

Hong Kong Open Access Committee

18 Feb 2008

Draft minutes of a meeting of the HK OA Committee held on Monday, 18 February 2008 at 10:00am in SWT505, L5 Shaw Tower, Shaw Campus, HKBU.

Present: Prof. Tsoi Ah Chung (Chair)
Prof. John Bacon-Shone
Prof. T.C. Edwin Cheng
Dr. Anthony W. Ferguson
Mr. David Palmer (Secretary)

Apologies: Prof. Carmel McNaught

1. Welcome. Prof. Tsoi welcomed the group, and reviewed our history to this point.
2. The Open Access Advantage (OAA). Prof. Bacon-Shone summarized his paper for the meeting. Recent developments in OA; ie, NIH, Harvard, and the ERC, and options for OA policy change in RGC, UGC institutions, and others in HK. After completion, this paper will be presented to research committees in the UGC institutions, RGC and the other research funding institutions in HK.
3. University of Queensland. Prof. Tsoi explained that UQ bought the Thompson database, with data back to the 1950s before this data was available online in Web of Knowledge. Similar purchase by HK institutions would not be useful.
4. NCRIS. Prof Tsoi explained the Australian, National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy. <http://www.ncris.dest.gov.au/>. Funded with A\$542M over 2005-2011, among its various initiatives is one for Australia National Data Service (ANDS) which includes funding for the Australian Scheme for Higher Education Repositories (ASHER). This will fund institutional repositories at Australian institutions.
http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/research_sector/policies_issues_reviews/key_issues/research_quality_framework/
5. ARC & NHMRC. Colin Steele replied after this meeting on Australian OA developments. He forwarded a presentation, "Open Access Collections" by Leanne Harvey, http://www.apsr.edu.au/open_access_collections/leanne_harvey.pdf. The ARC has stated in its funding rules for *Discovery-Projects* from 2008 onwards that it, "... encourages researchers to consider the benefits of depositing their data and any publications arising from a research project in an appropriate subject and/or institutional repository wherever such a repository is available to the researcher(s). If a researcher is not intending to deposit the data from a project in a repository within a six-month period, he/she should include the reasons in the project's Final Report. Any research outputs that have been or will be deposited in appropriate repositories should be identified in the Final Report.
 - Prof Tsoi explained that although ARC policy asks for authors to deposit, the policy was never enforced because there was no IR in which to deposit.

6. HK RAE. The use of OA IRs in RAE was discussed. The last one in HK used citations only. Papers were submitted and were supposed to be read during the evaluation sessions, but of course most were not. Submitted papers were photocopies of printed ones. There was no citation count or bibliometrics.
7. Croucher. The Croucher Foundation was described. Prof Bacon-Shone and Mr Palmer had correspondence with David Foster of Croucher on policy change for OA. Croucher is a funding agency for graduate studentships and conferences. Mr Foster was interested in learning of the OA thesis policy for HKU electronic theses.
8. RGC & Data Archive. Prof Bacon-Shone explained that RGC policy calls for data archiving, but no one has given any data sets, as there was no platform to host the storage & retrieval. RGC has given no money for this.
9. Forum. Prof Cheng suggested hosting a forum to explain our position to key players in the UGC institutions.
10. Action Plan. The group decided on this course of action:
 - Prof Tsoi will organize a **forum** on OA in April or May. Each UGC institution's top academic for research (usually the Chair of the Research Committee and liaison to RGC), top administrator for research, and Librarian (responsible for IR) will be urged to attend. Presentations on the merits of OA, and the need for OA in Hong Kong will be given, including the paper that Prof Bacon-Shone is working on, "Open Access Advantage", (OAA).
 - The OAA paper will be sent to the RGC. It will present OA best practices outside HK, and suggest changes for OA policy in HK. We will use this paper to ask RGC to allow us to access their data on RGC funded publications, for further study. At this time we will ask them to consider OA again in their June meeting.
 - We will write another paper to be given to RGC before June on OA. It will use RGC numbers and the multipliers given by Harnad & Eysenbach to predict the increase that RGC could expect in citations and return on research investment, after OA policies are made in Hong Kong.
 - We will make an application to the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme (PPR) (<http://www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/rgc/fund/cc.htm>) to conduct a more thorough investigation on research results in Hong Kong, how they contribute to the public good (with Alan Siu, economist), and how their impact would increase with OA. If application for a PPR grant is made in June, hopefully a paper or a sample could go to RGC in January 2009.
11. IR Policies. Prof Tsoi will give Prof Bacon-Shone examples of policies used in Australia.
 - ARROW uses VTLs
 - ANU uses DSpace
 - RUBRIC uses Fedora
 - HKU, UST, CUHK & CityU use DSpace
12. Research Surveys in Australia. Prof Tsoi explained that there were two such surveys.
 - The Economic Impact of Cooperative Research Centres in Australia, Delivering benefits for Australia, by The Allen Consulting Group, funded with A\$200,000. <http://www.crca.asn.au/activities/2005/CRCAEconomicImpactFinalReport.pdf>
 - A second one by DEST, funded with A\$300~400,000

13. RGC Encouragement. The forum can suggest that, and help RGC liaisons in the UGC institutions to give encouragement to RGC to make OA policy changes.
14. VIPs at the Forum. Prof Tsoi may ask Colin Steele of ANU or the DVC of QUT to present at this forum.
15. Harvard's New Policy. We may ask Prof David Der-wei Wang to attend or present at this forum. Prof Wang is in the Dept of East Asian Language & Civilizations at Harvard. He is also a panel member of RGC's Humanities, Social Sciences & Business Studies panel.
16. RGC Data. In recent years it is online.
 - CERGs are now known as General Research Fund (GRF). Numbers given here. <http://www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/rgc/grf/grf.htm>
 - RGC Collaborative Research Fund (CRF) -- formerly known as Central Allocation, numbers here. <http://www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/rgc/crf/crf.htm>
 - RGC Funding Results of Other Schemes, numbers here. <http://www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/rgc/result/other/other.htm>
17. RGC 2006 Annual Report.
 - 836 CERGs supported in 2006/2007 (page 50)
 - 734 CERGs supported in 2005/2006
 - Total output of refereed and non-refereed publications in 2005/2006 was 23,058. Of this number 16,236 were refereed. (page 35). [*these publications arose from CERGs and other funding sources, and then were reported by each institution to RGC, yes?*]
18. RGC June Mtg. Prof Tsoi will discuss our OA initiative with Prof Roland Chin before the June RGC meeting. He will ask him to place this on their agenda.
19. HK Funding Agencies. Prof Bacon-Shone suggested other HK funding agencies we might approach for OA policy change:
 - HK Gov't's Health, Welfare & Food Bureau, funds maybe 50 projects/yr.
 - IT Commission (under the Commission for Innovation & Technology)
20. RGC Contacts. After the meeting, I (Palmer) checked the RGC Annual Report 2006 to find that RGC maintains contacts with following agencies. They also might be relevant to our goals.
 - Croucher Foundation
 - HK Jockey Club
 - S K Yee Medical Foundation
 - Quality Education Fund
 - Innovation & Technology Commission
 - Health & Health Services Research Fund, and Health Care Promotion Fund
 - Environment & Conservation Fund
 - Overseas bodies such as the German Academic Exchange Service, the National Natural Science Foundation of China and others.