Open Access @MIT: Implementation & Impact

With Notes on the Role of Libraries in Supporting Open Access

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MIT Libraries
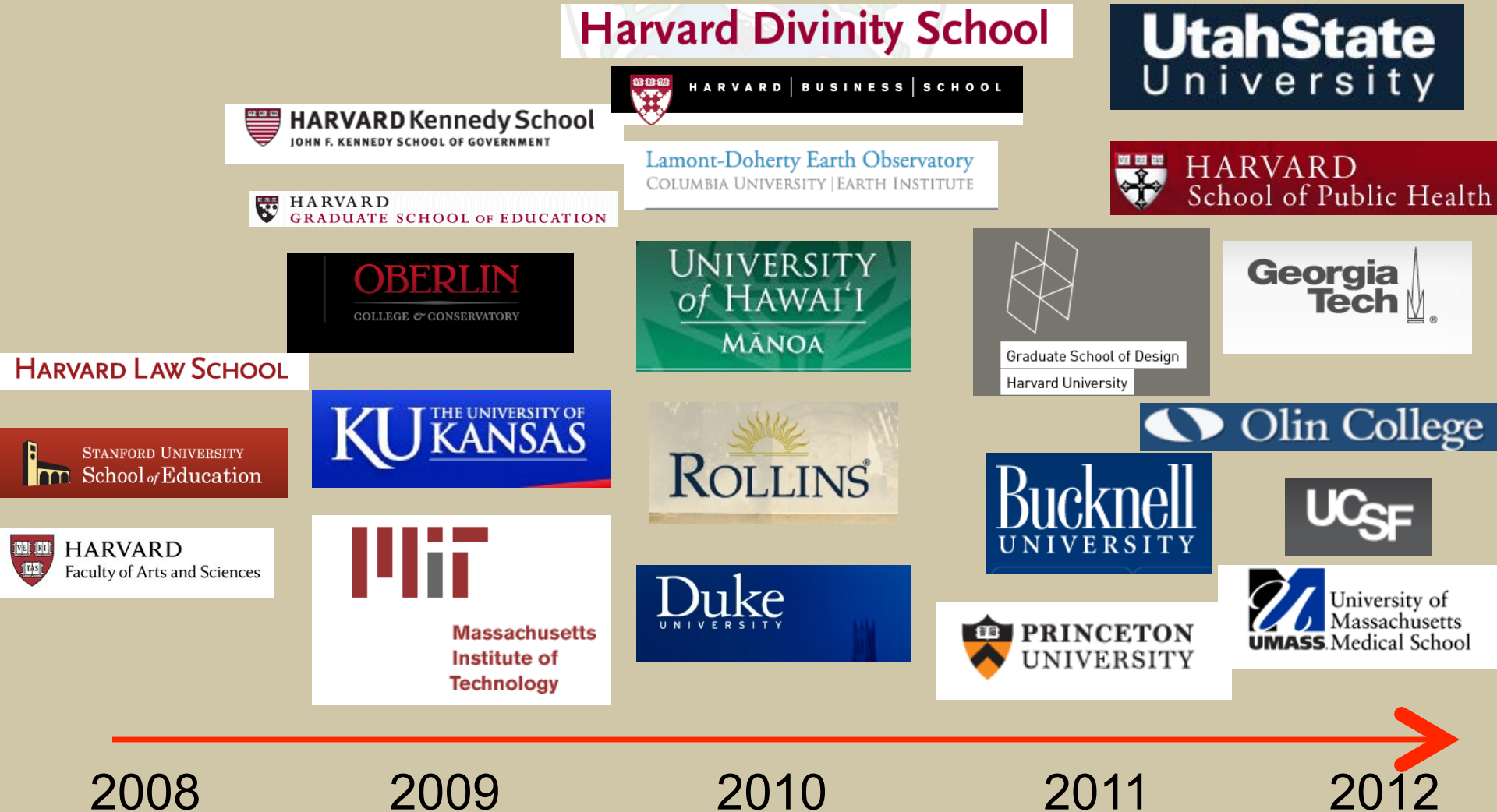
Purpose/ Aim of the MIT Faculty Open Access Policy

"The Faculty of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is **committed to disseminating the fruits of its research and scholarship as widely as possible**."

Opening line of MIT Faculty Open Access Policy (2009)

First campus-wide faculty-initiated policy of its kind in the US

Permission-Based Policy: License Grant to MIT

- Grants MIT nonexclusive permission to exercise all rights under copyright
  - Provided articles not sold for a profit
  - MIT has right to give permission to authors to share/use their work
- Exists prior to any publisher copyright agreement
- Copyright is not transferred to MIT
- Copyright can still be transferred to publisher
  - Subject to prior license to MIT
- Changes the default so that authors retain rights
  - With no action needed by author
- Opt outs accepted automatically
  - On a per-paper basis

Permission-Based OA Policy Growth in US

Harvard Divinity School

UtahState University

HARVARD Kennedy School
JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

HARVARD | BUSINESS | SCHOOL

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY | EARTH INSTITUTE

HARVARD
School of Public Health

HARVARD
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

OBERLIN
COLLEGE & CONSERVATORY

UNIVERSITY
of HAWAI'I
MĀNOA

Graduate School of Design
Harvard University

Georgia
Tech

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

KU THE UNIVERSITY OF
KANSAS

ROLLINS

Olin College

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
School of Education

Bucknell
UNIVERSITY

UCSF

HARVARD
Faculty of Arts and Sciences

MIT
Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

Duke
UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON
UNIVERSITY

University of
Massachusetts
UMASS Medical School

2008   2009   2010   2011   2012

Key Factors

- Faculty driven
- Value-based and culture/mission-driven
- Permission-based policy (with 'teeth')
  - Changes legal default with no author action
- Libraries deposit for authors
- Assertive implementation with workflow tracking
  - Provides assessment data
- "As convenient as possible"
  - No paperwork for faculty
  - Seek papers from other sources prior to asking faculty

Three Channels to Obtain Papers

- Publishers' websites- *if Allowed*
- Repositories & MIT Websites
- Faculty requests, via subject librarian liaisons
  - For those we cannot obtain as above
  - Annual outreach message with list of needed papers

Constraints

- Faculty time
- Availability of final accepted manuscript
- Faculty concerns about publisher
- Publisher responses – e.g. changing author agreement to require opt out
  - Vast majority of publishers cooperating
  - Some who require opt out still allow posting
  - See libraries.mit.edu/publisherpolicies

MIT Open Access Policy: Impact Worldwide Downloads

>7,900 papers (~33% of all faculty papers)
Over 630,000 downloads since Oct.' 09
40,000/month

Worldwide Impact on Readers

"I am an independent researcher from a third world country not affiliated to any university or a company," "I neither have access to paid journals nor I can afford them. MIT's Open Access is something I love and rely upon…Thank you again for thinking about the unfortunates and keeping the information free and open."
--researcher (Nepal)

Photo: Paul Walsh

From a caregiver

"My wife was diagnosed with [lung cancer]. As her husband and caregiver, I try to do everything I can to make her journey easier, and everything I can to create a full recovery for her. Part of that is arming myself with EVERY bit of knowledge I can gather about her cancer. Your resources allow a non-medical, non-academic, like myself access to this invaluable and leading edge data. I cannot THANK YOU enough."

Open Access -- New Audiences Around the World

- Students

- Job seekers

- Faculty and researchers in developing nations

- Independent scholars

- Journalists

- Hobbyists

- Retired engineers / scientists

- Patient advocates

  ...grateful readers who are not in a position to subscribe or pay for individual articles

Other Open Access Support for Faculty

- Administering open access policies, yes, but also….

Supporting Authors Who Choose Open Access Journals: OA Fund

- Funds to pay article processing fees in open access journals – level the playing field v. subscription journals

- 55 Funds listed in Open Access Directory
  - International list
  - Info at: http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/OA_journal_funds

- 26 North American institutions with OA funds reported by SPARC
  - Info at: http://www.arl.org/sparc/openaccess/funds/

- Managed by libraries

Supporting Authors via Library Licenses for Journals

- All MIT authors who publish with Springer:
  - Journals, e-books, protocols – 2009-14

- Reuse rights for authors
  - Post work on web
  - Use in future publications

- No action needed on part of author

Libraries Hosting
Open Access Journals
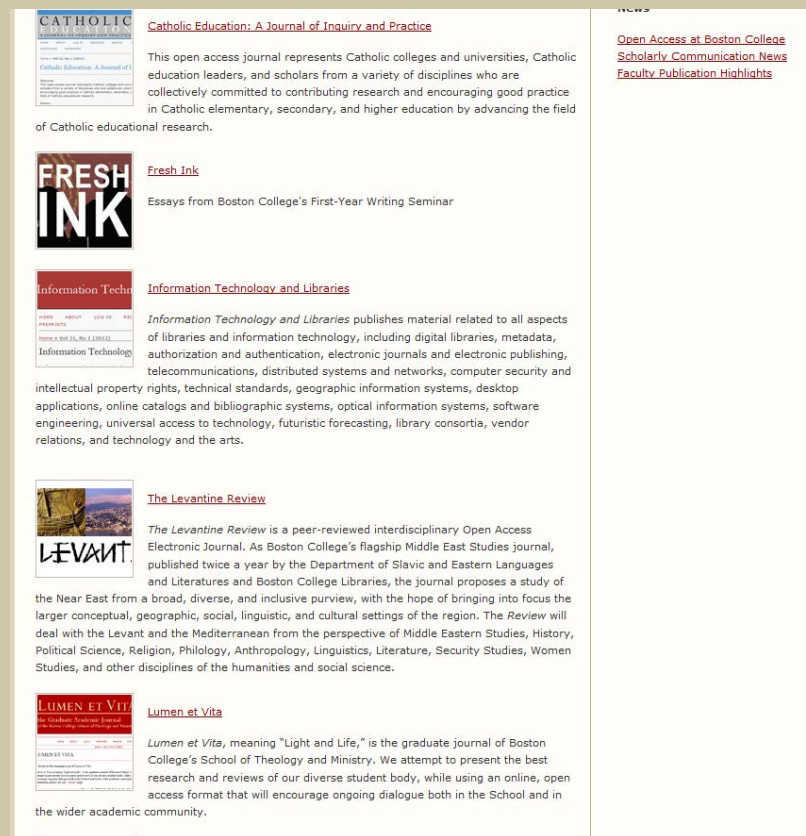
University of Michigan Mpublishing

Boston College eScholarship

The Next Big Thing? Libraries' Support for Open Textbooks, MOOCs

UMass – support for open textbooks

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs): edX

Libraries at edX institutions are collaborating to develop best practices for use of content in MOOCs

Supporting Faculty Goal: "disseminating the fruits of research and scholarship as widely as possible"

"Thank you for making science freely available to all!" – *scientific journalist (U.S.)*

"I am extremely grateful to the MIT faculty for allowing individuals like me to get access to such valuable resources." *–unemployed engineer (U.S.),preparing for interviews*

"In countries like Bangladesh getting access …is difficult on many levels, so open access definitely helps students who would like to read about research work." *- economics student (Bangladesh)*

THROUGH:
- Open Access Policy administration
- Open Access Journal Funds
- Open Access Journal Hosting
- Negotiating for author rights retention in licenses

Photo by Photo S. ojumder/Drik/CIMMYT.