

NEWS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE:

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UMass Amherst Libraries and Partners Host **OPEN ACCESS WEEK OCTOBER 19-23**

AMHERST, Mass. – Open Access Week, a global event in its ninth year, will be held from Oct. 19-23, 2015, at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. On Oct. 22, David Ernst and Sarah Faye Cohen of the University of Minnesota’s Open Textbook Network will lead two workshops for faculty, librarians, and staff on open textbooks and open education resources at the Du Bois Library. For the full schedule of the week’s events, visit: <http://scholarworks.umass.edu/oa/2015/>.

The theme this year, “Open for Collaboration,” emphasizes the ways in which Open Access enables new avenues for collaboration between scholars by making research available to any potential collaborator, anywhere, any time. For more information about International Open Access Week, please visit www.openaccessweek.org.

Sarah Faye Cohen is the managing director of the Open Textbook Network. Formerly the associate university librarian at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Cohen joined the Open Textbook Network to foster libraries’ strategic role in advancing access, discovery, and engagement with open textbooks. Sarah is a graduate of Smith College and GSLIS at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, where she was awarded the Rediger Award for Intellectual Curiosity. She is a two-time award winner of the Association of College and Research Libraries Excellence in Academic Libraries Award.

David Ernst is the director of the Center for Open Education and executive director of the Open Textbook Network (OTN). The OTN is an alliance of higher education institutions committed to improving access, affordability, and academic success through the use of open textbooks. David created and manages the Open Textbook Library (<http://open.umn.edu>), a single source for faculty to find quality openly licensed textbooks.

The UMass Amherst Libraries will host a series of events relevant to open access, copyright and fair use, electronic theses and dissertations, open technologies, and open education resources (OER). All events are free and open to the public.

Monday, October 19

Wikipedia Training and Edit-a-Thon Workshop

12:00 – 4:00 p.m., Room 1320, Du Bois Library

More info: <http://scholarworks.umass.edu/oa/2015/Oct19/1/>.

Tuesday October 20

Open Access, Copyright and Fair Use for Theses and Dissertations

12:30-2 p.m., Floor 26, Du Bois Library

More info: <http://scholarworks.umass.edu/oa/2015/Oct20/1/>

Wednesday October 21

Open Tech Fair

3–5 p.m. Campus Center Concourse

Thursday October 22

Open Textbook Librarian Workshop

10am-noon, Floor 26, Du Bois Library

More info: <http://scholarworks.umass.edu/oa/2015/Oct22/2/>

Open Textbook Faculty Workshop

2-4 p.m., Floor 26, Du Bois Library

More info: <http://scholarworks.umass.edu/oa/2015/Oct22/1/>.

Open Access Week is an opportunity for the academic and research community to continue to learn about the potential benefits of Open Access, to share what they've learned with colleagues, and to help inspire wider participation in helping to make Open Access a new norm in scholarship and research.

“Open Access” to information, the free, immediate, online access to the results of scholarly research, and the right to use and re-use those results needed, has direct and widespread implications for academia, medicine, science, industry, and for society as a whole.

Open Access (OA) has the potential to maximize research investments, increase the exposure and use of published research, facilitate the ability to conduct research across available literature, and enhance the overall advancement of scholarship. Research funding agencies, academic institutions, researchers and scientists, teachers, students, and members of the general public are supporting a move towards Open Access in increasing numbers every year. Open Access Week is a key opportunity for all members of the community to take action to keep this momentum moving forward.