

“Libraries as Publishers: Intervening in the Information Lifecycle”

Kevin S. Hawkins

The entrenched system of scholarly communication in the West, in which scholarly societies or commercial publishers claim copyright to a scholar's work before distributing it, is increasingly seen as economically unsustainable and in principle unjustifiable. As is often stated, why should universities freely give away their scholarly output and then pay to buy it back, with limited usage rights? Communication technologies and changing attitudes toward non-print resources have made it easier for librarians, scholars, and other concerned organizations to set up publishing and disseminating operations more in tune with the increasingly digital and collaborative production of scholarship also allowed by new technology. The range of Western initiatives, particularly in libraries, to effect change in scholarly communication will be discussed.

Kevin Hawkins is Electronic Publishing Librarian at the University of Michigan and is currently on a Fulbright grant working with traditional and digital libraries in Moscow.

The talk will be presented in English with simultaneous interpretation in Russian.