

On the Challenges Facing Scholarly Communication in the 21st Century

By Rebecca Dowson & Baharak Yousefi.

Chuck Eckman, Dean of Library Services and University Librarian at Simon Fraser University, spoke to a large and engaged audience of faculty, students, and staff as part of the 2010-2011 President's Faculty Lecture series at Halpern Centre, SFU. We were among the attendees.

Adopt a producer orientation

Scholarly communication in the twenty-first century will demand innovative and sustainable paradigms. In response to rapid growth in the production of scholarly knowledge, and in the face of increasing numbers of producers and channels of dissemination, the management and long-term preservation of the scholarly output of our institutions requires us to think and act in new and experimental ways.

The challenge, Eckman argued, is to adopt a producer rather than consumer orientation: develop deeper and more nuanced understanding of faculty research areas, encourage greater publisher transparency, review outsourcing models, and experiment with institutionally supported open access publishing.

Dr. Eckman pointed to recent studies out of Australia and the UK to discuss the efficiency of the global scholarly communications system and to highlight the differences in impact between toll and open access models.

SFU Open Access Fund

An update on the SFU Open Access Fund was also provided. Since its establishment in February 2010 as part of SFU Library's Open Access Strategy, the OA Fund has supported the publication of twenty-eight Gold OA articles. The success of this fund and other similar initiatives demonstrates a willingness on the part of researchers to explore opportunities in open access publishing.

Last, the audience engaged in discussion on a variety of topics including digital preservation strategies and international access to scholarship. As SFU President Andrew Petter emphasized, this was a great opportunity for the SFU community to come together and engage in dialogue on issues that will be "critical to the future of our Library and indeed to scholarship."



Chuck Eckman. Photo by Sandra Wong.

Lecture Series

SFU President's Faculty Lecture Series are co-sponsored by Burnaby Mountain College. Chuck's presentation on March 9, 2011 was the fourth and last lecture in the series for the current season.

An archived recording of the lecture is available for viewing on the SFU Teaching and Learning Centre website: http://tlcentre.sfu.ca/archive/lecture-series/2011/2011-03-09-presidentsforum_eckman/ Slides accompanying the lecture are available in the SFU Institutional Repository: <http://ir.lib.sfu.ca/handle/1892/11494>

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