Faculty Activism in Scholarly Communications
Opportunity Assessment Instrument

Department ________________________________ Date __________________

Completed by ________________________________

I. Department practices and attitudes
A. Publishing activities:
   # Faculty actively publishing in peer-reviewed journals
      Many     Some     Few     None
   # Faculty who peer review or referee
      Many     Some    Few     None
   # Faculty who serve on journal editorial boards
      Many     Some    Few     None
      List journals and their publishers

B. Grant activities:
   List major, active, external grants, with PIs and funding source of each:

   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

   Do any of these funding agencies allow payment of author fees and/or OA fees?

C. What kinds of digital data are being generated and/or stored by faculty in the department?

   Have faculty expressed concern about managing digital outputs and/or accessing them and/or
   providing access to them by scholars outside of the campus network?

D. Tenure/promotion requirements?
   Online publications acceptable? _______ Explicit or implied? ____________________________

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Are OA journals acceptable? ________ What are faculty perceptions of OA journals?

Are citation/impact factors mentioned in departmental documentation? ________________

E. Any established activist behaviors?

# Faculty who have published in an OA journal
   Many Some Few None

# Faculty who have deposited journal article on web
   Many Some Few None

# Faculty who are active promoters of OA
   Many Some Few None

   ➔ Who? _________________________________________________

F. Any faculty who have already shown strong receptivity to Schol Comm issues and who might be inside advocate/partner/co-author?

   ➔ Who? _________________________________________________

G. Any opposition, known or expected?

II. Potential external Influences on Department

A. Who do faculty in department see as their benchmarks at other institutions?

   Check websites: Are any of these benchmarks building strong programs around scholarly communications issues?

   Are faculty in department aware of these programs?

B. Major professional society/ies associated with the discipline whose conferences and publications reach your faculty regularly:

   Name of Society  Check website for evidence of Schol Comm awareness

   1. Official statements on OA? _____________________________
   2. Scholarly communications committee? _________________
   3. Recent conference programs on Schol Comm? ___________
4. Other evidence of awareness? __________________________

Does the society publish journal/s?
What publisher, if any, do they contract with?
Does the publisher offer OA or a hybrid option for authors?
   Are faculty aware of the option and its importance for OA?
   Does society make its backfiles OA after a certain period?

C. Is there a disciplinary repository serving the field?

Are faculty aware of the repository?
Have any deposited articles there?

D. Number of Open Access journals in discipline (listed in DOAJ)?

Are faculty aware of these journals?

III. Relationships with Librarians

A. Assess overall strength of current relationship with Library?

   Who is library’s main contact within department?

   Any other strong connections between department and library to build on?

   Are there known liabilities/failures/difficulties with department?

B. Have any presentations on Schol Comm been made to department recently?

   Successful encounter or not?
   Any noticeable outcomes?

C. Potential entry points for librarians

   New faculty orientation?   Yes   No   Maybe

   Contact:
Committee on research/intellectual property? Yes No Maybe
Contact:

Departmental publications? Yes No Maybe
Contact:

Colloquia/discussion groups? Yes No Maybe
Contact:

Graduate mentoring sessions? Yes No Maybe
Contact:

Junior faculty mentoring sessions? Yes No Maybe
Contact:

Other established communications with potential for input about Schol Comm?

D. Specialists in department who might be natural allies?

Intellectual property expert _____________________________________________

Grants officer ________________________________________________________

Director of graduate research __________________________________________

Sabbatical committee__________________________________________________

Others:

First steps to take?

What? Who? When?
IV. What are they reading about scholarly publishing and OA?

Identify the 10 or 12 core journals in the discipline—the ones most read by the faculty. Review recent issues for editorials or articles about OA, scholarly publishing, and related topics. Assess the nature and the bias of the messages they are likely receiving about these issues from their peers.