

Publisher's Liaison Meeting
Special Libraries Association Conference, Denver, CO.
June 4, 2007, 3pm, Hilton division suite
Liz Bryson, Publisher's Liaison Committee, PAM division chair
Secretary : Stella Ota

I. The Secret [And we're not talking Oprah here]

-Why can't publishers apply the principle of transparency in their deals and negotiations?

I imagine that this has been discussed before many times but it would really be good if all publishers, especially the big ones like Elsevier, Springer Verlag, and the society publishers would apply the principle of transparency in their deals and negotiations. We are getting a lot of questions at our UH Manoa campus from faculty and administrators about how we negotiate and whether we are getting a good deal--we really cannot prove that we have a good deal if we cannot compare with similar institutions. Why does it have to be so secretive? We should all be posting how much we are paying for access and ownership to materials.

Discussion

UC Sys Analysis: Adjust to producer price index rather than CPI. Check out the article entitled, "The Promise of Value-based Journal Prices and Negotiation: A UC Report and View Forward," University of California Libraries' Collection Development Committee, January, 2007.

[<http://libraries.universityofcalifornia.edu/cdc/valuebasedprices.pdf>]

Smaller institutions versus larger institutions: Each feels not able to get best deals. We all feel we're powerless to know what's a good deal--lowly peacocks in the process.

We're not asking. We're scared to say.

Some people know details of licensing deals, but they are kept secret within the organization.

-If the current subscription model is not satisfactory, what's wrong with submitting a hybrid?

Should there be a group effort to let publishers know that the current subscription model is not satisfactory and that they should be considering a hybrid submission/page charge + reasonable subscription cost model.

Discussion

As liaison, part of our job is to ask and advise our faculty and staff accordingly. Librarians are not listened to; faculty groups have therefore become more effective by refusing to publish and edit in those journals that continue to raise costs without consulting their clients.

Question: Could PAM as a group make a statement?

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Action item: PAM liaisons provide a written statement.

Pat Viele: Scholarly Communications web site developed for the purpose of educating and informing faculty re: publisher situations. See:

<http://www.library.cornell.edu/scholarlycomm/>

Action item: Call for other similar URLs.

II. Open Access

-Will university presses survive?

Discussion

Probably, mostly monographs. For example, Duke and Oxford Univ. Press are considered sharp businessmen.

Liz Bryson pointed out an article on this topic in Information Outlook.

Another excellent article on this topic can be found at: Johns Hopkins Magazine, June 2007 edition: <http://www.jhu.edu/~jhumag/0407web/bigques.html>

-SPARC's author addendum

Liz Bryson distributed a copy of the SPARC author's addendum, which can be located on Flora Grabowska's Open Access web site:

<http://adminstaff.vassar.edu/flgrabow/existing.html>

-Do Open Access articles have greater citation impact?

Article distributed among the group by Liz Bryson

<http://opcit.eprints.org/oacitation-biblio.html>

Discussion

-Will the government eventually require it?

-Is OA sustainable? There needs to be a business model, for example, see

letter to Topology Journal : <http://144.16.65.194/hpg/envis/doc97html/jourtopo123.html>

-Tenure concerns prevent junior faculty from publishing in Open Access; whereas, senior faculty tendency is to publish in Open Access since they are already established in their careers.

-Perhaps Open Access version is bare PDF and the PD version will have features such as active links.

-Jill Lagerstrom (STScI) reports Bentham Science Publishers are actively soliciting for applied math OA editors. More information can be found at:

<http://www.bentham.org/News.htm>

III. Serials

-Switching from print to CD-Rom

Serials switching from print to CD-Rom & not going the full path to web delivery. CD's are not preservation friendly formats and ceasing print for compact discs is not the option we had in mind for going electronic!

Discussion

-Proceedings (ie AMOS conferences), Members don't want to carry home proceedings (print copy).

-Liz Bryson pointed out that supplemental CDs, specifically, ones that appear on the back covers of books such as Numerical Recipes often disappear.

-It was the group's general consensus that CD-Roms weren't beneficial and rarely used.

-Rolling back files : Squeezing the user

Practice of rolling back files (World Scientific and IOP do this)
Current subscription includes a rolling group of years. When the old year drops off, one has to pay again in order to have access to it in the backfile.

Discussion

IOP: Discussions have come up since the PAM posting

-Partner journals (ie: AAS) can do as they like; however, with IOP one still has to pay for it every year dropped. Sometimes the year is received as a CD, not online, but ensures 'perpetual' access.

-How much does IOP contact its liaison?

-Initially, the liaison communicated information from the publisher to the group in order to bounce ideas..ie: "What are your thoughts?"

-Liaison can also communicate on behalf of publisher. Both the publisher and liaison need to reach out to their respective communities.

AIP Backfiles: What are the pros/cons of one-time subscription costs?

-Choice is important

-Most libraries can't afford bundles, but look to buy individual titles.

-Saran wrap CD-Roms and licensing surprises

Books with accompanying CD-Roms where license terms are not visible until one opens the plastic packaging, thereby rendering it impossible to return the CD-Rom or book if the terms are unacceptable.

Discussion

-Case is often just an access code.

-Software companies tend to market to an individual student and libraries get stuck with something they either don't need or want, but once the seal is broken, have no recourse other than to accept the product.

-Cataloguer needs to view the item; however, the license creates further problems because it often says it can only download once and to one machine.

Action item: Create generic letter to CD-Rom publishers requesting advanced knowledge of license and terms.

Meeting adjourned at 4PM.

Never got to the following topics:

-Liaisons and consortia : Do they still work?

IV. Scitopia.org

-Advantages and disadvantages

-Subscription based services versus 'free' indexing services