

The COL met in the Treasure Room at noon April 14 '05 to discuss the issue of "Scholarly Communication". Barbara DeFelice, Head of Kresge Physical Sciences Library and Jim Fries Head of Feldberg Business and Engineering Library presented an overview of the actual, and of the potential, instability in today's world of publishing, distributing and archiving scholarly publications via mainline electronic-journals. As we go from "hard" written versions of journals to digital versions the costs to libraries are skyrocketing and restrictions on the duplication and distribution of the electronic and printed versions of articles are mounting, even to authors themselves. A looming worry is how the digital literature will be archived and retrieved over the medium to long term future. Over the long eras of "hard" literature this has traditionally been what libraries have been about, as we now enter the new largely e-era.

The immediate threat to research universities like Dartmouth is our inability to keep up with costs and thus our having to selectively cut out of our active collection many journals in order to meet budget. How do we "borrow" access to that e-literature to which we do not subscribe? To combat these problems alternative non-commercial forms of publication with open access are cropping up. The question we raised at this COL meeting (without answering it) is what will be Dartmouth's response to these alternative forms of publication. Some attempts are even being made at Dartmouth in bringing about and supporting these non-commercial open access

“journals” (some examples in computer science, math, physics and chemistry), and more so at sister institutions. What would be the Library’s role in promoting or aiding these alternative forms of publication? How will they be archived is a challenge.

Discussion centered on the degree to which faculty publications in these alternate open access “journals” would be counted (for promotion, e.g.). In addition to the normal outreach by the library staff directed to faculty and undergraduates a special plea was made to include the graduate students in any outreach by the library staff to educate Dartmouth about access to and publishing in and citing these alternate publications.

Present at the meeting were James Aronson, Ehud Benor, Robert Graves, Jeffrey Horrell, William Hickey, Deborah King, Paula Sprague, Vernita Irwin, Malcolm Brown, Teoby Gomez, Barry Scherr, John James, Larry Levine as well as Barbara DeFelice and Jim Fries.