Against the Grain

2014

Anneliese Taylor Profile

articles published by **NIH**-funded researchers to be submitted to **PubMed Central (PMC)**. The articles are made publicly available no later than twelve months after the official publication date.[2] **PMC** is **NIH's** freely accessible, full text article repository, with close to three million articles currently deposited. **NIH** Policy manuscripts are about 10% of this amount. The rest of the content comes from publishers that voluntarily deposit their articles, usually after a publication delay.

Many health sciences (HS) libraries got involved in 2008 or earlier with support for researchers at their academy needing to comply with the policy. Efforts range from offering workshops and individual consultations to notifying authors which of their articles are non-compliant and what steps to take to make them compliant. There are a number of excellent **NIH** Policy LibGuides (e.g., **Duke University** and **University of Washington**) and video tutorials (e.g., **New York University** and **Harvard University**) created by librarians to assist researchers.

An informal survey in 2013 of **Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL)** member involvement in supporting the Policy indicated a high level of activity amongst health sciences libraries. Of the 25 responses, all but four were actively involved with a support role. It's remarkable that HS libraries are taking on this new responsibility at a time with shrinking staff and budgets. The work can be very involved and time-consuming, so it is no small decision to take it on.

Here are a few notable initiatives:

- **University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Library** runs reports on the **NIH** Public Access Compliance Monitor (PACM) of **UAMS** authors' adherence to the Policy on a departmental, institutional, and individual PI level. The library shares the documents it uses to notify authors for other institutions' benefit[3].

- The **Countway Medical Library** at **Harvard University** built an online submission system where authors can deposit their manuscripts. A librarian logs in to the **NIH** Manuscript Submission System (NIHMS) as a publisher, enabling deposit of multiple papers on behalf of authors.[4] After a coordinated outreach effort, **Harvard's** compliance rate jumped to the 90% range.

- With help from a grant, **Health Sciences Libraries** staff at **New York University** programmed an automated system to notify School of Medicine authors who have published articles that are not compliant with the policy. The program matches PACM data with an internal Sponsored Programs Administration database to identify active grants and contact emails. Seven months after the library started sending monthly email notices in June 2013, the SOM's compliance rate rose from 79% to 87%.[5]

- On behalf of authors with non-compliant articles published in "Method D" journals (where publisher makes initial deposit), the **University of California**, **San Francisco Library** sent lists to several publishers with a request to deposit the manuscripts into NIHMS. Results were mixed but fortunately the publisher with the most non-deposited articles agreed to deposit all manuscripts.

The advantages to the library are the opportunity to collaborate with different groups on campus, and filling a needed role. Offices of sponsored research have welcomed libraries' help in supporting researchers trying to work through the complications of getting the PM-CID, which indicates an article is compliant. Efforts where research offices and the library work as a team are particularly effective, as each group has its own strength. Librarians have established relationships with publishers and are accustomed to reading contract agreements and to finding the needle in the haystack. There are several steps to compliance with the **NIH** Policy, leaving plenty of room for error, so librarians' perseverance with detail comes in handy.

Librarians who have discussed this topic informally among themselves often indicate that benefits include the opportunity to do outreach in new ways and with new constituents at their organization as benefits. Putting librarians in a public service role related to the policy is good exposure for the library, so long as the library comes off as a helpful resource and not simply as enforcement. The level of support is determined by the library's priorities and available resources, by institutional culture, and by acceptance from campus groups of the library taking the lead in research policy compliance support.

You might be wondering, is it worth it for the library (or anyone else for that matter) to go to all of this effort? Consider the fact that **PMC** gets over 700,000 unique visitors daily, from around the world (a fact that doesn't es-

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BORN AND LIVED: I grew up in Houston, TX and attended **Sarah Lawrence College** in Bronxville, NY. During college I spent a summer studying French at **Middlebury College** in beautiful Vermont, and a year abroad in Paris and Caen, France. After college I moved to Austin, TX where I got my MLIS, and since then I have lived in Washington, DC, Philadelphia, and now San Francisco.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: Though I'm naturally attracted to the social sciences, I've found my home working in STEM libraries. My first librarian position was as Engineering Liaison Librarian at **George Mason University** in Fairfax, VA. I then worked as a Science Librarian at **Bryn Mawr College** in Pennsylvania. In 2003 I took the plunge and moved across the country for a job as Collection Development Manager at the **University of California, San Francisco**, a health sciences university. I've been incredibly impressed by the brilliant, accomplished, yet down-to-earth students and faculty I've worked with. I'm also psyched to be working on scholarly publishing and communications initiatives.

IN MY SPARE TIME: These days I enjoy anything that gets me away from a computing device.

FAVORITE BOOKS: Recently — the *Millennium Trilogy* by **Stieg Larsson**.

PET PEEVES: Wasting time.

MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Has been the opportunity to transition to a role as supervisor and manager in my job at **UCSF**. It's a honor to be given the responsibility, and has helped me grow both personally and professionally.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: I see libraries collaborating more and more with groups outside the library on our campuses and within our institutions, to build partnerships and expand our portfolios in new ways. I think this is essential to demonstrating the need for librarians. I also see libraries having a better understanding of publishing and taking on a publishing role itself, as well as influencing tools used for scholarly communication.