

March 25, 2005

TO: Faculty Colleagues  
FROM: David E. Shulenburg, Provost

The availability of research findings and databases is critical to our ability as scholars to contribute to the advancement of knowledge and to educate students. Because the price and volume of scholarly literature far outstrip the capacity of the KU library (or any University library) to acquire all important material, we cannot take for granted the accessibility of scholarly literature. On March 10, University Council unanimously supported the resolution reproduced below that can go a long way toward solving the problem of accessibility of research findings. I call your attention to two items in the resolution that are of particular importance:

First, KU ScholarWorks (<http://kuscholarworks.ku.edu>), a digital repository, is now available as a convenient site in which to place your published work, working papers, datasets, and other original material. Items placed in KU ScholarWorks will be archived permanently and will be available to search engines like Google and Google Scholar. Many studies demonstrate that articles that are available electronically are cited in other publications at four or more times the frequency of works that are not available electronically. It is in your interest and the University's to populate KU ScholarWorks with a complete set of KU faculty's scholarly output. Criteria for including a work in KU ScholarWorks are established by academic communities, normally departments or schools. If such a community has not been formed by your department/school, please work with your chair or dean and colleagues and contact [kuscholarworks@ku.edu](mailto:kuscholarworks@ku.edu) to create such a group or get more information.

Second, please make sure your published, refereed journal articles are placed in KU ScholarWorks so that the archive of this work will be complete. Most refereed journals now permit contributors to place an electronic version of their published work in a publicly accessible electronic archive although some refereed journals have copyright policies that will not permit such postings. If you return the copyright form with a notation such as, "notwithstanding other language in this agreement, I reserve the right to place this manuscript in a publicly accessible electronic archive," sign and return it to the journal, upon publication of the article, you will have the right to place the article in KU ScholarWorks (or for those of you whose work flows from NIH grants, in PubMed Central or ScholarWorks). Should the journal refuse to publish your work with the modified copyright statement, you, of course, may then tell them you are willing to permit publication with their original copyright restriction. I have on multiple occasions amended copyright forms as I describe above and had no trouble getting material published. Further information about publisher policies is on the KU ScholarWorks site.

I hope that KU ScholarWorks will become the site in which you place all of your published work and the non-published work that meets the standards of your ScholarWorks community. I ask departments and schools to consider whether they wish

to have all departmental/school colleagues deposit their research in ScholarWorks so that it can be easily accessed for annual merit salary and promotion and tenure reviews.

Thanks for your consideration. I think the KU ScholarWorks archive will place KU at the forefront of institutions that have taken positive steps to solve the scholarly communication dilemma.

**RESOLUTION on Access to Scholarly Information**  
**Passed by the KU University Council**  
**3/10/05**

*Access to scholarly information is vital to all members of the academic and research communities. Scholars and their professional associations share a common interest in the broadest possible dissemination of peer-reviewed literature and many other products of the scholarly process. Moreover, as the University of Kansas increases the size of its faculty and intensifies its research program, it is especially important that access to the work we create and to the work of our colleagues at other universities and colleges be as broad and affordable as possible.*

*The quantity and diversity of scholarly information worldwide, however, challenges the ability of the current system of scholarly publishing to provide adequate and equitable access. The business practices of some journals and journal publishers, moreover, are inimical to scholars' interests and threaten to limit the promise of increased access inherent in digital technologies. Development of university collections of scholarly material is more and more constrained by the rising costs of journals and the databases that index and aggregate those journals. Faculty, staff, students, and university administrators must all take greater responsibility for expanding access to scholarly information and ensuring its long-term accessibility while maintaining scholarly standards of quality.*

*Therefore, the University of Kansas Faculty Senate:*

- Notes with approval national and international efforts to shape a more diverse and sustainable system of scholarly communication;*
- Endorses the contributions of the University of Kansas and its faculty to these efforts, including the KU ScholarWorks repository, a digital archive that can provide access and long-term preservation for the scholarly works of KU faculty and staff;*
- Calls on all faculty of the University of Kansas to seek amendments to publisher's copyright transfer forms to permit the deposition of a digital copy of every article accepted by a peer-reviewed journal into the*

*ScholarWorks repository, or a similar open access venue;*

- *Calls on all faculty, staff, and students of the University of Kansas to become familiar with the business practices of journals and journal publishers in their specialty;*
- *Encourages tenured faculty in particular to support journals (and their publishers) whose pricing and accessibility policies are consistent with continuing access to this literature through the choices faculty make in the submission of papers, the allotment of time to refereeing activities, and participation in editorial posts;*
- *Calls on University administrators and departmental, school, college and University committees to reward efforts by faculty, staff, and students to start or support more sustainable models for scholarly communication, and to provide financial and material support for organized activities initiated by faculty, staff, and students that will ensure broad access to the scholarly literature;*
- *Calls on the University, professional scholarly associations, and professional organizations of university administrators to invest in the infrastructure necessary to support new venues for peer-reviewed publication, and in concert with this effort;*
- *Also calls on the University, professional scholarly associations, and professional organizations of university administrators to establish clear guidelines for merit salary review, peer evaluation on federal grants, and promotion and tenure evaluation of faculty and staff that will allow the assessment of and the attribution of appropriate credit for works published in such venues; and*
- *Calls on the University Libraries to provide resources that help faculty, staff, and students understand the options available for dissemination of scholarly research, the business practices of different journals and journal publishers, and their impact on the system of scholarly communication.*