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TO: AMS Education Committee
C.C.: Armin Rezaiean-Asel, Chair, AMS Education Committee

Subject: AMS Policy 2010-01 – UBC Open Access Publishing

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1. Purpose

UBC’s Place and Promise states that it “supports scholarly pursuits that contribute to knowledge and understanding within and across disciplines, and seeks every opportunity to share them broadly”\(^1\) as one of its important strategic principles. Furthermore, the university has committed itself to research excellence through the development of “a system for making UBC research accessible in digital repositories, especially open access repositories.”\(^2\) As UBC is devising its own position statement (draft attached at the end of the document) to be passed by the UBC Vancouver Senate, the AMS will be revising its own ‘Open Access Publishing’ policy to reflect the university’s goals regarding open access, the impact of open sharing on students, as well as recommendations on the same to the university.

2. Goals of Open Access at UBC

i) To provide students with increased access and exposure to research publications in order to promote the ability to address challenges and facilitate public discourse.

ii) To increase the impact of research by providing authors a broader audience.

iii) To foster the growth of open communities at UBC, through connection of open strategies and initiatives by UBC students, researchers, faculty and staff.\(^3\)

iv) To provide resources and a framework that supports ready sharing of learning materials, and scholarly resources.\(^3\)

v) To explore open-licensing policies that enable faculty, staff and students to utilize material created by UBC in their projects and courses.\(^3\)

3. Background

i) UBC context

At UBC, Open Access has been receiving growing importance over the past few years. Some of the key projects include:

a) Open UBC Week: An international event at UBC that serves as “an opportunity for the academic and research community to continue to learn about the potential benefits of open access, to share what they’ve learned with colleagues, and to help inspire wider participation in helping to make open access a new norm in scholarship and research” (Open Access Week, 2013).

b) cIRcle: Digital repository with UBC created materials accessible online to anyone.\(^4\)

c) Open Access Journal Hosting: In collaboration with the UBC library, it provides server space for faculty who support and edit UBC Open Access Journals. It does the same for UBC student journals.\(^5\)

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1 http://strategicplan.ubc.ca/the-plan/vision-statement/
2 http://strategicplan.ubc.ca/the-plan/research-excellence/
3 http://open.ubc.ca/about/
4 https://circle.ubc.ca/
5 http://ojs.library.ubc.ca/
d) Scholarly Communications at UBC: Tracks the development of changing models of scholarly communication, both through formal publication and online sharing and social networks.  

e) UBC Scholarly Communications Steering Committee: Discusses issues around copyright, author rights, and extends consideration to open data, open content open science and open education.  

f) Open Access Publisher Memberships: UBC is a member of the Directory of Open Access Journals, Biomed Central, Hindawi, and the Public Library of Science (PLOS).

For a comprehensive list of current initiatives relating to open access, please refer to the following website: http://open.ubc.ca/access/

In addition to the above initiatives, the university has drafted a statement on open access (attached at the end of the document), and is currently accepting submissions for feedback. The statement will be discussed at the next UBC Vancouver Senate meeting in November, 2013.

ii) AMS context

The AMS, seeing the benefits of open access to students and the learning process, passed a policy in February 2010 that supported the establishment of an Open Access policy at UBC, with a commitment to communicate this endorsement to the university administration. With the expiration of the policy in February 2013, the AMS would like to make changes to reflect the current situation and make recommendations that serve the best interest of students through the renewing of the policy.

4. Key considerations

The UBC Copyright office provides assistance to staff and faculty on issues concerning copyright. Anecdotally, it has been determined that professors do not post lecture material online due to copyright restrictions. In addition to the office providing increased resources on matters relating to copyright and streamlining communication, open access publishing of learning materials through the retention of rights by authors will allow for this issue to be addressed. Additionally, in recent times, scholarly researchers give their copyright to publishers, and often lose the rights to copy, distribute, or reuse their own work in the process. Open access would serve as a removal of permission barriers, allowing authors integrity over their work, while being appropriately cited.

5. Existing gaps and future recommendations

To be discussed by the AMS Council.

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6 http://open.ubc.ca/access/
7 http://scholcomm.ubc.ca/what-is-scholarly-communications/
8 http://scholcomm.ubc.ca/open-access/#cite_note-0
Whereas openly disseminating research findings is of general benefit to all stakeholders and especially to students because it will significantly reduce the cost and difficulty of accessing scholarly output;

Whereas the public has a right to access publicly funded research;

Whereas the current subscriptions to academic journals are fiscally unsustainable even for large institutions such as UBC and impede research findings from being openly accessible;

Whereas open access maximises the online availability and use of research outputs and creative works by minimizing or eliminating the financial, legal and technical barriers that commonly restrict access to these published academic works;

Whereas open access allows authors to retain control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited;

Whereas open access exclusively concerns works that scholars would normally provide to publishers for free, including but not restricted to peer-reviewed journal articles, conference papers and various datasets, but excludes outputs that researchers could reasonably expect to be paid for, such as books that normally provide royalty payments; and

Whereas a large international collective that includes faculty, researchers, students, taxpayers, professionals, librarians as well as journals, funding institutions and universities are moving towards an open access model of journal publishing;

Be it resolved that the AMS support the establishment of an open access publishing policy at UBC;

Be it further resolved that the AMS Vice-President Academic and University Affairs advocate for an open access publishing policy and make a statement of the Society’s position on open access at the UBC Vancouver Senate.
Open Access Position Statement  
*Prepared by the UBC Scholarly Communications Steering Committee, March 18, 2013*  
Whereas:  
A. One of the enduring goals of the University of British Columbia is to create and disseminate knowledge;  
B. UBC is committed to disseminating the research performed at the university in ways that make it widely accessible, while protecting the intellectual property rights of its authors;  
C. Changes in technology offer opportunities for new forms of both creation and dissemination of scholarship through Open Access; which is broadly defined as free availability and unrestricted use of scholarly works;  
D. Open Access also offers opportunities for UBC to fulfill its mission of creating and preserving knowledge in a way that opens disciplinary boundaries and facilitates sharing knowledge more freely with the world; and  
E. UBC has operated an Open Access repository since 2007 in cIRcle which is operated and maintained by the University Library.  
The Senates of the Okanagan and of the Vancouver Campus endorse the following statements.  
1. Faculty members are encouraged to deposit an electronic copy of their refereed and non-refereed research output and creative work in cIRcle in accordance with applicable copyright arrangements which may be in place for that work.  
2. Where a faculty member has deposited a work with cIRcle, cIRcle shall be granted a non-exclusive licence to preserve and make publicly available the research contained therein.  
3. The authors of works deposited with cIRcle will maintain ownership of their rights in the works.