



To: Rosanne Lopers-Sweetman, Director, Special Projects, c/o Office of the Provost,
Room 225, Simcoe Hall, 27 King's College Circle, University of Toronto
Re: Review of Scholarly Publishing at the University of Toronto Press

Please accept the following submission as KMDI's Project Open Source|Open Access' contribution to the Review of Scholarly Publishing at the University of Toronto Press.

One area of interest in Project Open Source|Open Access [2005-2007] is the changing nature of scholarship and scholarly communication with the turn to the digital. For the past several years, scholars, publishers, librarians and research funders have engaged in a rigorous debate around the future of scholarly publishing. There is now an extensive literature on the subject, organisations such as the Joint Information Systems Committee <http://www.jisc.ac.uk> have been formed, granting agencies have held consultations, e.g., Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the Canadian Institute of Health Research¹, and national bodies have issued statements that reflect changing practices in the production, publication and dissemination of research.² Much of this activity has centred on what is now referred to as the Open Access (OA) movement.³ OA has focused primarily on access to scholarly articles, new models for scholarly journals, and new business models for publishers. However, experiments on the publication of monographs are now increasingly being undertaken by traditional publishers such as Oxford University Press, other university presses and scholarly societies.

Several members of the Executive Committee of Project OS|OA have been active in national and international debates about these changes, participated in international workshops, published in the scholarly literature, and played important roles with the national granting council processes.⁴ Highly relevant to the work of your committee is a

¹ **Project Open Source|Open Access** has made a submission to both these national council consultations.

² For example Britain's Wellcome Trust has issued a statement mandating funded peer-reviewed research to be deposited in an open access repository. Wellcome expects authors to make their research accessible and will provide funds to cover any additional costs for publication in open access journals. http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/doc_WTD002766.html The [National Institutes of Health](http://www.nih.gov) (NIH) in the US urges funded scientists to publish their results in a peer-reviewed journal and to submit a copy of the article to PubMed Central <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/> the online digital NIH repository.

³ "Open-access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. OA is compatible with [copyright](#), [peer review](#), [revenue](#) (even profit), print, preservation, prestige, career-advancement, indexing, and other features and supportive services associated with conventional scholarly literature." (Peter Suber, <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm>)

⁴ For example, James Till is the Chair of the CIHR Advisory Committee on Access to Research Outputs, Leslie Chan, UTSC is a signatory to the Budapest Open Access Initiative which had its 5th anniversary this week, Gunther Eysenbach publishes an open access journal, JMIR and has published a highly cited article

survey of university presses currently being undertaken by Leslie Chan (UTSC) to identify those presses that are experimenting with new forms of publishing, new business models as well as open access practices.⁵

We urge the committee to examine ways of increasing access to both journal articles and monographs and to develop both the intra-institutional and inter-institutional collaboration that will leverage global thinking and resources around the transformation of scholarly communication.⁶ This could be seen as a challenging period for the University of Toronto Press. But it is also a time of great opportunity – and an opportunity for the University to assume leadership in the ongoing transformation of scholarly communication. An exciting new future for the University of Toronto Press would include new business models based on open access – both for journals and monographs – and the leveraging of institutional partnerships, particularly with the University of Toronto Libraries and the scholarly societies, to make possible the publication of leading edge research that is both accessible and economical in a matter befitting a great public institution.

Project Open Source|Open Access *is cross-divisional, tri-campus, University of Toronto initiative to develop a networked community of scholars, students and members of the broader community interested in the phenomena of open source and open access. Project OS/OA is supported by an award from the University of Toronto Provost's Academic Initiatives Fund (AIF) and administered by the Knowledge Media Design Institute.*

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on the citation advantage of open access articles (<http://biology.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371%2Fjournal.pbio.0040157>). Rea Devakos of the University of Toronto Libraries has been active in coordinating open access activities and is an integral part of the new Synergies project, a multi-institutional Canadian initiative to build a new digital scientific communication system to disseminate the results of humanities and social science research.

⁵ For example, Stanford University, University of California, Rice University, University of Michigan

⁶ A Canadian example of this new approach is the Canadian Bulletin of Medical History (<http://www.cbmh.ca>). The Wilfred Laurier University Press publishes this journal and it is available for free online using the Eprints-based open access repository maintained by the University of Winnipeg Library. Perhaps similar arrangements could be made within our institution, for example, leverage existing resources such as the UofT open access repository, T-Space, and/or using Open Journal Systems which are both supported by the University of Toronto Libraries.