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

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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?
100%
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, if any, 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

- Break off into small groups of 2-3
- Look at your syllabus and choose one reading
- Search the title of the article (in quotations)
- What kind of access are you experiencing? Where can these articles be read? Are there open versions posted somewhere?
“[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?”
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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 The Cupola
  - Including our 5 Open Access undergraduate research journals
- Donate to organizations that support OA publishing
- Join student peers to advocate for the creation of a Gettysburg OA mandate
- Stay informed
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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 tool that can help to unravel and open up social justice angles in their scholarship. The Open Access movement can benefit from the critical theories used in WGS as a means of ensuring maximum accessibility of the movement. Further, WGS students must acknowledge their privileged position within an academic institution and publish in ways that underline the systems of power that exist in knowledge creation in order to align their practices with the values of the discipline.

Comments
This presentation was given for the class WGS 200: Theories at Gettysburg College on October 25, 2019.

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Recommended Citation
Remember: if it's not accessible, it's not radical. #critlib
Further Reading

- “Giving it Away”, Kathleen Fitzpatrick
- “RACING TO THE CROSSROADS OF SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION AND DEMOCRACY: BUT WHO ARE WE LEAVING BEHIND?”, April Hathcock
- “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Open Research and Education”, Tara Robertson
- “Paywall: The Business of Scholarship” (film), Jason Schmitt
Bibliography


