Read, Gold, and Green: California Academic Librarians and Open Access Publishing
In regards to open access, do academic librarians practice what they preach?
“Education and advocacy of open access was discussed by many respondents as the critical role of the library” (7).

Librarians are uniquely positioned in the center of [the scholarly communication] ecosystem, regularly and directly interacting with members of each key stakeholder group. Librarians... often act as a driving force for change, especially when it comes to activities related to open access.” (481).
“Many library professional associations, such as ARL, ACRL, Medical Library Association (MLA), and the Association of Academic Health Science Librarians (AAHSL), have strategic initiatives or Web sites designed to promote systematic changes in scholarly publishing that are more favorable to libraries and to readers” (449)

Academic librarians believed the profession should advocate for OA, but few said they were supporting OA by taking action individually, such as self-archiving or amending publication agreements.

Salo observed that librarians do not use IRs to distribute their work and that subject librarians are not encouraging faculty to do so, either.

In comparison to other studies looking at other disciplines, librarians participation in OA publishing appears favorable (448).

Survey

Participation Criteria
California academic librarian

Distribution
Posted to CALIBACA (CARL) & COLD (CSU) listservs

Polling Period
Online survey open for 60 days (April - June, 2016)

Totals
87 completed surveys from eligible participants

https://www.flickr.com/photos/mag3737/6706471753/
Why Only California?
Participant Demographics

- California State University (CSU): 59
- Private academic library in California: 16
- University of California (UC): 9
- Community College in California: 3
- Other academic library in California: 0
Participant Demographics

Question: How many years have you been in the library profession?

- 43% 0-10 years
- 19% 11-20 years
- 38% More than 20 years
Participant Demographics

Question: Are you in a tenure-track or tenured position?

- 47% Yes, currently tenured
- 31% Yes, currently tenure-track
- 22% No

Legend: Yellow = Yes, currently tenured, Orange = Yes, currently tenure-track, Blue = No, Red = I don’t know
Participant Publishing

Percentage of participants who...

75% Published a peer-reviewed journal article
68% Published an article (not peer-reviewed)
64% Published a paper in conference proceedings
51% Contributed a chapter to an edited book
24% Published a book
66% Other
Participant Publishing: Gold

Question: In the last ten years, have you published in an open access journal?

Yes (40%)  No (55%)

Note: Excludes respondents who have not published articles in the last 10 years.
Participant Publishing: Gold

Question: How important to you is a journal’s open access policy when deciding whether or not to submit work to it?

- Very important: 14%
- Somewhat important: 63%
- Not important: 23%
Participant Publishing: Gold
Lit Review: OA LIS Journals

177 of 358 (49.4%) of LIS titles in JournalTOCs are OA (not including hybrid)


158 LIS journals indexed in the DOAJ, published in 43 countries in 21 different languages

Participant Publishing: Green

Question: In the last ten years, have you made your published work available on a free of charge, publicly available site (e.g. institutional repository, personal website, a social networking research site, etc.)?

Yes (73%)  No (26%)

Note: Excludes respondents who have not published in the last 10 years.
Question: If yes, where have you archived your work?

- Institutional Repository: 40
- Social Network: 14
- Other: 14
- Personal Website: 12
- Disciplinary Repository: 5
Participant Publishing: Green

Question: If yes, were your results posted in compliance with the publisher’s copyright policy?

76% Yes
14% I didn’t check
Participant Support of Open Access

Question: Please rate your level of understanding of “open access”

- 41% I understand it well; I could teach it
- 53% I have some knowledge of it
- I understand it well; I could teach it
- I have some knowledge of it
- I have heard of it, but I am not sure what it is
- I was not aware of it
Participant Support of Open Access

“An old tradition and a new technology have converged to make possible an unprecedented public good. The old tradition is the willingness of scientists and scholars to publish the fruits of their research in scholarly journals without payment, for the sake of inquiry and knowledge. The new technology is the Internet. The public good they make possible is the world-wide electronic distribution of the peer-reviewed journal literature and completely free and unrestricted access to it by all scientists, scholars, teachers, students, and other curious minds. Removing access barriers to this literature will accelerate research, enrich education, share the learning of the rich with the poor and the poor with the rich, make this literature as useful as it can be, and lay the foundation for uniting humanity in a common intellectual conversation and quest for knowledge.”

Participant Support of Open Access

The majority of participants strongly agreed that…
1. Results of publically funded research should be made available for all to read without barriers
2. Researchers should retain the copyright to their published works
3. Open access will increase the citations to, and impact of, my publications

The majority of participants strongly disagreed that…
1. Open access leads to the publication of poor quality research
2. My current tenure and promotion standards discourage me from making my publications open access

The majority of participants slightly disagreed that…
1. Open access publications are not properly peer-reviewed
2. I do not have the time/interest/expertise to negotiate the copyright terms in my publishing contracts
Key Findings

1. There is disagreement in the literature on whether academic librarians’ support and leadership of open access matches their open access participation.

2. Among California academic librarians, there is greater harmony between open access support and open access participation.

3. Some of this increased harmony may be due to structural support for open access in the LIS publishing landscape.

4. There is still room for improvement, particularly around academic librarians prioritizing publication in open access journals.
Think-Pair-Share

How does (or doesn’t) your level of philosophical support for open access match your participation in it?
Questions / Discussion