Dispatch - Fall 2016

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Early this month the Harvard Library Office for Scholarly Communication started holding informal Office Hours at different locations around the university. Two or more of our staffers will be available on each occasion to answer questions about open access, Harvard’s OA policies, DASH (Harvard’s open-access repository), HOPE (Harvard’s OA journal fund), academic publishing, copyright, and related issues. If you’d like us to visit your department, your library, your center, or your school, just let us know.

USER FEEDBACK CONTINUES TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF OPEN ACCESS AT HARVARD

Every year, hundreds of users send the Office for Scholarly Communication (OSC) notes of appreciation. Scholars in every country and discipline take a moment to react to or comment on work they have downloaded from DASH, Harvard’s open-access repository. Most of these user stories thank the OSC, Harvard Library, and Harvard University faculty, students, and academics for making vital research and scholarship freely available to them and their peers. Many are moving stories of personal enrichment, community engagement, and struggles with censorship or access restrictions. These stories not only show the reach of Harvard’s open-access research, but its impact in helping democratize scholarship on campus and across the world. Visit Your Stories Matter: https://osc.hul.harvard.edu/dash/stories

“Open Access increases the visibility, retrievability, audience, impact, and usefulness of research.”
— Peter Suber, Director of the Harvard Library Office for Scholarly Communication

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 all Harvard University schools. OSC also runs supporting programs, such as DASH, the Copyright Advisory Program, ETDs @ Harvard, and the HOPE Fund.

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My university’s library cannot afford extensive (and expensive) access to many journals now archived online, and since I really needed to look over this article again pronto, finding it available gratis courtesy of Harvard was a very pleasant, welcome surprise. Thanks!