

VOLUNTARY OPEN ACCESS POLICY (1-22-14)

Goal 3 of the University Strategic Plan is to “become a leading public research university addressing the most challenging issues of the 21st century.” This goal involves the enhancement of the university’s research culture, and clearly includes efforts to make the creative and scholarly work of university faculty more accessible to other researchers and to the public. Open Access publishing presents one important opportunity for wide dissemination of the creative and scholarly activity of university faculty. It is important to recognize that “open access” is not a qualitative distinction—the term does not imply judgments concerning quality; it refers only to published work that is made freely available online. The Georgia State University Library maintains an institutional repository (ScholarWorks@Georgia_State_University) which now contains over 6,500 open access publications authored by university scholars; they have been downloaded over two million times to date. Georgia State University also has invested some resources in open access publishing by paying faculty article-processing charges in venues such as BioMed Central. This policy extends those opportunities to the entire university community.

The overall picture regarding support for publication is complex, and includes elements like (1) funding the research process; (2) funding for publication in non-open access journals and book subvention fees; and (3) open-access publishing. This policy is directed at the third of these elements.

The faculty at Georgia State is committed to circulating its research as widely as possible, and to making that research available both to scholars and to the general public. The University open access policy is therefore aimed at serving faculty interests by promoting greater reach and impact for research; encouraging author retention of distribution rights; and aiding electronic preservation of research. Faculty participation in the GSU institutional repository is voluntary.

In furtherance of these goals, the Georgia State Open Access policy provides for the preservation and distribution of research through its institutional repository; it encourages faculty to submit their research to open access venues by providing funding in support of submission to such venues, and it speaks to the issues generated by the on-line availability of theses and dissertations.

(I) The GSU Open Access Repository

Each participating faculty member grants to GSU’s Vice President of Research and Economic Development (VPRED) nonexclusive permission to make available her/ his scholarly articles and to exercise the copyright in those articles for the purpose of open dissemination. Each participating faculty member thus grants to the VPRED a nonexclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free, worldwide license to exercise any and all copyrights in her or his scholarly articles published in any medium, provided the articles are not sold or licensed for profit by VPRED or any VPRED-granted licensee. The version submitted to the GSU repository is the pre-copy-edited final manuscript. No manuscript will appear in the repository without publisher approval. The University Library manages the process of copyright approval. No manuscript will appear in the GSU repository without the approval of all authors.

To assist in distributing the scholarly articles, each participating faculty member will make available an electronic copy of her or his final version of the article at no charge to VPRED in appropriate formats (such as PDF) specified by VPRED, no later than the date of publication. The VPRED will make the article available to the public in an open access institutional repository.

In lieu of submission to the GSU open access repository, authors may make their work available through an alternative repository of her/ his choosing. Authors may then choose to notify VPRED, so that a link to that repository may be included in the GSU repository.

The VPRED will charge an Open Access Implementation Committee with policy interpretation and with developing a plan that renders participation in open access publishing as convenient for the faculty as possible.

(II) Support for Open Access Publishing

GSU supports faculty across the university who are interested in submitting their work to Open Access venues. The Research Committee thus recommends that the VPRED establish a fund to support open access submissions. Faculty may apply to the Open Access Implementation Committee for a maximum of \$1,500-\$3,000 per year to support such submission. All full-time, tenured or tenure-track faculty are eligible to apply for funds to support publication in open access journals. Applications will be processed through VPRED.

(III) Graduate Student Work

GSU considers theses and dissertations to be scholarly works but not publications. Students authoring such works retain control over them. Students may embargo access to their work by following the procedure established by their college. Initial embargoes are for one year; extensions are permissible. It is the responsibility of the VPRED to ensure that all students are made aware of the embargo policy by including this information as part of the process of uploading the dissertation or thesis.