SUSTAINABLE SCHOLARSHIP
A REPORT FOR THE GOVERNING BOARD – October 21, 2019

Introduction

This report for the TRLN Governing Board is a product of two scholarly communication seminars that took place on September 20th and October 4th, 2019 to identify and examine goals or high-level statements for potential exploration at the consortial level, along with related actions for each goal. This report summarizes the resultant consortial goals approved by the TRLN Executive Committee for review by the Governing Board.

Proposed Consortial Goals & Actions

1. **Endorse community statements and develop a TRLN statement**

   a. We believe it is important for the Governing Board to sign DORA as individuals and consider signing as organizations. Numerous faculty and staff from TRLN institutions have signed DORA as individuals, but we believe that members of the Governing Board signing as individuals or coordinating their institutions to sign would demonstrate our commitment to these principles and present our universities as leaders in scholarly communication.

   b. We propose that the TRLN Governing Board endorse a TRLN statement outlining our shared principles. Creating a set of values specific to TRLN libraries will provide a framework for our future collaborative action. Precedents set by the Big Ten Academic Alliance and the University of California system are useful in the development of our own public statement that would guide campus and consortial scholarly communication actions while also demonstrating that TRLN is a committed leader in this ecosystem.

2. **Plan and host a provosts' scholarly communication forum**

   a. We believe that the economics of publishing, libraries, the research lifecycle, and the promotion and tenure process are inextricably linked and that a broad conversation is crucial for any significant change. TRLN can support efforts to further this conversation by providing infrastructure for events, conferences, or discussion that bring together provosts, faculty, representatives from scholarly societies, and publishers. Specifically, we propose inviting the National Academies to participate in a provosts' forum on scholarly communication. Events and work of this nature are becoming more prevalent and TRLN hosting would not only present the opportunity to stimulate scholarly synergy across institutions, but would also help to establish the Triangle as a nucleus of thought and action in effecting change in this area.

3. **Support data sharing and analysis**

   a. TRLN scholarly communication leaders support the collection and sharing of scholarly communication data to enable consortial analysis.

   b. TRLN libraries want to identify the questions we need to answer and the data points needed for a shared scholarly communication data set. Some identified data points include, but are not limited to:

i. the cost of Article Processing Charges (APCs) and the funding sources paying for them (faculty, grants, libraries, departments, provosts);

ii. the impact faculty contributions have on publishers' revenues;

iii. the outlets where our faculty are publishing; and

iv. additional methods to measure faculty contributions to journals, such as service on editorial boards.

c. TRLN libraries want to identify the sources of data across the campuses and may need support from provosts to procure this data. Sources of data may include campus research offices, individual departments, procurement offices, Scopus, and Web of Science.

d. Consortial collection and analysis of shared data needs to be resourced appropriately in order to effectively learn from and act on the shared data set. Hybrid models including hired consultation, TRLN staff, and library staff should be explored to settle on the best approach. A related question to consider is what is the best structure for following up on the above actions? Are there existing initiatives we can scale up to address these actions?

4. **Build on the momentum of existing partnerships and programs**

a. The Triangle provides a unique concentration of expertise in scholarly communication, digital humanities, open science, data curation, and open pedagogy. Now is an auspicious time to consider how we might generate excitement for, coordinate, and expand our existing transformative partnerships, promoting the Triangle as a center of excellence in this sphere.

b. The TRLN libraries believe that University Presses play a vital role in the advancement of openness in scholarly communication. We have two premier and progressive University Presses at our institutions and a foundation of partnering with the University Libraries. There is support for bringing together the university librarians, associates university librarians, and university press representatives to broaden and build upon discussions between individual institutions and presses, with intent to identify opportunities for additional collaborative action.

Next Steps

TRLN staff will coordinate with partners across our institutions and beyond to act on the goals and actions in this report that the Governing Board approves.