LIS 9376: Scholarly Communications and Open Access
Course Syllabus: Summer 2024

Instructor:	Dr. Julie Lowe
E-mail:	jlowe6@uwo.ca
Office hours:	Mondays 4:30-5:00pm, https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/94682095117
Class time/location:	Wednesdays 1:30-4:20 pm, FNB 2230
Prerequisite:	GRADLIS 9004

Course Description

This course explores the ever-evolving landscape of scholarly communication within the academic library environment. Scholarly communication is the system through which academic research and scholarship are created, evaluated, published, disseminated, preserved, and used. Through this course students will develop an understanding of scholarly publication and related concepts, including peer review, copying, and open access publishing models and platforms. Students will also learn about the role the library plays as publisher or publisher support.

Relationship to the Goals and Objectives of the MLIS Program (Learning Outcomes)

Upon successful completion of readings, assignments, and class participation, students will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate formal and informal scholarly communication processes and publishing models (programme level learning outcomes 2, 4)
2. Analyze the librarian's role in funding, advocating for, and supporting the creation and dissemination of open access resources (programme level learning outcomes 6)
3. Articulate the global implications of open access publishing with consideration for social and epistemic justices (programme level learning outcomes 3, 7, 9)

Course Materials

All required readings will be available on the course OWL site, or through the Western library.

Enrollment Restrictions

Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in the Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program, as well as any student that has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program.

Course Content

- **Week 1:** The Scholarly Communication Ecosystem
- **Week 2:** Scholars; Knowledge Production in Different Disciplines
- **Week 3:** Infrastructure and Economics of Scholarly Publishing
- **Week 4:** Scholarly Publications: Version and Quality Control
- **Week 5:** Intellectual Property
- **Week 6:** Open Access Publications
- **Week 7:** Open Educational Resources
- **Week 8:** Ethical Concerns in Scholarly Communications and Open Access
- **Week 9:** Digital Scholarship
- **Week 10:** Remaining Student Presentations
- **Week 11:** Measuring Scholarly Impact
- **Week 12:** Knowledge Mobilization
- **Week 13:** TBD

Assignments and Grading

1. Reading Responses (30%): Ongoing starting week 2

Each week from weeks 2 through 12 (except week 10), students will be provided with a reflection question(s) related to the assigned readings. Students will submit **five** short responses during the course based on the reflection questions. You may submit any five weeks, provided that at least three responses are submitted by the end of the week 8 (i.e. we want to avoid the situation where a disproportionate amount of work is due during the second half of the semester).

Each submission is worth 6% of your final grade. The responses are due **before** class. Reflection questions will be posted at least one week in advance on OWL. Responses should be approximately 500 words in length. Do NOT merely summarize the readings. Responses should engage analytically with the readings, e.g. by using points raised in the readings to support your own thesis, comparing viewpoints, providing reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with an author, etc. In other words, the response should demonstrate that you understand the readings and are able to engage analytically with the material. You do not need to include a bibliography or formal citations.

2. Presentation (20%): Various dates available

Students will prepare a presentation, individually or in pairs, based on a book related to our course. Presentations will take place throughout the semester (each student will only present once). The schedule of presentations will be set by the end of the second week of class. Further details regarding this assignment will be provided in a separate document.

3. Essay (35%): Due June 28 (week 8) [proposal] & August 7 (week 13) [final essay]

Students will write an analytical essay on a topic related to scholarly communications. This assignment incorporates a proposal, worth 10%, and the essay itself, worth 25%. Further details regarding this assignment will be provided in a separate document.

4. Participation (15%)

Class will be conducted as a forum for discussion. Students are expected to have read the assigned material and come to class prepared to discuss, critique, and analyze the readings. Discussions will

involve clarifying or defending points of view, commenting on and/or critiquing the literature, analyzing perspectives brought up in the literature and by classmates, and identifying what is missing from the debate. Factors to be considered in class participation include, but are not limited to: positive presence (attentive, participatory, and engaged), preparation, attitude, group interaction and contributions (i.e. active participation, bringing outside sources into class for possible discussion and analysis, etc.). Guidelines for participation grades can also be found in the MLIS handbook.

Course Policies

Attendance: Attendance and participation in classes is an essential part of the learning experience in the MLIS program. Students who need to be absent due to illness, family emergencies, co-op interviews, etc. should notify the instructor in advance (or as soon as possible afterwards in the case of emergencies). Students who are absent or late without a legitimate excuse should expect marks to be deducted from their participation grade. In case of an extended illness or other circumstance requiring more than one absence, students should contact FIMS Graduate Student Services at 519-661-211 ext. 88494 or e-mail ccircel@uwo.ca.

MLIS Grade Guidelines: The MLIS Student Handbook contains criteria used to grade assignments: https://intranet.fims.uwo.ca/graduate/academic_programs/mlis/mlis_grading.html

Late Assignments:

1. **Weekly Responses:** late responses will not be accepted absent extenuating circumstances with appropriate documentation. This is for two reasons: i) Since you only need to submit five out of ten available weeks, there is built-in flexibility to account for other commitments; ii) We often discuss the reflection question in class, which would give those submitting late an unfair advantage. Consider submitting several responses early in the semester when the workload is generally lighter.
2. **Presentations:** due to the nature of this assignment, it is expected that students will be ready to present on their assigned date. Late work will not be accepted absent extenuating circumstances with appropriate documentation, or if we have agreed on an extension/modification to the presentation schedule in advance.
3. **Essay (proposal and final paper):** you have 5 grace days available for this assignment. You can split these five grace days between the proposal and final paper in any manner you choose (e.g. 2-3, 1-4…) and you do not need to inform me in advance. If you require additional time beyond the grace period, please talk to me in advance to discuss a possible extension. Proposals/essays submitted late without an approved extension (and beyond the grace period) are subject to a late penalty of 5% per day.

Statement on Academic Offences: Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

Use of Generative AI in Assignments: The knowing use of generative artificial intelligence tools, including ChatGPT and other AI writing and coding assistants, for the completion of, or to support the completion of, an assignment or any other form of academic assessment may be considered an academic offense in this course.

Use of Plagiarism-Checking Software: All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism-detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).

Support Services: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Accessible Education Western (AEW): Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.