

Fall Forum Summary October 17, 2014

The Center for Digital Scholarship (CDS) held its first Authors and Publishing Issues forum on Friday October 17, 2014 in the Wyatt Room of Ralph W. Steen Library. Panelists for the event included Dr. Steve Bullard, Dean of the College of Forestry and Agriculture and Interim Dean of the College of Business, Dr. Robbie Steward, Chair of the Department of Human Services, and Dr. Kwame Antwi-Boaslako, Chair of the Department of Government.

The forum was facilitated by Phil Reynolds, Scholarly Communications Librarian, and the panel was introduced by Library Director Shirley Dickerson.

Dr. Bullard gave a testimonial endorsing ScholarWorks and explained the benefits for the Forestry Department. He recognized Dr. David Kulhavy for his work with the CDS in making Forestry materials open access. He also highlighted the Texas Forestry Papers, Forestry Bulletins, and NCPC research that are included in ScholarWorks.

Dr. Steward spoke about her experiences as a journal editor and editorial board member. She offered encouragement to authors and editors, and gave suggestions and guidelines to help in both the research and editorial processes. She also recommended that conference presenters take the opportunity to publish based on their presentations.

Dr. Kwame highlighted the “benefits” of rejection letters, and gave examples of rejections having positive outcomes in the form of future book chapter suggestions, and as conference invitations based upon original publishing attempts. He also stated that there is a need to make the time to write; create a schedule or time table. Dr. Kwame stated that disagreements on topics can result in a publication and the logical flow of arguments should be followed.

Audience members contributed to the forum conversation as well.

Dr. Kulhavy highlighted the Go Team project in his department designed to encourage co-authorship, and suggested that writers respond to editors’ letters and reviewers comments and then resubmit rejected papers to other journals.

Dr. Randy McDonald added that faculty could use their professional development as online course instructors as an opportunity to expand their work into publishing opportunities. While developing course material they could work toward publication at the same time. He thought there could be a synergy with professional development and publishing articles, and that the Center for Teaching and Learning could help guide faculty through the publishing process expanding on the scholarship aspect of teaching and learning.