INDIANA UNIVERSITY

54 – Institutional Collaboration in Scholarly Communications

Action Item Template Response

General Action Item Information

Lead Division/Office: CIO
Action Item Number: 54
Action Item Short Name: Institutional Collaboration in Scholarly Communications
Dependencies with other EP Action Items:
Implementation leader (name & email):

I. DESCRIBE YOUR PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS ACTION.

Relevant text from *Empowering People* states:

As a grand-challenge domain IU has limited ability to unilaterally affect scholarly communication models. IU does, however, have great opportunities to lead like-minded institutions and other stakeholders in collective efforts to pioneer new models. These may include partnerships and consortia with other universities that are also examining such directions, new relationships with publishers and the commercial sector, and new approaches for engagement with professional associations to help achieve mutual aims.

One area for exploration is the possibility of a publishing infrastructure that is owned (or managed as a back-office production contract) by colleges and universities. This "Big Digital Machine" could provide efficiencies and economies of scale as a means for professional societies, journal editors, university presses, and others to produce, distribute, and preserve their scholarly communications without a need to put university and commercial values in conflict. There are many questions regarding the feasibility, funding model, and efficacy of a universities-owned Big Digital Machine, and any such capability would need to be able to support a diverse set of journal funding and subscription models, for-fee and open access for monographs, and other means that afford business-model control to each scholarly community. There is evidence for reasoned optimism in this approach, however, as many community source software development projects, library consortia, and other higher education collaborations have demonstrated that a cooperative approach can achieve economy-of-scale efficiencies while respecting and preserving institutional values.

Action 54: IU should rigorously explore collaborative approaches with other universities and organizations to create and sustain effective models for scholarly communications.

II. WHAT ARE THE POLICY AND PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS OF YOUR PLANS?

III. IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS.