Some Thoughts on Open Access (OA) and the Humanities

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What We’re Going To Cover

• A far too quick introduction to Open Access
  – Definition
  – The two roads
  – Some benefits
  – Four myths

• Some thoughts on Open Access and the Humanities
  – OA is already well-placed in the humanities
  – You’re going to have to deal with OA
  – Getting noticed
  – Dealing with the conservative nature of academia
  – There is a sense of fear...
Introduction to OA – Definition

- Open Access content is content that is freely accessible on the World Wide Web
- If you can get to the Web, you can find OA content
- No toll barriers such as subscriptions or pay-per-view pay-per-use fees
- Don’t have to be associated with an institution with a subscription
- Big questions: How is it paid for? Who pays for it? etc.
Introduction to OA – The Two Roads

• “Green” road
  – Deposition in Open Access repositories (OARs)
  – There are institutional and subject repositories

• “Gold” road
  – OA publishing, akin to the “regular” publishing world
  – Can be fully OA or “hybrid”
Introduction to OA – Some Benefits

• Anyone can get to the content
• The taxpayer argument
• Distribution is enhanced
• OA brings greater impact
Introduction to OA – Four Myths

• Only articles are openly accessible
• The only road to OA is the gold road
• The only financial model in the gold road is the article processing charge (APC) model
• OA content is not peer-reviewed
OA in the Humanities

• OA is already well-placed in the humanities
• You’re going to have to deal with OA
• Getting noticed
• Dealing with the conservative nature of academia
• There is a sense of fear...
Some Resources – Introduction to OA

• Peter Suber’s Open Access overview: http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm
• Peter Suber’s Very Brief Introduction to Open Access: http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/brief.htm
• Open Access Directory (OAD): http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Main_Page
• Open Access Week resources: http://www.openaccessweek.org/page/englishhigh-resolution-1
• University of Calgary institutional repository: https://dspace.ucalgary.ca/
Some Resources – OA and Humanities

• Promoting Open Access in the Humanities: http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/writing/apa.htm
• ROARMAP (Registry of Open Access Repositories Mandating Archiving Policies): http://roarmap.eprints.org/
Your Speaker

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