



Editorial

Open Access, Open Data, and Open Scholarship

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Focus

The Journal of eScience Librarianship is in the “business of scholarship” and dedicated to openly disseminating the theory and practice of librarians who are active in data-driven research, open access, science, and data. This issue’s authors write about developing programs, tools, and frameworks in support of open data and data management.

On November 9th, I attended OpenCon Boston 2018 at Boston University. (Thank you, Ellen Phillips, Boston University, and John O’Connor and Sarah Melton, Boston College, for organizing a great program and excellent collegiality!) I’m impressed with the work being done across New England in open access, data, and education resources—the dedication and determination by those working in digital scholarship to open the gates of knowledge locally and globally is to be applauded and supported.

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One of the day's highlights was the showing of the documentary *Paywall: The Business of Scholarship*, produced and directed by Jason Schmitt, Associate Professor and Chair of Communication and Media at Clarkson University. Schmitt was awarded a grant by the [Open Society Foundation](#) to research and document the need for open access in academia and research and its relation to academic publishing's current structure and profitability. It is a love-poem to open access; Schmitt interviews many of the most active and well-known people in the open access movement, and very few from publishers. He does not hold back in criticizing the long-standing business relationship between academia and publishing.

The *Journal of eScience Librarianship* is in the "business of scholarship" and dedicated to *openly* disseminating the theory and practice of librarians who are active in data-driven research, open access, science, and data. This issue's authors write about developing programs, tools, and frameworks in support of open data and data management. Some of our readers might comment that the literature on developing research data management programs and services is already abundant, but I would argue that many academic institutions were not in the fiscal position in 2009-2010 to develop and maintain these types of services. Certainly, there were some libraries and their institutions that led the way in providing data services long before [Executive Order M-13-13](#) and earlier open data initiatives, and we learned from them and our international colleagues. This second and third wave of institutions are adding to the scholarship and building on what was, and continues to be, a rich and open literature in data management and services.

I'd also like to draw your attention to this issue's three commentaries. Two commentaries cover the Research Data Access and Preservation 2018 Summit (RDAP Summit 2018): one commentary is about a "newbie" attending the conference, and another addresses the "prisoner's dilemma" surrounding data sharing, funding mandates, and institutional change, an interesting parallel to *Paywall*. The third commentary scolds library professionals on our lack of consistent use of standards the author has a good point.

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