

Scenario 8 - The Case of the OA Mandate

You've heard there's a faculty senate meeting this afternoon, and since you want to figure out the interplay between the various departments and divisions, as well as just meet new people, you've decided to go.

The meeting is taking place in a room on the third floor of the admin building that's about the same size as the library's foyer, with tables arranged in the center in a hexagon pattern and a smattering of chairs at the edges of the room where floor-to-ceiling windows give you sweeping views of the campus's rolling green spaces.

You're a bit early, but there are already a dozen or so other faculty members present.

Most of them are clustered in front of a table set against one wall, and you join them as soon as the smell of fresh coffee reaches your nose. It's not just a coffee set, though. The table is lined with crackers, cookies, fruit, and other snacks — you thought "free food" would stop being a motivator after grad school, but you're secretly pleased that it hasn't.

You snag a plate of goodies and a cup of decaf, then sit in a chair near the window to observe the meeting. It lasts more than an hour, and although you don't quite have the context to understand everything that's being discussed, the way the social sciences faculty raise issues and how the humanities faculty respond to them is *very* educational.

Eventually, the meeting comes to an end. As people filter out, still talking amongst themselves, you stand, stretch, and put your plate and cup in the bin marked 'compostable.'

Before you can leave, though, someone approaches. Their public feed says they're the provost, Elli Spivak, and that they use ey/em pronouns.

"Hi, Provost Spivak," you manage. (Gah! You hope you don't have crumbs down the front of your shirt.)

"Hey!" e replies, with an easy smile. "You're the new scholarly communication librarian, aren't you?"

"That's right."

"Great," e says, and it sounds like e really means it. "I've been meaning to talk to you, actually. I keep reading about open access mandates. What do you think about setting one up here?"

Scenario 8 Resources

University of Southampton. (n.d.). *ROARMAP*. Retrieved November 25, 2020, from <http://roarmap.eprints.org/>

ROARMAP, which stands for "Registry of Open Access Repository Mandates and Policies" is a great way to find mandates, requirements, and other policies related to open access deposits. Browsing to your country will give you a list of mandates and policies enacted by universities, funders, and government agencies, with links for more information.

Xia, J., Gilchrist, S. B., Smith, N. X.P., Kingery, J. A., Radecki, J. R., Wilhelm, M. L., Harrison, K. C., Ashby, M. L., & Mahn, A. J. (2012). A review of open access self-archiving policies. *portal: Libraries and the Academy*, 12(1), 85-102. <https://mdsoar.org/bitstream/handle/11603/1720/XiaGilchrist.pdf;sequence=1>

This introductory article provides necessary background on open access policies where self-archiving (placing a copy of a published article into a repository to be freely accessed by the public) is made mandatory, either by universities themselves or by government agencies or research funders.

Zhang, H., Boock, M., & Wirth, A. A. (2015). It takes more than a mandate: Factors that contribute to increased rates of article deposit to an institutional repository. *Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication*, 3(1), 1208. <https://doi.org/10.7710/2162-3309.1208>

Zhang, Boock, and Wirth offer strategies for increasing faculty participation in self-archiving their published research, noting that a hands-on approach to contacting faculty about their research can be more effective than simply setting a university-wide mandate.