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# Open Access, Social Justice, and the Moral Imperative: Why OA Publishing Matters to WGS

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## **Abstract**

Students in the discipline of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies are uniquely positioned to critically engage with systems of power and apply academic theory to real world practice as a field that has a clear and implicit social justice angle to its scholarship. The Open Access movement can benefit from the critical theories used in WGS as a means of ensuring maximum inclusivity of the movement. Further, WGS students must acknowledge their privileged position within an academic institution and publish in ways that undermine the systems of power that lock up knowledge behind a toll in order to align their practices with the values of the discipline.

## **Keywords**

Open Access, Gender studies, social justice, values, publishing, scholarship

## **Disciplines**

Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies | Information Literacy | Scholarly Communication | Scholarly Publishing

## **Comments**

This presentation was given for the class WGS 300: Theories at Gettysburg College on October 25, 2018.

The slideshow with speaker notes is available to download via Powerpoint. A PDF of the slides is available as an additional file and the speaker notes are provided as an annotation.

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# Open Access, Social Justice, and the Moral Imperative: Why OA Publishing Matters to WGS

Sarah Appedu '18 | Scholarly Communications Assistant

Presented for WGS 300 | Fall 2018






# Learning Outcomes

1. Define Scholarly Communications as a department and as a network *in order to* contextualize your work within the larger system of academic publishing.
2. Articulate how Open Access is one response to the inequality implicit in traditional academic publishing *in order to* apply the concept of information privilege to your own lives and practices.
3. Relate the values of WGS to the goals of Open Access *in order to* see the relationship between Open Access and other social justice movements studied and championed by WGS as a discipline.



# Introduction to Scholarly Communications at Gettysburg

- ▶ Our Team:
  - ▶ Janelle Wertzberger, Assistant Dean and Director of Scholarly Communications
  - ▶ Chris Barnes: Scholarly Communications Librarian
  - ▶ Sarah Appedu: Scholarly Communications Assistant
- ▶ We maintain The Cupola, assist with contract negotiation, and are committed to **Open Access** and **Open Education**



The principles and values championed by WGS are *compatible with and necessary to* the success of Open Access.



AND

The principles and values championed by Open Access are *compatible with and necessary to* WGS as a discipline.



**What are the values of  
WGS as an academic  
enterprise?**



**What is Open Access,  
and what are its  
values?**





“The Scholarly Communication system incorporates and expands on the more familiar concept of scholarly publishing, and includes both informal and formal networks used by scholars to develop ideas, exchange information, build and mine data, certify research, publish findings, disseminate results, and preserve outputs. This vast and changing system is central to the academic enterprise, which makes it central to the work of academic librarians.”

*-10 Things You Should Know About Scholarly Communications*



# The Narrative of the Scholarly Article

- ▶ Who did the majority of the work in this process?
- ▶ Who owns the work?
- ▶ How much of the article's revenue will each participant (author(s), reviewer(s), publisher) get paid?



1000%

## Login options

- Log in
- Shibboleth
- OpenAthens

## Restore content access

- Restore content access for purchases made as guest

## Purchase \*

Save for later

Online



Article Purchase

24 hours access for USD 42.50

Issue Purchase

30 days access for USD 347.00

\* Local tax will be added as applicable



- ▶ Why are publishers charging \$50 for one-time, 24 hour use of an article that they did not write, did not fund, did not hire or pay the faculty member for, and did not use any materials to print?



# OA as a response to inequality

- ▶ Open Access has many definitions:
  - ▶ “Open-access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions” -Peter Suber.
- ▶ Goal: To create equal access to read, participate in, and create scholarship regardless of where you live, what institution you are apart of, and how much money you have.



# Open Access in Practice

- ▶ Open Access journals
- ▶ Made with Creative Commons
- ▶ Ebola outbreak control
- ▶ Institutional Repositories and author rights



# Group Activity


- ▶ Group 1: “Theory as Liberatory Practice” , bell hooks
  - ▶ Use **Onesearch** to attempt to access the article **while connected to Gettysburg Wi-Fi**
- ▶ Group 2: “Theory as Liberatory Practice” , bell hooks
  - ▶ Type the title into **Google** (with quotations marks) and attempt to access the article. **Use 4G (do NOT use Gettysburg Wi-Fi)**
- ▶ Group 3: “I Am Your Sister: Black Women Organizing Across Sexualities” , Audre Lorde
  - ▶ Use **Onesearch** to attempt to access the article **while connected to Gettysburg Wi-Fi**
- ▶ Group 4: “I Am Your Sister: Black Women Organizing Across Sexualities” , Audre Lorde
  - ▶ Type the title into **Google** (with quotations marks) and attempt to access the article. **Use 4G (do NOT use Gettysburg Wi-Fi)**





“ [D]emocracy intersects with intellectual freedom, as people need social, political, and physical **agency** to acquire knowledge in order to be able to engage meaningfully in the democratic process. In a related way, democracy intersects with the **values of education and lifelong learning**. Individuals must have **access** (another core value) to education and educational content in order to exercise **intellectual freedom** and engage in the **self-determination** of democracy.

-April Hathcock, “Racing to the Crossroads of Scholarly Communication and Democracy: But Who Are We Leaving Behind?”



The principles and values championed by WGS are *compatible with and necessary to* the success of Open Access.

AND

The principles and values championed by Open Access are *compatible with and necessary to* WGS as a discipline.



## How YOU can participate now

- ▶ Take an Open Access pledge
- ▶ Publish in an Open Access undergraduate research journal
- ▶ Nominate your work for the Cupola
- ▶ Donate to organizations that support OA publishing
- ▶ Join student peers to advocate for the creation of a Gettysburg OA mandate
- ▶ Stay informed





**Ellen MacInnis**

@ecmacinnis

Following



Remember: if it's not accessible, it's not radical. [#critlib](#)

7:14 PM - 30 Jun 2015

2 Retweets 7 Likes



Tweet your reply



# Further Reading

- ▶ ["Giving it Away"](#) , Kathleen Fitzpatrick
- ▶ ["RACING TO THE CROSSROADS OF SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION AND DEMOCRACY: BUT WHO ARE WE LEAVING BEHIND?"](#) , April Hathcock
- ▶ ["Scholarly Communication in a Time of Change: Considering the Impact of Bias, Diversity, and Traditional Publishing Structures as Scholarly Communication Moves to New Platforms and Systems"](#) , Charlotte Roh
- ▶ ["Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Open Research and Education"](#) , Tara Robertson



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[https://ycharts.com/companies/WMT/gross\\_profit\\_margin](https://ycharts.com/companies/WMT/gross_profit_margin)