

Dartmouth Faculty Resolution: Increase Impact Through an Open Repository for Dartmouth Scholarship

Open-access (OA) scholarship is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. What makes it possible is the internet and the consent of the author or copyright-holder. Before the internet, subscription access to scholarship was necessary in order to identify readers and ensure that they had access to resources. Now that readers are able to find and access information online, subscriptions limit readership to identified, paying customers, thus limiting rather than ensuring the potential impact of published scholarship.

Dartmouth Faculty “Open Access” Policy

The faculty at Dartmouth are committed to disseminating the results of their research and scholarship as widely as possible. In addition to the public benefit of such dissemination, this policy serves faculty interests by promoting greater reach and impact for scholarly articles, by simplifying authors’ retention of distribution rights, and by enabling long-term preservation of Dartmouth’s record of research and scholarship. In keeping with these commitments, the faculty adopt the following policy:

The faculty member voluntarily grants to Dartmouth permission to make his or her scholarly articles available in the Dartmouth-created Open Digital Repository for Dartmouth Scholarship, and to exercise the copyright in those articles in order to distribute those articles for the purpose of open dissemination. The Dartmouth faculty author remains the copyright owner under this policy, unless and until that author subsequently chooses to transfer all copyrights to another party. Each co-author of a paper holds copyright to the paper and can therefore grant this prior non-exclusive license.

In legal terms, each faculty member voluntarily grants to Dartmouth a nonexclusive, royalty-free, world-wide license to exercise any necessary rights under copyright law relating to each of his or her scholarly articles covered by this policy in order to make them available through the digital repository for the purpose of open dissemination. Under no circumstances may Dartmouth sell the articles. The policy applies to the author’s final peer reviewed, pre-published version of all scholarly articles authored or co-authored while the person is a member of the Dartmouth faculty except for any articles completed before the adoption of this policy and any articles for which the faculty member entered into an incompatible licensing or assignment agreement before the adoption of this policy.

A faculty member can opt out of the policy for any reason for a particular article or delay access to a particular article for a specified period of time. To accomplish this, a waiver of the license for a particular article or delayed access for a specified period of time will be automatically and immediately given to a faculty member upon request through electronic means; no reason for the request is needed. In addition, a faculty member can opt out of the policy for all future articles; this lifetime waiver of rights will also be automatically and immediately given to the faculty member for any reason upon request through electronic means; no reason for the request is needed. A faculty member can opt out of the policy for an article at any time, even after publication. The faculty member’s request for a waiver under this policy will never be questioned or disputed.

The Council on Libraries, in conjunction with the Dartmouth Library and others, will develop and monitor a plan for a service or mechanism that would render implementation of the policy as part of the Open Digital Repository for Dartmouth Scholarship as convenient for the faculty as possible. Implementation of the policy and the service model for the repository will be reviewed by the Council on Libraries after three years and a report presented to the faculty.

History of the Policy

Council on Libraries 1/8/2013

Revision proposed by Academic Planning Committee 1/24/2013

Approved by the Faculty of the Thayer School of Engineering 3/7/2013

Approved by Committee of Chairs of the Arts & Sciences Faculty 5/12/14

Amended 11/1/2014

Discussed at the Arts & Sciences Faculty Meeting 11/3/14

Amended 11/11/2014, pursuant to instructions from the Council on the Libraries

Amended 1/8/15 by subgroup of Council on the Libraries; minor edit 1/12/15

Amended 2/6/15 by subgroup of Council on the Libraries and Committee of the Faculty; minor edits 2/10/15

Amended 2/16/15 by a subgroup of the Committee on the Faculty

Amended version approved 03/09/15 by Committee on the Faculty

Amended version approved 03/12/15 by the Council on Libraries

Approved by the Faculty of Arts & Sciences on 4/27/15

Approved by the Faculty of the Geisel School of Medicine on 10/1/15