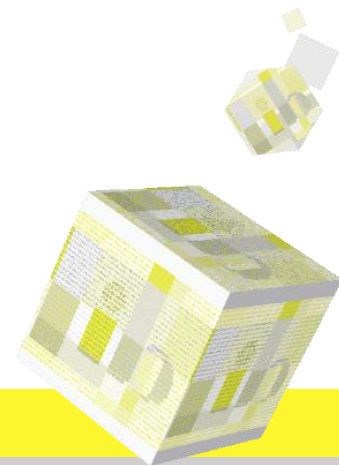


Survey on the Thesis Legal Deposit and Authorization at University Libraries in Taiwan: Rethinking of Open Access and Industry Policy

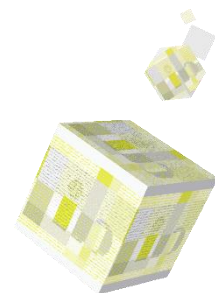
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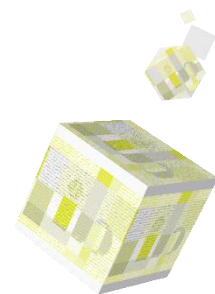


Introduction

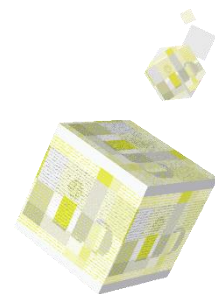


- In recent years, there is a call for open access (OA) in academic fields and government units of Taiwan, but theoretical discourses and concrete policies are not available yet.
- For facilitating the conformance and expediency of degree paper management policies, the largest Taiwan academic database provider and relevant stakeholders were investigated.
- What needs to be known: Opinions about the promotion of policies regarding open access to digital files of degree papers, strategies of collection and value-added applications, and authorization management, as well as the impacts of these policies and strategies on them.
- What needs to be reconsidered: The building of free resources might be directly removing obstacles of knowledge access, but will inevitably inhibit the growth of the scholarly publishing industry, and might even lead to wasting of resources or losing of momentum for promoting scholarly publishing, due to a lack of competitive environments.

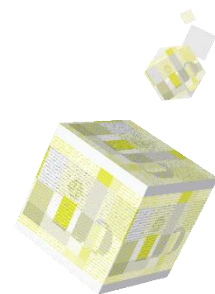
Methods



- The Airiti as the largest Taiwan scholarly publishing industry unit, and the National Central Library as the public sector unit, along with librarians (or university library directors) who were responsible for degree paper deposits in 13 university and college libraries, were interviewed.
- Interviews were conducted through on-site visits, assisted with telephone or email contacts.
- Nevertheless, from interviews with librarians, the current situation of degree paper access by library users was indirectly investigated.

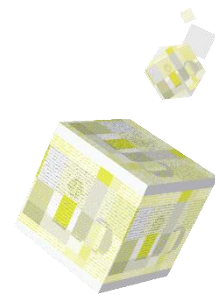


- Research results were categorized into two themes—policies regarding open access of degree papers, and authorization modes.
- With the interview analysis, it was shown that most interviewees considered degree papers be put on the track for open access, but regarded non-open access or delayed open access as optional choices.
- Other impacts found between the non-OA or delayed OA on copyright holders, libraries and library users have shown a wide variety of patterns.
- There might be considerations regarding copyright holders' involvement in plagiarism or citation misconducts. It was revealed that when promoting open access policies, academic misconducts could easily become potential obstacles.



- Taiwan should balance between meeting the public interests and assisting the scholarly publishing industry for participating in international competitions.
- University libraries should review the content of policies regarding authorization and deposit of degree papers, and the government should cautiously choose the timing for developing open access policies.
- The industrial output values are calculated by the gross revenue, which relies on the survival of the industry and the scale of returns and benefits it brings to the whole country, universities and library users.
- Following the above logic, is it wise to insist on blindly promoting open access policies in Taiwan, where it is with limited resources?

InSight



The End

