To: Faculty and Adjunct Faculty
From: Anne Prestamo, Dean of Libraries
Date: October 21, 2013
Re: FIU Libraries Announce: Open Access Publishing Fund and Open Access Week Activities

On behalf of the FIU Libraries I invite you to participate in upcoming events during **Open Access Week (October 21-25)**, a global event now entering its sixth year. You will find a schedule of events at [http://libguides.fiu.edu/OAWeek2013](http://libguides.fiu.edu/OAWeek2013). The centerpiece of this year’s activities is the establishment of the FIU Open Access Publishing Fund.

“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 as you need – has the power to transform the way research and scientific inquiry are conducted. The International Open Access Week website [http://www.openaccessweek.org/page/about](http://www.openaccessweek.org/page/about) provides excellent background and context:

> We engage and invest in research in order to accelerate the pace of scientific discovery, encourage innovation, enrich education, and stimulate the economy – to improve the public good. Communication of the results of research is an essential component of the research process; research can only advance by sharing the results, and the value of an investment in research is only maximized through wide use of its results.

> Yet, too often, because of cost barriers or use restrictions, research results are not available to the full community of potential users. The Internet gives us the opportunity to bring this crucial information to a worldwide audience at virtually no marginal cost, and allows us to use it in new, innovative ways. This has resulted in a call for new framework to allow research results to be more easily accessed and used— the call for Open Access.

> 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 OA 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.

As part of this year’s Open Access Week activities, the FIU Libraries are pleased to announce the launch of a pilot project, the **FIU Open Access Publishing Initiative (FIU-OAP)**. The FIU-OAP will support the publication of FIU research in scholarly open access (OA) journals, making our research freely and globally available. Open Access publishing discounts for all FIU authors began on June 1st with PLoS, Hindawi, BioMed Central, Chemistry Central and SpringerOpen. The second phase will begin November 1, when the fund will assist FIU authors by paying pre-determined article processing and publishing fees for peer-reviewed scholarly articles in approved open access journals, or for a portion of paid open access fees charged by other approved publishers. Articles in compliance with established criteria will be funded on a first-come, first served basis. **An information sheet outlining the details of the program is available at** [http://libguides.fiu.edu/OAP](http://libguides.fiu.edu/OAP).

The FIU Libraries continue to support the OA publishing movement via **Digital Commons** [http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu](http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu), FIU’s institutional repository. Authors may deposit pre- and/or post-print...
copies of articles to the repository, enabling global discovery and access. The Digital Commons platform promotes faculty and student research to the global community. It also offers journal hosting service, with a full suite of online tools to support the entire submission, review, and publishing process for open access online journals.

Some FIU faculty members are already engaged in OA publishing endeavors. In fiscal year 2012-13, FIU faculty members in the departments of Physics, Dietetics and Nutrition, Biomedical Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Teaching and Learning, Social Work, Global and Sociocultural Studies, LACC and many others published in OA scholarly publications. And, in 2014, FIU faculty members, in conjunction with peers from other institutions, will launch an OA journal in the field of International Political Economy, joining a number of other journals which are published using FIU Libraries’ Digital Commons.

FIU librarian Stephanie Brenenson (brenenso@fiu.edu), is leading the OA effort at the FIU Libraries. If you have questions about the OA Publishing Fund, or about OA publishing in general, I encourage you to contact her.