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20191021_Open Access Week

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International Open Access Week 2019

HSC’s Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center celebrates the scholarly and creative works generated by the HSC community.

October 21-27 is International Open Access Week. Open Access encourages the free and open exchange of scholarly and creative works with as few or no barriers to accessing the information, such as fees or other restrictions that have come to define public access to academic works.

The theme of this year’s Open Access Week is “Open for Whom? Equity in Open Knowledge.” The field of scholarly communication is actively exploring how Open Access intersects with issues of diversity and inclusion, and how the research process, from inquiry to dissemination, should strive to be more open, inclusive, and equitable.

The Association of College & Research Libraries, in their 2019 report, “Open and Equitable Scholarly Communications: Creating a More Inclusive Future,” asks academic libraries and those tasked with Open Access to consider focusing on where improvements can be made: how people—both creators and those tasked with managing scholarly communication—are involved in the process; rethinking...
what “counts” as content and calling out implicit/explicit biases in selected content; and creating systems that permit more access to more people. The report included the participation of 8 health science librarians, as well as several representing African American, Indigenous, Asian American, and Hispanic library groups. Representatives from historically black colleges and universities were also included.

The trends and directions in Open Access at an international level align well with HSC organizational goals that similarly seek “a culture that increases diversity in the workforce, trainees and faculty; promotes interprofessional opportunities; and, provides outreach to the community, including an emphasis on sites in communities that deliver clinical, research and educational services and opportunities” (UNM 2020 Vision/Strategic Planning). As HSLIC continues to engage the HSC community in its use of the UNM Digital Repository and Open Access more broadly, further efforts towards diversity and inclusion will be made to provide a greater breadth of scholarly and creative resources to support the diverse clinicians, patients, and communities that HSC faculty, researchers, and students serve here in New Mexico.

The Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center (HSLIC) encourages the HSC community and the general public to browse HSC scholarship (articles, posters, presentations, for e.g.) in the UNM Digital Repository. Interested in learning more about what services HSLIC provides? HSLIC supports HSC faculty, staff, and students with Open Access questions as they navigate their options with scholarly communications:

Copyright and author rights consultations

Journal selection for publication

Ingesting HSC scholarly content in the UNM Digital Repository

Open Access publishing support

Help with maintaining compliance for grant-funded projects

Data management planning

More information about HSLIC services related to Open Access publishing are available at the library’s Copyright & Scholarly Communications resource page. The library welcomes the HSC community (faculty, staff, and students) to consider depositing their scholarly and creative works in the UNM Digital Repository. For more information, contact Jonathan Pringle at jpringle@salud.unm.edu or (505) 272-9896.

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