWLA-member institutions proactively devoted their March 2008 meeting to implementing compliance workflows. Helping to sort out the compliance issues associated with the policy were Dr. Neil Thakur of the NIH Office of Extramural Research and Ms. Heather Joseph of the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC). Power Points and audio-recordings of their presentations are available on the GWLA website (www.gwla.org)

The NIH has opened up a public comment period through May 31, 2008 to solicit input from grant recipients, university research administrators, librarians, and others to identify implementation and compliance strategies, and to determine which types of communication and support from NIH would be most helpful. It is important that everyone's voice is heard during this comment period; please urge members of your campus community to extend a few words of support for the policy at:

<http://publicaccess.nih.gov/comments.htm>

By **David Carlson**, Dean of Library Affairs, Southern Illinois University

Excerpted from *C&RL News*, April 2008, Vol. 69, No. 4

In July 2007, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) announced that it would discontinue future contributions of its premier journal, *Science*, to the JSTOR database, thereby ending AAAS participation in the Mellon-funded journal storage archive initiative. The library community mobilized to oppose this move.

I drafted a resolution of objection to AAAS' decision, on the grounds that it was in conflict with their mission to advance science and serve society. The leadership committees of Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA) and Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) began the effort with unanimous endorsements of identical resolutions within days of each other. As a result of the GWLA and CARLI resolutions, International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC) became involved and initiated a process which, after several weeks, resulted in the endorsement of a resolution by 66 national and international library consortia. Finally, I know that a number of colleagues wrote individual and separate letters of concern to AAAS. These multiple efforts by the library community, both corporate and individual, led to the success of the effort with AAAS. At the same time, I believe it is also true that personal commitment to champion the cause, move it forward, and give it voice was critical to a successful outcome.

A little luck

Good research, effective communications, personal commitment and a sound, convincing argument are vital, but they are improved immeasurably by a little luck. Throughout this effort, I had some things "just go right," especially in regard to the timing of events for which I had no grand plan and deserve no credit whatsoever. Previously scheduled events or meetings occurred that were near-perfectly timed to provide an additional level of advocacy, publicity, or visibility to the effort.

It went a little bit like this: after a couple of weeks, my initial letters to the Board and Council were followed by the GWLA Steering Committee meeting that resulted in the first consortial resolution. A few days later, the CARLI Board met and, like GWLA, endorsed the resolution unanimously. These endorsements gave the resolution immediate weight and impact to my efforts. As one result of these resolutions, the story gained the interest of *Chronicle of Higher Education*, which followed with a front-page story a few weeks later.

About the same time, ARL had its mid-year meeting in Washington, D.C., which is also home to AAAS' national headquarters. I contacted Alan Leshner, AAAS' Chief Executive Officer, and he agreed to meet and talk about the JSTOR decision. I invited Shirley Baker (Vice Chancellor for Scholarly Resources and Dean of University Libraries at Washington University) to join me as a partner from the Greater Western Library Alliance, and we took a break from the ARL meeting to meet with him.

A week or two after the Leshner meeting, ICOLC concluded its deliberations with the endorsement of the resolution by 62 library consortia. These cascading events, nicely interspersed by two-to-four weeks, were critical in building advocacy and visibility, but the timing was unplanned and just plain lucky.

Courageous leadership and a great conclusion

After our conversation and in reaction to the wave of communications from the library and research community against his decision, Leshner reconsidered, initiated a reopening of discussions with JSTOR, and after renegotiations, reversed his original decision in January 2008. I want to offer sincere and genuine recognition of the courageous leadership shown by Alan Leshner in this process. It is to his great credit that he was willing to reconsider a decision that he had supported and endorsed. As an administrator and leader, I understand it is easy to become personally invested in decisions. However, upon hearing the voices and concerns of the library community (and, I believe, some of his membership representatives), it is a measure of Leshner's leadership and administrative courage that he did not react stubbornly and defensively. He deserves recognition as well as our admiration and thanks. I was privileged to be a primary participant in the advocacy initiative, but the results came with a great deal of help from library groups, consortia, and individuals.

But in conclusion the final word must be this: after years of outrageous pricing schemes, intractable usage policies, inflexible licensing schemes, and Machiavellian mergers and consolidations, it was good to win one.

Institutional Repository Task Force Survey Reveals Opportunities for Collaboration

GWLA launched a task force to examine Institutional Repository projects on member campuses and how these individual efforts might be advanced in a consortial environment. A survey was distributed in the fall of 2007, with the goal of identifying which software is most commonly used, what technical support is required and available, what types of collaborative opportunities existed within GWLA, and how to make an existing IR more effective for submitters and successful in advancing open access principles.

Many Questions...

The survey provided some basic data, and ultimately opened the door to more questions. Who should establish repositories? Do all institutions need to host their own? Could universities join to establish, say, a regional academic repository? Could particular universities take on repositories in certain fields (e.g. the *Searchable Ornithological Research Archive* at UNM at <http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/>)?

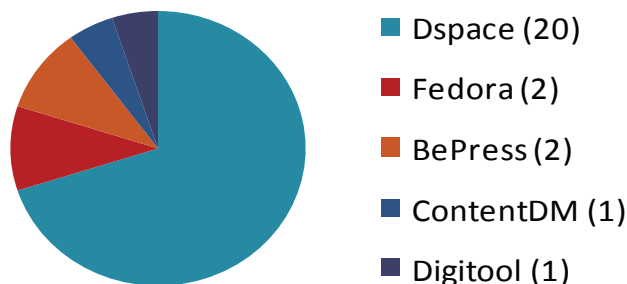
Summary of IR Survey data from GWLA member institutions:

- 64% have active IR programs.
- 89% without an active IR program plan to institute one in the near future.
- Submissions into GWLA member IRs totals ~55K items

The high percentage of DSpace users, and with multiple users of Fedora and BePress, would indicate that there are opportunities within GWLA for cross-hosting of content and sharing technological and programming expertise within the consortium.

—Johann Von Reenan and Jim Dildine

IR Platform



Western Waters Digital Library – *New Online Videos!*

[Water is for Fightin'](#), Contributed by The University of Utah

In Utah and the arid West, life revolves around water. Land use decisions, land development, law, politics, and economic growth are all shaped by water or the lack thereof. As demand for land and water increases, Westerners must not only be able to determine and protect rights to water, but also to preserve the sanctity of their rivers, lakes, and streams. *Water is for Fightin'* offers the perspectives and insights of nine experts who are working to protect our waters. <http://www.lib.utah.edu/digital/splash.php?CISOROOT=/wwdl-av>

[Water: Lifeblood of the Southwest](#), Contributed by the Southwest Waters Committee of the Sierra Club

Population growth, dams, and irrigation projects have dramatically transformed the waters of the Southwest. Alterations along the Colorado, the area's biggest river, have been severe and numerous, but all waters of the Southwest will be increasingly impaired unless we change our ways. http://content.lib.utah.edu/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/wwdl-av&CISOPTR=8

[Water Wise Utah](#), Contributed by The University of Utah

Water Wise Utah is a collaborative University of Utah project led by the Utah Education Network (UEN) in partnership with KUER, KUED, the Utah Museum of Natural History, and the J. W. Marriott Library. The aim is to raise awareness of critical water issues and encourage water conservation throughout the state of Utah. *Water Wise Utah* will offer TV documentaries, K-12 educational events, a museum exhibit, a Web site linking to the Western Waters Digital Library, and collaborate with Utah water agencies and community organizations to target five Utah communities with high rates of water consumption. The Western Waters Digital Library *Water Wise Utah* collection is a continually growing digital resource about critical western water issues and the need to conserve.

<http://www.lib.utah.edu/digital/splash.php?CISOROOT=/wwu>

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**GWLA Launched our
New Website—
Increased Features
& Functionality**

**Check out our
new home!**

www.gwla.org

2009 Content and Product Agreements: Many New Services and Increased Availability to Non-Member Campuses

This has been the busiest year yet for Anne McKee, GWLA Program Officer for Resource Sharing. She has been working with a wide variety of content vendors, many of them brand new to GWLA, plus two more in the Reference/Public Service areas. Anne has been particularly successful with negotiating participation-based discounting, where more participants generate a greater discount for all. An excellent example is the Alexander Street Press discount which has been creeping upward all year and now stands at 40%!

In both new content agreements and renewals, Anne has worked to allow us to extend GWLA-negotiated pricing to non-members and “sister campuses” within each member university’s system. In addition to the content agreements below, several e-book proposals are expected soon. Please direct any questions about current agreements or suggestions for future ones to Anne—she will gladly pursue conversations for new content licenses.

New Content Agreements for 2009:

- Alexander Street Press—due to member purchases, discount raised to 40% (allows non-members)
- OUP E-journal agreement, 2008-2010 (open to non-members)
- Wiley E-journal agreement, 2008-2009 (members only)
- Springer E-journal agreement, 2009-2011 (open to non-members)
- MyiLibrary User-based purchasing: Pilot project currently has 4 members. Others may begin in Summer 08 (non-members open for discussion)

New for 2009: Public Services/Reference Tracking Software

- Altarama’s DeskStats and RefTracker (additional discounts if order placed by 6/30/08)
- Compendium Reference’s Desk Tracker (discount valid thru 10/31/08)

New Proposals Received; Participation Decisions Pending

- Annual Reviews-New Economics Collection—deadline: 7/1/08 (allows non-members)
- IEEE IEL 3-year agreement renewal (9/1/2009-8/31/2011) deadline: 10/1/08 (members only)
- IEEE Custom Quote for Draft Standards/Expert Now. Deadline: 8/31/08 (members only)
- Migne’s Patrologiæ Græcæ. Deadline: 5/1/08 (members only)

Renewals for 2009

- ACM Digital Library (allows non-members)
- Annual Reviews (allows non-members)
- ASM Handbooks (members only)
- BEPress Journals (members only)
- BioOne (.1 and .2) (members only)
- GeoScience World (allows non-members)
- IEEE IEL 2008-2009 (members only)
- Project Euclid (members only)
- Television News Archives (members only)