REDUCING BARRIERS TO WESLEYAN THOUGHT:
OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY AND THE WESLEYAN HOLINESS LIBRARY

Craighton Hippenhammer
Digital Initiatives Librarian, Olivet Nazarene University

Abstract

Olivet Nazarene University's recent move to start publishing academic scholarship in a digital institutional repository, Digital Commons, represents a smart move to not only highlight and preserve Olivet scholarship, but also to support the worldwide open access movement that is widely expected to rescue the current failing model of academic publishing. The traditional methods for publishing faculty scholarship have been inadequate for some time, and the financial structures that sustain them are collapsing due to skyrocketing journal prices. What faculty members want most for their research is that it be as accessible, available and useful to other researchers and to be quoted by them. The open access model, while new, shows promise. If all faculty scholarship could be searchable by Internet search engines, then it could reach anyone, anywhere, who has access to the Internet. With greater accessibility, additional, even nontraditional, readers could be added into the intellectual commons, building stronger and larger communities of researchers, including those who cannot afford the current high tolls to access scholars' literature. Open access also enhances the self-correcting scholarly nature of the research process and promises a hopeful future of further enhancing scientific productivity and accelerating the translation of ideas into commercial ventures. Lowering or eliminating the up-front expense of the publication of Christian scholarship to third-world countries could also be seen as a mission activity. Certainly, publishing as many Wesleyan educational materials openly online as possible may help to better balance the ubiquitous prevalence of theologically reformed materials in Bible bookstores, scholarly journals and the blogosphere.

Olivet Scholarship: A Case Study

Getting Intentional

When Dr. Gregg Chenoweth took over as Vice President for Academic Affairs in 2007, Olivet Nazarene University President John Bowling tasked him with finding ways to improve faculty scholarship that would be suitable for a non-research, teaching institution of higher education like Olivet. Dr. Chenoweth immediately set about getting input from administrative deans and faculty through committees, meetings and discussions, a process that he called the March to Meaning. Leaders at holistic institutions like Olivet realize that our scholarship activity involves a variety of activities beyond publishing so room must be made to include activities like church and community involvement and the improvement of teaching. Early in the process, it was pointed out that Ernest Boyer's four scholarship domains of discovery, community application, interdisciplinary integration, and teaching and learning along with an additional Olivet-added domain of faith integration would showcase the breadth of scholarship at Olivet as well as allay any fears that a publish-or-perish paradigm was about to be implemented.

Such improvements were long overdue in my opinion. While scholarship activity had long been appreciated and occasionally noted, encouragement of it was sporadic and non-systematized. A multi-year Lilly grant had been offered to faculty around 1991, the year I

started at Olivet, and I applied for and received $3000 to do a survey of objections to the library collections at conservative Christian liberal arts colleges and Bible schools throughout North America. I don't believe that such an intensive survey on this subject with this particular selection of schools had ever been done before and the results were quite enlightening and successful. It resulted in a two part article published in *The Christian Librarian* over two issues[1] and a summary article in the American Library Association's *Intellectual Freedom Newsletter*[2] as well as a major presentation at an annual conference of the Association of Christian Librarians. The project has also been widely referenced and my research techniques copied for research surveying other schools. But there was no venue within Olivet to report to my own colleagues until the first week-long Scholars Week in April, 2011, which was established as one of many ways of calling attention to and celebrating Olivet faculty and student scholarship as a result of the March to Meaning. My presentation in that forum was well received.

Librarians Get Involved

During the March to Meaning process, Library Director Kathy Boyens met with her librarian staff to discuss the wisdom of recommending the implementation of an institutional repository to Dr. Chenoweth where the scholarship of Olivet faculty could be showcased online and made available barrier-free worldwide. Also of concern was the heavier workload that would likely cause the library. Librarians, of course, seek to support faculty research in any way they can, and it made sense that encouraging their publication fit not only library goals but also the March to Meaning goals of supporting Olivet scholarship. Dr. Chenoweth understood the added benefits immediately, contracts were signed mid-2009 with bepress' Digital Commons and I worked with bepress' staff to develop our local site throughout the Fall of that year.[3] Faculty scholarly articles were added, then, beginning in the 2010 spring semester, so when the Digital Commons site was unveiled to faculty on April 10, 2010, at Olivet's first daylong scholarship symposium, there was content for them to view and an operational repository for them to examine.

Publishing Scholarship

The Current Publishing Model

The current publishing process looks something like this. Most scholarship is published in scholarly journal articles for which scholars do not get paid. When they create new works of discovery, faculty automatically own the copyright, but in the paper/print world, they have always felt like they had to give their copyrights away, depending on what the publishers demanded. Publishers for some journals, particularly the highly prestigious, demand all

---

[1] Craighton Hippenhammer, "Patron Objections to Library Materials: a Survey of Christian College Libraries, Part I," *The Christian Librarian* 37:1 (1993): 12-17; also http://digitalcommons.olivet.edu/lsci_facp/7/. Craighton Hippenhammer, "Patron Objections to Library Materials: a Survey of Christian College Libraries Part II," *The Christian Librarian* 37:2 (1994): 40-47; also http://digitalcommons.olivet.edu/lsci_facp/6/

[2] Craighton Hippenhammer, "Intellectual Freedom in Christian College Libraries," *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom* 43:2 (1994): 41, 50.

[3] "Digital Commons @ Olivet," Olivet Nazarene University, accessed January 7, 2013, http://digitalcommons.olivet.edu.

copyrights, so the authors retain no rights and the publishers essentially control their scholarship. When this situation exists, and it does a lot, scholars constantly have to ask permission to repost, reuse, redevelop or make further copies of their own work for use in their own classes and can't even put their own published work on a web site without asking for permission.

What's so ironic is that publishers then bill the scholars' employers for ongoing access to the scholars' works. The billing comes in the form of journal subscription fees to the university library, fees that are outrageously high and skyrocketing. Scholars in Third World countries certainly cannot afford such fees, but the situation has now deteriorated so badly that no university, no matter how large, can any longer afford all the journals it needs. Because of the publishing model itself and the barriers it encourages, scholarship gets much more limited distribution that it should.

The traditional publishing model has become unsustainable; it is in fact failing. New discoveries, new learning and new developments are restricted to only those who can pay high subscription costs, and no one can afford it anymore. There's big trouble in the land of serials publishing.

Trouble in Serials Publishing

Librarians have been writing about the untenable publishing model and its escalating periodical prices for decades. Large publishers have bought up the high impact prestigious journals from professional associations and bundle them with less needed journals, forcing librarians to buy journals they don't need to get somewhat better pricing on the ones they do need. Publishers are now charging what they think the market can bear.

The current model of serials publishing is in trouble and has been in trouble for some time. For example, the University of California, Berkeley, cut their serials budget in a significant way some thirty years ago "because its budget couldn't keep up with price increases."[4] In 1997 even the Yale Libraries conducted a massive journal cancellation project based on cost per use analyses.[5] Their current journal subscription purchase request policy states, "We are at the point where each new title purchase requires the cancellation of a currently-held subscription."[6] The situation continues to get worse with journal subscription fees skyrocketing three to four times the rate of inflation. The Association of Research Libraries says, "While the CPI increased 73% between 1986-2004, research library expenditures for serials increased 273%."[7]

Librarians are usually quiet about their publisher negotiations, but sometimes publisher demands are so outrageous, that they feel they have to go public. On June 4, 2010, the University of California took publisher NPG (Nature Publishing Group) to task for trying to

---

[4] Walt Crawford, *Open Access: What You Need to Know Now* (Chicago: American Library Association, 2011) 6.
[5] George Stranz, and Jill Parchuck, "Journal Cost Update Information," Yale University Library, Science Libraries, last modified December 21, 2011, http://www.library.yale.edu/science/jrnlstop.html.
[6] George Stranz and Jill Parchuck, "Purchase Request Policy," Yale University Library, Science Libraries, last modified December 21, 2011, http://www.library.yale.edu/science/services/reqpol.html.
[7] "Journal Prices," SPARC, accessed January 7, 2013, http://www.arl.org/sparc/pricing/.

quadruple its subscription fees from an average price per journal of $4,465 per journal for ten campuses to more than $17,000 per journal. UC librarians suggested that it might be time for a system wide boycott of NPG journals – not only of purchasing their titles, but a voluntary boycott of UC researchers not to contribute papers to NPG journals, review manuscripts for those journals or serve on their editorial boards. Ironically, within the previous six years, UC faculty had contributed more than 5,000 articles to NPG journals.[8]

Librarians have been heartened recently with researchers and scholars in other fields who are also getting fed up. On January 21, 2012, Cambridge mathematician Timothy Gowers blogged about his reservations of continuing to support the current scholarly publishing model, particularly egregious publishers like Elsevier.[9] Thousands of academics liked what he said and joined in boycotting Elsevier at the costofknowledge.com[10] by promising to refrain from submitting manuscripts to them, peer reviewing for them and/or serving on their journal editorial boards. Over 8,000 academics had signed the boycott within two months and as of January, 2013, a year later, the numbers stood at over 13,000. The site protests specific Elsevier business practices like charging exorbitantly high prices for subscriptions to individual journals (like 21,440 EUR/28,016 USD for one journal, Brain Research),[11] bundling practices that force librarians to purchase many journals that libraries do not actually need, and their exploiting the fact that some of their journals are essential to most academic institutions.

There are new initiatives within governments to make the results of taxpayer paid research more open. "In July [2012], three UK education research councils and the European Commission announced stipulations that future research partly funded by taxpayers – much of which is currently published through subscription journals – must be made more open-access. The UK government has labeled research paywalls deeply unhealthy and wants to free up availability."[12] The U.S. administration is interested in implementing similar measures.

Harvard's Faculty Advisory Council sent a bluntly-worded message to their entire faculty on April 17, 2012, that called the current scholarly journal publishing model untenable and unsustainable, and implored the faculty to publish their work in open access arenas. "Move prestige to open access," the letter said.[13]

The Open Access Model

What do scholars want? Faculty members want their scholarship to be as widely available as possible and don't want impediments to the distribution or retrieval of their scholarship. As with any copyright holder, they may want to control who can make money from

---

[8] Crawford, *Open Access*, 7.
[9] "Elsevier – My Part in its Downfall," Gowers's Weblog, http://gowers.wordpress.com/2012/01/21/elsevier-my-part-in-its-downfall/.
[10] "The Cost of Knowledge," accessed January 7, 2013, http://thecostofknowledge.com/
[11]"The Cost of Subscribing to Academic Journals," From the Bottom of the Heap, accessed January 8, 2013, http://ucfagls.wordpress.com/2012/03/04/the-cost-of-subscribing-to-academic-journals/.
[12] Robert Andrews, "Open-Access Research 'Catastrophic' for Reed Elsevier," accessed January 8, 2013, http://paidcontent.org/2012/09/10/open-access-research-catastrophic-for-reed-elsevier/.
[13] Dennis Carter, "Harvard, After Spending $3.7M on Academic Journals, Pushes for Open Research," *eCampusNews* 5:6 (2012) 26.

their work, such as by making copies or derivative works, but basically, faculty want to be widely cited and therefore recognized for their work. Open access provides a path towards these goals.

Open access is a new way of thinking about the publishing of scholarship, especially scholarly journal articles. Scholars seldom make money publishing their research, giving their copyrights away for free, only wanting their work to be as accessible as possible so it can have impact by being built upon by other scholars. Open access methods of publishing simply post the scholarship on the openly accessible and freely searchable Web, avoiding the current toll-access methods of traditional expensive up-front subscription fees that only large institutions like colleges and universities can afford. With the increasingly expensive pricing of scholarly journals, academic libraries are only able to buy less each year, and they're starting to look for alternative models. With new ways of publishing that are easy, cheap, and at hand, faculty and librarians are seriously considering whether it is wise for scholars to be giving up their copyrights.

Open access puts scholarship on the Internet where it can be searched and found for free. Copies can be downloaded, shared, printed, datamined and reshaped, without permission or other restrictions. Copies of articles may be deposited in open access digital repositories that have also been published in publisher-managed, subscription-based journals; articles can also be published in open access electronic journals directly.

Of course, no publishing is free. There are many open access business models, but basically they involve payment mechanisms up front, like television and radio, so any user with the right equipment can access the content for free. Publishing online, especially when an institution already has the software to contain the content, is much cheaper than publishing with traditional paper technologies. Some models for covering processing fees for accepted articles include using funding agencies, institutional memberships or subsidies, professional society membership fees, selling print version copies, income from other publications, advertising, other add-on services for sale, etc.

The benefits of open access are many. The model helps to overcome the access barriers current publishing methods erect around academic scholarship. Faculty keep more control over their own work and their scholarship becomes more accessible by being freely searchable by Google and other search engines. Open access enhances the self-correcting scholarly nature of the research process and promises a hopeful future of further enhancing scientific productivity and accelerating the translation of ideas into commercial ventures. It's been reported that scholarship that is available through open access will be downloaded three times as often and cited twice as often in subsequent research as compared to those in commercial electronic journal databases[14] -- exact numbers are disputed. And if the scholarship becomes freely available on the Internet, third world countries will have access for the first time to massive amounts of current scholarship. If the scholarship is tinged with Christian principles, then the wider access could be considered mission activity.

---

[14] "The Effect of Open Access and Downloads ('Hits') on Citation Impact: A Bibliography of Studies," The Open Citation Project: Reference Linking and Citation Analysis for Open Archives, accessed January 9, 2012, http://opcit.eprints.org/oacitation-biblio.html#simple.

Faculty need to become more aware of their copyright rights. Publisher contracts vary widely, so they need to be read carefully. At a minimum the publisher needs to be granted enough rights to publish once, usually a paper copy, but scholars need to start learning how to keep as many rights to themselves as possible. They should be sure the contract is clear they can at least publish a postprint version to their institutional repository, preferably at the same time the original is published. The number of open access ejournals available in every discipline is growing rapidly, so as scholars are able, they need to increasingly publish with open access electronic journals if at all possible.

Nazarene Scholarship and Digital Initiatives

New Directions at Benner Library

I was hired on at Olivet Nazarene University's Benner Library & Resource Center in the summer of 1991 as Reference Librarian. Allan Wiens, the Library Director, retired the next year, a new Reference Librarian was hired, and I became the Access Services Librarian, which included all the public services responsibilities I had before minus the reference duties. At that time, research was laborious, perhaps even downright onerous, involving the consultation of paper indexes, looking up one subject heading at a time; but then the technological freight train hit higher education and within a year or two there was a personal computer on every staff member's desk. Immediately, many opportunities to apply new technologies to library processes presented themselves. Olivet got the Internet in January, 1992, and then that Fall, the library got its first computers for student use in public areas along with CD-ROM periodical databases. One technology innovation after another came down the pike as library science underwent its technological revolution. When technology problems were raised and new technological solutions were needed to improve library service, I stepped forward to tackle the issues. Soon, we made it official in my title, as I became the Access Services and Information Technology Librarian. Long about 2004 or so, I was able to shed the Access Services part and become the full-time Information Technology Librarian, later renamed Informatics Librarian.

The library underwent renovations in 2008 when a new and larger computer lab was added, and I had to double my student staff to twenty. My regular staff grew to a full time Informatics Assistant and a second technology librarian who served our growing School of Graduate and Continuing Studies. When Digital Commons arrived in 2009, the goals that I wanted to achieve with it and other digitization projects soon overwhelmed me and it became clear that a new direction needed to be created within Benner Library to effectively meet the new challenges. So, working with Director Kathy Boyens and Ann Johnston, the SGCS Technology Librarian, we handed the Informatics Department over to Ann and I began a new department called Digital Initiatives, starting January 1, 2012.

Digital Initiatives was created to implement a number of important new technological developments besides organizing and maintaining the digitization workflow into our Digital Commons. It had become evident that the University Archives had to enter the technological imperatives of the Twenty-First Century as the flow of boxes of valuable Olivet history from retiring professors and administrators had dropped to a trickle. What had once been stored in file cabinets, cardboard boxes and manila folders now existed only as electronic ones and zeros in email accounts, Word files and classroom management software systems. It also occurred to me

as I learned more about digital archives that not only do we archive history, scholarship, training materials and Wesleyan thought, we conserve them. Paper not only fades over time, it deteriorates. Every one of the Nazarene educational archives, I'm sure, has yellowing, even brittle, paper materials that limit their access as their longevity winds down.

Time is running out. Our valuable archive materials need to be preserved before it's too late. How wonderful it is that there's a technological solution that not only can preserve these materials in digital form, but also enhance access to them. It's absolutely imperative that we blow the horn for open access techniques and apply them to Wesleyan Holiness materials for our long-term benefit and the benefit of those whom we are trying to reach.

Nazarene Global Ministry Center

One day in May, 2012, I was sitting in my office, contemplating a number of puzzles concerning *Preacher's Magazine*, a Nazarene publication that had never been indexed. It seemed to me that with its very practical advice for Nazarene preachers, the shared knowledge and insights of decades was being lost to later generations. I also knew that 60 years (1926-1985) of *Preacher's Magazine* had been digitized and saved to CD/DVD, copies of which had been distributed to a number of Nazarene universities. Unfortunately, since they had been digitized from microfilm, the graphical quality was fairly poor and the OCR (optical character recognition – the scanning process that makes the text searchable) quality even worse. Northwest Nazarene University had decided to mount them on the web as a part of their Wesley Center Online[15] but they are not in a framework where they can be easily searched and found. Because of the quality issues, we had decided not to move forward with mounting them back then, but now, I was thinking, an institutional repository with added metadata might be just the perfect vehicle to make them truly searchable and available worldwide.

I turned to my computer's browser and searched for *Preacher's Magazine*. I found ten years of *PM* issues since 2000 had been mounted and also noted a contact link there.[16] I emailed the editor, telling of my concerns and asking if there was any way I could help. I received a very positive response from Dr. Rev. Tammy Condon, Program Coordinator for Strategic Projects of the International Board of Education, who said she had just become the *PM* Editor and was wondering some of the same things. Could we meet the following month in Palm Beach, Florida, at the Association of Christian Librarians' annual conference to further examine these questions and "strategize a way forward?" I thought… what? What was an administrator at Nazarene Headquarters – at the Global Ministry Center – doing going to a library conference?

The Wesleyan Holiness Digital Library

---

[15] "The Preacher's Magazine – 60 Years of Holiness Preaching: 1926-1985," Wesley Center Online, Northwest Nazarene University, accessed January 7, 2013, http://wesley.nnu.edu/sermons-essays-books/the-preachers-magazine-60-years-of-holiness-preaching-1926-1985/.

[16] "Preacher's Magazine," accessed January 7, 2013, http://www.nazarenepreacher.org/

Apparently, Dr. Condon had been talking to librarians for a number of months earlier in the year about digital options to spreading Nazarene educational materials around the world to help pastors and others in theological training. For a number of years there had been a "Books for Pastors" program, an effort to better distribute greater numbers of appropriate pastor educational materials in more languages throughout the world. As with any system depending on physical materials, there were logistical issues and other practicalities to constantly overcome so the situation was ripe for something better – faster, bigger, more effective.

As Dr. Condon and I talked over dinner in Palm Beach before the conference started, and as she talked throughout the week with other librarians, a plan started to take shape and/or ripen about starting a digital repository of Nazarene educational and scholarly materials reachable by constituents around the world. She gathered a group of 20 Nazarene librarians for a meeting mid-conference where the concept was further aired and support gained. Bruce Nuffer, Manager of Integrated Media for the Nazarene Publishing House, who had flown in earlier in the day specifically to meet us, also attended.

Then – another surprise – shortly after the library conference, The International Board of Eduction (IBOE) invited all the Nazarene library directors and a handful of technical librarians to Kansas City to meet the leadership there and to further strategize and hone the plan. And the plan was Open-Access based – a multilingual open resource repository with Wesleyan Holiness materials of many kinds helpful to anyone in the world able to access the Internet and search for them. Since Olivet was the only Nazarene educational institution to my knowledge to have an institutional repository at that point, it was great to see that sort of leadership. The new repository is to be called the *Wesleyan Holiness Digital Library*.

There are difficulties, of course, with any project of this sort that must be met. It became clear at the Kansas City meetings that finding a software developer or institutional repository provider that could provide us the multilingual capability we sought would be a challenge. The planning team had to write specifications that detailed all the functionality that was needed. The team, led by Bruce Nuffer and consisting of IBOE members, GMC members, NPH representatives, and librarians, continues to meet, has found a software developer, has signed contracts, and is currently working with the developer to design the website and create how the repository will look and work. The hope is that the software can be developed quickly enough and an adequate number of resources uploaded to it to have a full-featured and remarkable product to demonstrate at General Assembly, 2013.

May our Heavenly Father and Savior Jesus Christ bless these efforts to lower the barriers to getting effective Wesleyan Holiness educational materials into the hands of all who need them. And it's my opinion as an experienced technology librarian that open access methods are the best bet around to achieve that goal.

Keywords

Open access, digital publishing, institutional repositories, Wesleyan research materials, journal prices, scholarship availability, Nazarene academic scholarship, Digital Commons