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Office for Scholarly Communication

## Dispatch - Fall 2017

### Citation

Harvard Library Office for Scholarly Communication. 2017. Dispatch (Fall 2017).

### Permanent link

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.InstRepos:34189144>

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# DISPATCH

Fall 2017

## COPYRIGHT FIRST RESPONDERS PROGRAM GRADUATES FOURTH COHORT



The fourth cohort of the OSC's Copyright First Responders service graduated in September. This summer-long immersion program, developed and managed by OSC Copyright Advisor and Program Manager Kyle K. Courtney, trains Harvard staff on the rigors of copyright law. These experts are then embedded across the University to help advance teaching, learning, and scholarship through community engagement with copyright. The CFR network is now 45 members strong. The program has received national attention, and is being adopted as a model at other institutions. To find a Copyright First Responder near you, visit [bit.ly/harvard-cfr](http://bit.ly/harvard-cfr). For more on the OSC's copyright outreach, visit <http://copyright.lib.harvard.edu>.

## FEATURED WORK: POLITICAL CHANGE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Digital tools play a major role in disseminating information in authoritarian and semi-authoritarian regimes. The Internet allows access to independent sources of information, despite attempts by states to suppress online speech via web surveillance and filtering, among other strategies. However, digital tools have varied in effectiveness when used for social organizing, such as strikes or protests. In "Political Change in the Digital Age: The Fragility and Promise of Online Organizing," Robert Faris, Bruce Etling, and John Palfrey argue that the role of information has been over-emphasized when discussing the impact of digital tools. Instead, the authors suggest that the difficulties of social organizing in a decentralized environment have been underestimated, pointing to social media usage in Iran during the Green Revolution as an example, where attempts made by the Mousavi campaign to organize via Facebook led to the Iranian government blocking Facebook access. The paper suggests that scholars turn their attention to human skill in using digitally-mediated tools to organize, rather than to the flow of information through those networks.

Rob Faris is currently the Research Director at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society. His recent work focuses on online speech, Internet content regulation, state censorship and surveillance and its relationship to social and political change. This work, and 13 others by Faris, can be [downloaded from DASH](#). — Alexis Dhembe, Open Access Fellow with the OSC



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## OSC TO CELEBRATE OPEN ACCESS WEEK IN OCTOBER

Open Access Week 2017 is October 23-27, 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. OSC is planning a series of Harvard-based, open-access announcements, showcasing our efforts around open access. Follow us on Twitter and Google+ for OA Week announcements.

## YOUR STORIES MATTER

[osc.bul.harvard.edu/stories](http://osc.bul.harvard.edu/stories)

*Open access made it possible for me to write a high quality thesis for my master's degree in Pakistan. Though I attended [a] very respectable institution, the programme was not funded well enough to give us access to articles such as the one here at DASH. Thanks to resources like DASH I was able to get more mileage out of my Pakistani degree and gain a funded place into a prestigious PhD programme.*



Created by Tran from Noun Project

Feedback from a graduate student in Pakistan, related to the David Dollar and Albert Alesina article *Who Gives Foreign Aid to Whom and Why?*, downloaded over 30,000 times from DASH.



## 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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