

The Faculty Library Board (FLB) convened five times in 2017-18, with meetings in October, December, February, March, April. Jeremy Braddock and Paul Fleming served as co-chairs. Jonathan Ochshorn (AAP) joined the board this year; George Boyer (ILR) and Andrew Galloway (Arts & Sciences) served on an interim basis; and Becky Lu joined as graduate student representative. Continuing their service on the board from last year were Jeremy Braddock (Arts & Sciences), Alice Colby-Hall (Arts & Sciences), Paul Fleming (Arts & Sciences), Michael Fontaine (Arts & Sciences), Lee Humphreys (CALS), Karim-Aly Kassam (CALS), Ellis Loew (Vet), Benjamin Piekut (Arts & Sciences), and Max Zhang (Engineering). The Library was represented by Cornell's new University Librarian, Gerald Beasley, and Kizer Walker, the Library's Director of Collections.

The FLB got off to an especially productive start in the fall semester in its work with Cornell's new University Librarian, Gerald Beasley. Gerald articulated five priorities that will inform CUL's efforts in coming years:

- Student experience
- Research life cycle
- Global impact
- Diversity and inclusion
- Work prioritization

Over the past year, the FLB has focused special attention on the second priority area, the "research life cycle," devoting much of each meeting's agenda to issues in scholarly communication – including the impact of escalating prices of commercial journals on the Library's ability to build a balanced collection and support other crucial services. This includes an ongoing exploration of ways the Library might work with Cornell faculty to make scholarly publishing more open and more sustainable. The Board heard an update on the progress with Scholars@Cornell with the Library leads on the initiative, which aims to increase the visibility and impact of Cornell research and scholarship. Library staff presented on various aspects of this cluster of issues: the high proportion of collections expenditure with a small group of commercial publishers; research on faculty attitudes in the Arts and Sciences College toward open access publishing; the suitability and limitations of eCommons, Cornell's digital repository, as a platform for making Cornell scholarship openly accessible. In November, it was announced that Cornell University Press (CUL) would begin reporting to the University Librarian. In February, CUP's Director, Dean Smith, attended FLB to discuss open access publishing from a not-for-profit publisher's perspective.

A thread running through much of the FLB discussion surrounding scholarly communications was the question of converting conventionally-published scholarly journals to open access. We discussed possibility of the Library (and/or the Library in connection with Cornell Press) taking on a more direct publishing role in open access journals; Gerald pointed to the success of a Library-based journals program at one of his previous institutions that used the Open Journals System (OJS) platform to host publications with relatively low overhead. In this context, the FLB has undertaken to host a half-day retreat for editors of Cornell-based journals and Cornell faculty who serve on the boards of externally-published journals to explore options for making the dissemination of scholarship more open and cost effective. The Cornell Editors' Forum will take place in October 2018.

A related area in which the FLB advised the Library this year was around the future of the Cornell Open

Access Publishing (COAP) fund. The COAP program was established in 2009 with joint funding by the Provost's office and the Library to help defray the cost of article processing fees charged by many open access journals (more recently, COAP has contributed to open access book publishing as well). The fund has provided support for Cornell faculty, students, and staff publishing in open access channels that meet certain basic criteria. As open access options have become more popular among Cornell authors, it has become increasingly difficult to keep up with demand and for the past three years, the annual allocation to the COAP program has been exhausted before the end of the fall semester. In light of this, the Library has been considering whether to continue the COAP program or to invest in open access support in some other way. The FLB considered the issue at two meetings; based on feedback from the Board, the Library now plans to reinstate a program to subsidize open access publishing charges for 2018-19, but to limit awards to grad students and untenured faculty.

The Board looks forward to continuing these discussions in the fall semester.

2017-18 meeting agendas

Monday, October 23, 2017, 1 – 2:30 pm
235 Olin Library

Agenda:

1. Welcome and introductions (10 minutes)

2. Discussion with the new University Librarian (40 minutes)

On August 1, Gerald Beasley became the new Carl A. Kroch University Librarian at Cornell University. Gerald will discuss his vision for the Library and seek input from the Board. Please see Gerald's message to Library staff and the new Library Update brochure (both attached).

3. Remarks from the Faculty Library Board co-chairs (20 minutes)

With the start of the new academic year, Jeremy Braddock and Paul Fleming (both Arts & Sciences) have assumed the role of FLB co-chairs. They will discuss plans for the Board for the coming year and elicit ideas from the members.

4. Scholars@Cornell (20 minutes)

The Library will soon announce the launch of Scholars@Cornell 1.0 - a new Web-based visualization and data service for exploring Cornell research as revealed by the scholarly record. Scholars@Cornell is a dynamic Web application that interfaces with a knowledge base representing Cornell faculty/researchers, their research interests, and their publications. The portfolio of interactive visualizations provides an entry point for exploring the rich data about faculty and expertise. Scholars@Cornell answers questions such as which faculty members are doing research in particular subject areas? What does the scholarly record tell us about faculty expertise and co-authorship? Which departments collaborate with each other? What are the patterns of Cornell's interdisciplinary and international research? Two principles on Scholars@Cornell – Sandy Payette, Project Lead, and Muhammad Javed, Technical Lead – will discuss where the initiative stands and what to expect.

Friday, December 8, 1:30 – 3 pm
235 Olin Library

Agenda:

1. Lara Kelingos (CUL) will come discuss her recent survey of Arts and Sciences faculty attitudes toward open access publishing. A copy of her poster based on this research is attached, in case you'd like to have a look.
2. Gail Steinhart (CUL) will come to discuss [eCommons](#), Cornell's open access digital repository.
3. The remainder of the meeting will be devoted to discussing Cornell Library's expenditures with regard to large commercial publishers (Elsevier, Springer, Wiley-Blackwell, et al.). And we will consider ways in which we, as the FLB, might advance a sustainable plan for scholarly communications in response to what is becoming increasingly widely known as the "serials crisis."

We might also wish to peruse, or even collectively read, portions of Peter Suber's 2012 book [Open Access](#). He is director of the Harvard Office for Scholarly Communication and the Harvard Open Access Project, and a senior researcher at the Berkman Center for the Internet and Society.

Kizer says he has a few copies of the book, too. If you prefer paper, drop him a line.

Tuesday, February 6, 2018, 2 – 3 pm
235 Olin Library

We are looking forward to the upcoming Faculty Library Board this coming **Tuesday, February 6 in Olin Library 235**. In order further to continue our conversations about the serials crisis, and about open access as one possible way of addressing or ameliorating the crisis, we have invited [Dean Smith](#), Director of Cornell University Press to attend the meeting. He will speak with us about his past experience as director of Project MUSE, and talk about the new OA initiative he's developed for Cornell UP. (I attach his proposal here).

We proposed at the end of our December meeting that we might extend our work as a Board by writing to journal editors in our respective disciplines, to get a stronger sense of opportunities and difficulties OA poses from the point of view of the journals themselves. Dean has offered a series of questions for us to consider. I'm attaching that list of questions, which we can discuss at the upcoming meeting.

One response to the sustainability crisis in scholarly publishing has been the possibility of "flipping" a journal to open access format. Kizer has brought to our attention this recent Harvard study on the issue.

[“Converting Scholarly Journals to Open Access: A Review of Approaches and Experiences”: <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.InstRepos:27803834>; Harvard press release: <https://osc.hul.harvard.edu/programs/journal-flipping/report-released/>]. It’s extensive, and I am passing it on FYI.

I’m also copying here a couple of graphics that convey some of the dimensions of the problem we face. N.B. the “cartel” slide is from CUNY Librarian Polly Thistlethwaite’s presentation last fall.

Longer-range plans for us to discuss:

1. We should get on the agenda of the Faculty Senate to present our findings.
2. A public event in the fall bringing together editors of journals, from across many disciplines, housed at Cornell.

If you are unable to attend FLB meetings this semester, please let us know so we can find a surrogate. It is vitally important to have input from across the colleges on these issues.

Finally: Frederick Wiseman’s documentary about the New York Public Library, *Ex Libris*, is at Cornell Cinema this weekend!

Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 2 – 3 pm
235 Olin Library

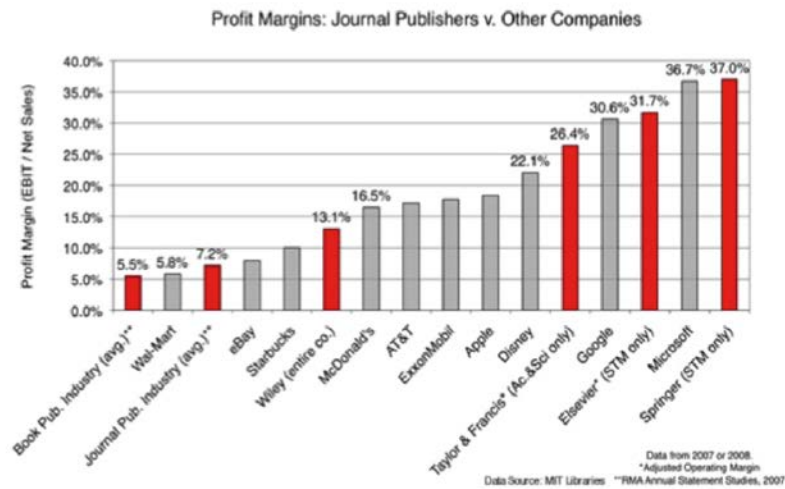
Agenda:

1. Gerald will present on FY19 library budget (5 minutes)
2. Discussion of [Cornell Open Access Publishing \(COAP\)](#) fund (Kizer, 15 minutes)
3. Continued discussion of Cornell-based journals, crisis in scholarly communications, fall editors’ event

Attached are three short readings to prepare for the meeting. (Two have been previously circulated.)

1. COAP Fund Summary (summer 2017)

Is academic publishing a cartel?



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3. Harvard study, [“Converting Scholarly Journals to Open Access”](#) (Executive Summary, pages 10-14)

Tuesday, April 17, 2018, 2 – 3 pm
703 Olin Library

Agenda:

1. Update on faculty subventions for open access publishing from the COAP fund (Kizer, 10 minutes)
2. Discussion about FLB presentation to Faculty Senate on May 9 (30 minutes)
3. Discuss goals of scholarly journals/academic publishing meeting slated for Open Access Week (October 22-28, 2018) (20 minutes)