



**The Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL) response to the Draft Policy Position for the Awards to Scholarly Publications Program (ASPP) from the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS)**

COPPUL commends FHSS for its strong statement in support of Open Access (OA) expressed in the *Open Access and the ASPP: Draft Policy Position*. The recommendation to support the OA publishing of ASPP-funded monographs is particularly gratifying.

COPPUL makes the following recommendations for consideration:

- While the allowance for an embargo (in this case up to 12 months) is not uncommon in OA funding situations, it should be noted that an embargo of any length will reduce the impact of the work. We recommend that the embargo allowance, if truly required, be shorter and that there be regular review of this allowance, with an eye to its eventual elimination whenever possible. Perhaps incentives could be established for those publishers who have embargoes shorter than 12 months?
- The fact that backset titles are addressed is important. Monographs of all publication dates can be of value to users and can have impact. There should be additional thought given to steps that can be taken to make all monographs openly accessible, not just the frontlist material.
- As noted, publishers often prefer to host OA titles on their own websites. In addition to this, authors should be permitted and encouraged to deposit their works in their local institutional repositories and, where available, in appropriate subject repositories. This should happen at the earliest possible opportunity. This will increase discoverability and downloads of the books, as well as providing additional layers of backup and preservation of the content.
- Publishers should be strongly encouraged, if not mandated, to list their OA titles in the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB) (<http://www.doabooks.org/>). Again, this will increase discoverability and will help build the worldwide corpus of Open Access monographs.
- The document does not state how long the policy, if implemented, would be in force and what review steps would occur, both at the end of the policy period and during the life of the policy.

COPPUL is a consortium of 23 university libraries in the four western Canadian provinces. COPPUL provides leadership in the development of collaborative solutions addressing the academic information resource needs, the staffing development needs, and the preservation needs of its member institutions.

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