

Table Talk: Updating Assumptions about Open Access

We have found that many libraries continue to inform their open access and collections decisions based on understandings of faculty and researcher expectations formed five to ten years ago. However, since the 2010s, open access, once associated with certain STEM fields, has been introduced into new disciplines, infrastructure has expanded, and funding models have become entrenched. Education has lagged behind adoption, despite significant changes to the funding and open access landscape in the United States, including new federal grant requirements, newer models and initiatives like Subscribe to Open, and institutions entering third- or fourth-generation Read & Publish agreements with publishers.

Over the past few months, we have been interviewing early-career faculty and PhD students about their experiences with open access publishing and resource usage. We plan to engage discussants on experiences in their libraries with faculty and graduate student engagement with open access, potential variance across subject areas, nationwide updates and changes to open access policies, and library-specific policies and workflows. We aim to start an ongoing conversation about how our acquisitions and collections models and policies can better reflect what the next generation of researchers needs from the libraries.

1. **Faculty engagement:** What problems related to research and publishing have faculty come to you or your colleagues with? How did your library support them? Has this changed how you engage with them?
2. **Graduate students:** What problems have emerging researchers approached the library with? Have you found their perspective on publishing and open access to differ from faculty with more years working in the field?
3. **Subject variation:** How do people in different subject areas differ in respect to:
 - a. Familiarity with OA publishing
 - b. Esteem for OA publishing
 - c. Use of OA resources (if they even know that is what they are doing)
4. **Changes over time:** Have you found that these researcher perspectives have changed in the last 10-15 years? Are researcher expectations for open access different since:
 - a. 2013 memorandum
 - b. Covid lockdown
 - c. Nelson memo in 2022
 - d. NIH and other federal granting agencies' changed guidelinesWhat do researchers at your institution expect of the library vs. the office of research or other supporting offices?
5. **Library policy:** Does your library have a formal open access policy? Who at your university is responsible for developing open access policy?
6. **Publishing support:** Does your university have a formal process or strategy for research publishing support?
7. **Library workflows:** Who at your library is currently involved in faculty and researcher engagement?