CRIHN

McGill DH

Wednesday 4 April 2018

Daniel Paul O'Donnell
"Operationalising conviction in the Scholarly Commons"

Open Scholarship is well supplied with manifestos, guidelines, and statements. Together, these define a set of practices that comprise an alternative to our current system: content is FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) and open; format is determined by the results rather than the demands of tradition or reward systems; credit is based on participation rather than "authorship"; there are no systemic barriers to participation by qualified researchers.

The problem is how we develop this alternative coherently and sustainably. Progress over the last thirty years has been uneven across disciplines, regions, and sectors. There remains a sometimes strong disconnect between efforts towards Open Science in the Global South and North. Equity-seeking groups face structural barriers.

The Scholarly Commons is an attempt to address this problem. It sets forth a set of principles and rules that stakeholders can use to guide their broad practice as developers, implementers, and users of Open Scholarship and Science. With funding from the Helmsley foundation, the FORCE11 Scholarly Commons Working Group conducted a series of workshops that led to the distillation of almost 90 Open Science charters and manifestos into seven high-level principles that describe actionable behaviour individuals can take to make research open and participatory for anyone anywhere.

Our goal is not to replace other statements and guidelines. Rather, it is to provide a means by which participants can navigate, state their allegiance to, and measure their compliance with this broader project—to make explicit the currently often implicit agreement we make when we promote Open Science. By, in essence, badging themselves as members of the Scholarly Commons, researchers commit themselves to open communication and participation across their research activity. This provides an accountability that they can appeal to in addressing legacy systems, and leverage in promoting sustainable Open Scholarship.

2pm-3.30pm — McGill University
688 Sherbrooke, room #325

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