OhioLINK Library Community Recommendations on Retention of Intellectual Property Rights For Works Produced by Ohio Faculty and Students Approved by OhioLINK Governing Board May 2006

It is recommended that the Ohio higher education community adopt a policy of intellectual rights retention that will provide a basis for expanded access to Ohio scholarship.

Background:

The recent advent of electronic information technologies enables virtually instantaneous sharing of scholarly works via the Internet. These technologies create the capacity for the higher education community to expand avenues of knowledge dissemination beyond traditional publishing models. Knowledge assets in electronic form can be made widely accessible in a manner that greatly increases their use and utility for readers. If the higher education community manages intellectual property rights properly, it can facilitate wide dissemination of scholarship in ways that significantly enhance the growth and development of knowledge.

The traditional publishing model remains a vital avenue for publication and access, but with it come roles and interests that do not necessarily provide the broadest access possible. The traditional model has proven increasingly unaffordable as the singular means to expand access to an increasing body of published works. There is a growing national and international movement for authors of peer-reviewed journal articles to self-archive their work in repositories that are openly accessible. Open access archiving has major advantages over sole reliance on the traditional publishing model. It substantially increases all researchers' access to the research literature. There is strong evidence that articles that are made openly accessible have substantially more research impact than articles that are available only through subscriptions and licenses (see http://opcit.eprints.org/oacitation-biblio.html).

"The OhioLINK library community believes that research and works produced by Ohio scholars should remain accessible to scholars in Ohio and beyond, regardless of whether that scholar's institution can afford to buy the published research. These recommendations move Ohio another step closer to turning that belief into a reality."

OhioLINK's recommendations to Ohio institutions, faculty and other researchers include:

- Publish in journals that have responsible rights policies whenever possible.
- Retain the non-exclusive right to make works openly accessible and usable for the author's non-commercial, educational and research purposes.
- Deposit works in a campus repository or the Ohio Digital Resource Commons so that those works are available to scholars in Ohio and beyond.
- While many journal publishers have changed their policies to embrace an author's right to archive and share their own works for educational and research purposes, it remains the author's responsibility to ensure they do not sign away their rights in publisher agreements.

In making these recommendations, OhioLINK joins many organizations around the nation and the world who are seeking to protect authors' rights to freely disseminate their own works, including the University of California, The Boston Library Consortium and the European Commission.

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