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OAWAL: Open Access Workflows for Academic Librarians

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OAWAL, Open Access Workflows for Academic Librarians, is a web site constructed to be a base from which librarians can build upon to create workflows that would apply to Open Access management at their given institution. There are six draft sections comprising of: advocacy, workflows for OA content, standards, the library as publisher, Creative Commons, and discovery of open access content. The intention of the authors is to crowdsource the basic elements needed to develop workflows and staffing at any given institution. The sections are edited on a regular basis given feedback either directly through the OAWAL web pages, through email, or through in-person meetings. Furthermore, the website is designed to incorporate best practice workflows that can be developed and shared via the website.

OAWAL is agnostic regarding a preference for green or gold open access. Therefore, the only restrictions for posting to OAWAL are that open access publishing models must be limited to an explanation of models as opposed to the philosophical arguments or the selection and/or preference of one model over another and that promotion of any specific publisher or provider tool or platform will be removed if posted. To date, these guidelines have been not been tested.

Since the launch of OAWAL in early March 2014, the reaction and feedback received has been positive and supportive. In addition, the response to OAWAL has been international in scope with communication received from Australia, Germany, the United States, South Africa and the UK, including organizations such as Jisc and Sconul. To date, there has been one in-person meeting, at the 2014 Electronic Resources & Libraries Conference, in which numerous attendees gave significant input into the development and expansion of the six sections. The OAWAL creators have also received feedback via email, and comments have been made to the blog advising on revisions and potential additions to the content presented there.

As feedback is received, the web site is updated on a monthly basis to incorporate changes. Throughout the rest of 2014 and into the beginning of 2015, it is hoped the feedback and development of the OAWAL website will continue with in-person meetings and through the publication of sections as they develop and mature. The authors would like to take this opportunity to encourage any feedback on any part of OAWAL.