



MCGILL UNIVERSITY SENATE

Question

TO:

Senate

DATE SUBMITTED:

February 26, 2008

FROM:

Mr. John Ashley Burgoyne

SENATE MEETING DATE:

March 5, 2008

SUBJECT: Dissemination/availability of scholarly articles by faculty members

PREAMBLE:

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences of Harvard University recently voted to license the university to disseminate all scholarly articles from their faculty members through an open-access online repository and, although the authors will maintain the copyright on their articles as previously, to act on their behalf where necessary to exercise copyright. Unless the authors request a waiver, all faculty-authored articles will be submitted to the provost for inclusion in this repository.

In the official press release (Harvard University Gazette, 13 February 2008), Harvard University Provost Steven E. Hyman describes the motivation behind this legislation: "The goal of university research is the creation, dissemination, and preservation of knowledge. At Harvard, where so much of our research is of global significance, we have an essential responsibility to distribute the fruits of our scholarship as widely as possible." Recognizing the role that Canadian universities play in our society, the Canadian Federation of Students has expressed a similar motivation for encouraging all institutions of higher education in this country to allow open access to their research.

QUESTION:

1. How much of the research published by McGill researchers is submitted to our own eScholarship@McGill repository and how does the Library encourage faculty and students to disseminate their work using this repository?
2. Does the University maintain a list of journals that allow authors to distribute their articles freely online after publication (or reasonable time lag following publication)?
3. How, if at all, does the University promote publication in such journals and other open-access channels?