

# COUNCIL ON THE LIBRARIES

Meeting Minutes  
January 23, 2018

Present: Betsinger, Hadley, Luxon, McCullough, Mehrer, Norwitz, Parker, Simons, Webb.

Apologies: Fuechtner, Hoyt, Kahl, McCabe, Snyder, Thompson.

Guests: Coble, Davis, DeFelice, Henderson, Quigley, Walker.

The meeting was called to order at 12:08 am.

1. Welcome and introduction of new members.
2. The Minutes of the November 21, 2017 meeting were approved.
3. Matters arising from previous meetings: Dean Mehrer reported that Barbara Sagraves' letter on the Library's de-accessioning program had now been sent to faculty and liaison librarians were following up with relevant departments (see minutes of the November 17, 2017 meeting).
4. Questionable publishing practices, or "predatory" publishing.

Leslie Henderson, PhD (Professor of Physiology and Neurobiology, Professor of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Dean of Faculty Affairs, and ~~Interim~~ Associate Dean for Diversity & Inclusion), Barbara DeFelice (Program Director for Scholarly Communication, Copyright & Publishing), and Jane Quigley (Interim Director of BioMedical Libraries), with the assistance of Esther Walker (Associate General Counsel), who called in, informed the Council of ways in which Dartmouth faculty and others may protect themselves against "predatory" or unethical practices in publishing. As the world of scholarly publishing is being transformed rapidly, under the pressures of technological change, global commercial shifts, and the rise of open access and other publishing business models, traditional methods to assess the quality of journals may no longer suffice. In this new environment, authors may find it difficult to determine whether a journal is a suitable venue for publication, particularly for journals outside the field of one's immediate expertise. Online information about the journal may be limited or misleading, financial arrangements for publication vary a great deal depending on the discipline and field, and legal recourse to correct abuses may be either expensive or ineffective. The panel recommends reviewing the following:

- whether the journal offers full and correct disclosure of all fees and peer-review practices;
- the checklist for evaluation of journals that receive funding from the Dartmouth open access fund: <https://www.dartmouth.edu/~library/schcomm/OAComPolicy.html#Eligible>.
- the recommendations to identify credible journals included in the Statement on Article Publication Resulting from NIH Research: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-18-011.html>

- the Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing, DOAJ: <https://doaj.org/bestpractice>
- Think, Check, Submit, a cross-industry initiative: <https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>

Points raised during the discussion included the wide range of publishing practices and perspectives across disciplines, as well as varying approaches to evaluating the output of scholarship and research. The group will prepare a short summary and “checklist” of considerations on this subject, and present this at a subsequent Council on the Libraries meeting, which will include a discussion of how to communicate these guidelines to the Dartmouth faculty and researchers.

5. Dean Mehrer presented an overview of the Library’s FY19 Budget. The overall Dartmouth initiative to reallocate certain funds from ‘administrative’ to ‘academic’ programs means that the Library’s A&S budget from Central Funding will see a significant cut spread over four years (FY18-FY21). Decisions to address this cut will be guided by the Library’s Strategic Objectives and Priorities as well as a comprehensive review of all aspects of the Library’s expenditures (including “historic spending”) and organizational structures, with the aim of finding efficiencies in the Library’s operations whilst carefully managing the impact on faculty and students. Going forward, the Library will be exploring additional streams of revenue, such as funding from grants and foundations.
6. AOB – none.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.