**Maximize Olin’s visibility with open access (for great justice!)**

**What… are our names?** Dee Magnoni and Mel Chua ’07 (mallory.chua@alumni.olin.edu)

**What… is our quest?** To persuade y’all that adopting an Open Access Policy for scholarly work by Olin faculty has such a ridiculous cost/benefit ratio that we should do it.

**What… in the world is an Open Access Policy?** “Open Access” is a term used for a movement that promotes free availability and unrestricted use of research and scholarship (here at Olin, we mean “journal papers and conference papers/proceedings”) by placing digital copies of that work online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. An Open Access Policy is a school’s official *request* or *requirement* for faculty to make their work open-access by self-archiving it in the school’s institutional repository. (We’d like “requirement.”)

**Wait, we have an institutional repository?** Yep. [http://digitalcommons.olin.edu](http://digitalcommons.olin.edu/).

**Why… should we care?** With such a small school, maximizing the visibility (and thus impact) of each person’s intellectual vitality is crucial. It’s much easier to catalyze change in engineering education when other people (and search engines like Google Scholar) can see what you’re doing – folks can’t follow a lead they can’t see. We need to give our evangelists a solid base of resources to point to and draw from; it will cut down on the time we need to spend repeating ourselves. More quantitatively, open access has repeatedly and consistently shown to correlate with citation advantages across multiple fields; various studies found citation advantages of 51% for electrical engineering, 157% in computer science, 170-580% in physics… read the meta-study at <http://eprints.ecs.soton.ac.uk/18516/2/Citation_advantage_paper.pdf>.

**So what’s the proposal?** Adopt an open access policy that requires Olin faculty to make their research going forward open-access. Flip this page over for a draft policy and its use process.

**Why not an opt-in policy?** Plenty of research has shown that opt-in policies don’t get folks to participate – when you’re busy, you pick the default (UOCD and HFID say so, too). There *is* an opt-out option, but we’d like to lower the activation energy to do the Right Thing.

**Won’t this take time?** It’ll actually save you net time. No more hunting for article copies or fielding “please send me your paper” emails, no more “what *did* I write?” moments during annual reviews, actually having that research webpage you always wanted but never had time for…

**Who else does this Open Access thing?** Plenty of folks. The National Academies Press, arXiv (physics), PubMed (medical research index), Harvard, MIT, Stanford…

**But I already sign my copyright/soul away to the publisher.** Yep, we know (it’s why we’re focusing on new work). An open-access policy makes it so you *automatically do not* sign away the open-access portion of your soul to publishers; it’s a powerful tool you can use (along with author addendums) to keep your author rights.

**Moar information, plz.**

* <http://digitalcommons.bepress.com/repository-research/>
* <http://libraries.mit.edu/sites/scholarly/mit-open-access/general-information-about-open-access/open-access-faq/>
* <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm>

**Olin College Open Access Policy Draft**

Explanation: <http://osc.hul.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/model-policy-annotated_0.pdf>

The Faculty of the Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering ("Olin College") is committed to disseminating the fruits of its research and scholarship as widely as possible. In keeping with that commitment, the Faculty adopts the following policy:

**Each Faculty member grants to Olin College permission to make available his or her scholarly articles and to exercise the copyright in those articles.** More specifically, each Faculty member grants to Olin College a nonexclusive, irrevocable, worldwide license to exercise any and all rights under copyright relating to each of his or her scholarly articles, in any medium, provided that the articles are not sold for a profit, and to authorize others to do the same. The policy applies to all scholarly articles authored or co-authored while the person is a member of the Faculty except for any articles completed before the adoption of this policy and any articles for which the Faculty member entered into an incompatible licensing or assignment agreement before the adoption of this policy. **The Olin Library will waive application of the license for a particular article or delay access for a specified period of time upon express direction by a Faculty member.**

**Each Faculty member will provide an electronic copy of the author’s final version of each article** no later than the date of its publication at no charge to the appropriate representative of the Olin Library in an appropriate format (such as PDF) specified by the Olin Library. **The Olin Library may make the article available to the public in an open-access repository.** The Olin Library will be responsible for interpreting this policy, resolving disputes concerning its interpretation and application, and recommending changes to the Faculty from time to time. The policy will be reviewed after three years and a report presented to the Faculty.

**“Making Open Access Happen” Process (short version)**

*Design objective: minimize faculty time/workload to make open-access-fu happen.*

1. Adopt the policy. We think this involves faculty consensus and signatures somehow.
2. During your annual review (which you update your CV for anyway), give us the text of the scholarly stuff you’ve done in the meantime (or help us reverse-engineer it).
3. Sit back and relax (or if you’re Olin faculty, “work on more crazy stuff”) while the library works its magic to upload things to our institutional repository.
4. Profit!
5. Optional: after a year or two, if you feel your work in the repository is an accurate representation of your current research, we can make you a research profile page that you can use or yoink various RSS/etc. feeds from for your own site. (If you feel like you need to add more of your older work to the repository for it to be an accurate representation, we can help with that too – in fact, Lydia may already be doing it for you.)

**More amusing version of our agenda**

**Mel:** My engineering education institution can’t find out what Olin’s doing! Halp!

**Dee:** Just imagine… if Olin’s institutional repository had <things>!

**Mel:** That would be TOTAL AWESOME! You mentioned Open Access, which is <definition>! It’s been empirically demonstrated to have <impact>!

**Dee:** But everyone is hosed, so we currently have <not-this>! Please help us make it happen!