Scholarly communication in science and engineering research in higher education

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This book is one of Haworth Press', DocuSerials, and an extensive list of these other "separates"", is provided at the beginning of the book. As the publishers state, this format could be used for "classroom adoption" or for those who do not subscribe to the journal. A quick scan of *SACat* shows that only three libraries in South Africa currently subscribe to *Science & Technology Libraries* - down from a total of about eleven that used to subscribe. (This does not take into account libraries that might have electronic access).

The book is sub-divided into four main sections, namely, scholarly publishing; scholarly communication; digital archive and retrieval; and, bibliometric analysis of citation data. The flow of topics is logical, with following articles building on the previous. Topics cover electronic articles and journals, conference proceedings, and theses and dissertations. Digital archiving is explained by Janet A. Hughes in "Issues and concerns with the archiving of electronic journals", as well as the new interaction with library clients concerning electronic sources, in the article by David Stern "User expectations and the complex reality of online research efforts". Librarians need to be well-informed if they are to promote changes to scholarly communication. Serious researchers want access to credible peer-reviewed sources, and want their publications to achieve high ratings. Many students on the other hand, believe they can *Google* their way through their academic careers – totally bypassing the library, whether it is physical or digital. This book will highlight some practices in other libraries where librarians are attempting to promote intelligent use of the Internet to find credible sources, without the loss of ease-of-use that initially attracted users to the technology.

Ironically, many of the articles discuss the challenges faced by traditional publishers, and how they are attempting to change to meet competition and expected change in scholarly communication. An example of a challenge is the Open Access Initiative that hopes to make scientific literature freely available to researchers using the Internet, under the premise that taxes pay for the research in the first place.

This compilation is suitable for all librarians, but especially those in research and academic institutions. Various ways to obtain maximum value from recent technology such as the Internet are outlined. If your library does not have the necessary technology, this modern view of scholarly communication could motivate for change.

The language is not excessively technical. Titles to sections are clear, explanations are given of both the promises and problems of scholarly communication, and case studies are presented. If you feel a little out of date and wonder about phrases like "open access", "repositories", or "digital archives", this publication can quickly bring you up to speed. Feeling frustrated by spiralling journal subscriptions? Then find out in this book what alternatives exist without loss of resource quality and credibility. It is worth obtaining this book as a personal reference tool for the librarian. The "bite-sized" chunks of information allowed me to absorb information easily.

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