Dispatch - Fall 2014

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<tbody>
<tr>
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OSC TO CELEBRATE OPEN ACCESS WEEK IN OCTOBER

Open Access Week 2014 is October 20-26 and Harvard is celebrating! OA Week is an international event highlighting open access to research and promoting open access as the new default for peer-reviewed scholarship and research. OSC is planning a series of Harvard-based open-access announcements and outreach tools highlighting the advantages of open access. To participate, learn more about open access, or download outreach tools, visit our Open Access Week website: https://osc.hul.harvard.edu/oaweek2014.

HMS LAUNCHES ELECTRONIC DISSERTATION SUBMISSIONS

Harvard Medical School is the first unit at Harvard to adopt the University’s new electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) submission tool. This launch is the result of a coordinated effort, which included support and advice from a dozen University departments, coupled with development and outreach help from the OSC. Twenty dissertations from 2014 were submitted via ETDs@Harvard and are now available in DASH, Harvard’s open-access repository, in addition to being archived in the Countway Library of Medicine. Since July, these works have been downloaded almost 400 times.

FEATURED WORK: NEW INSIGHT INTO THE GOSPEL OF PHILIP

Recent work by Karen L. King, the Hollis Professor of Divinity at the Harvard Divinity School, has made waves in the field of New Testament and Early Christianity studies by focusing on previously unknown, ancient Christian texts that challenge many long-held beliefs, including the question of Jesus’s marital status. Among other works in DASH, Professor King’s “The Place of the Gospel of Philip in the Context of Early Christian Claims about Jesus’s Marital Status” featured in New Testament Studies investigates themes of marriage within the early Christian text the Gospel of Philip. She argues that the Gospel “introduces a rich set of images into the arena of Christian ritual or sacramental theology by referring to Christian initiation as entrance into the bridal chamber...modeled paradigmatically in Jesus’ marriage to Mary Magdalene.” Of interest to historians and ethicists alike, her analysis uncovers rich layers of meaning that encourages the rethinking of norms ascribed to gender and sexuality in Christianity.

“As a parent with a child diagnosed on the autism spectrum disorder, I am grateful for free access to scholarly research that allows me to learn more about ASD without diverting resources that can be better applied to serve the needs of my child.”

Feedback from DASH patron, received July 8, 2014

The Office for Scholarly Communication (OSC) spearheads campus-wide initiatives to open, share, and preserve scholarship. With support from OSC, open-access policies are now in place at eight Harvard University schools. OSC also runs supporting programs, such as DASH, Library Lab, and the HOPE Fund.

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