Since passage of Rice's Open Access (OA) Policy in 2012, library staff have helped faculty authors deposit approximately 1,000 publications in the Rice Digital Scholarship Archive (RDSA), the University's institutional repository. Despite significant growth of faculty scholarship in the RDSA, library staff know that the number of publications deposited represent only a fraction of eligible publications and wanted to better understand why so few faculty participate.

The Project

In 2014, library staff tracked requests for articles, capturing how many requests for articles were sent, how many replies were received, and any additional information about why faculty could or could not provide the requested article(s). It is hoped that such a study can identify ways the library can increase compliance with the OA Policy.

Most common responses:

- Provided requested post-print.
- Provided Version of Record (VoR).
- Provided link to departmental/lab website.

27% of requests for articles received a response.

Next Steps

- Further study of existing research workflows to better integrate library efforts to obtain articles.
- Explore creative ways to engage researchers in conversations about OA.
- Provide additional resources with requests for articles to explain what a post-print is and why the library requests it instead of the VoR.

As the number of institutional open access (OA) policies increases, libraries and other academic units must figure out ways to facilitate faculty compliance. Thus far, many institutions struggle with author compliance. Why don't more authors participate? Is there any way to increase participation?

Background

Reasons for Non-Compliance with an Institutional OA Policy

Shannon Kipphut-Smith
sk60@rice.edu