

Workshop 2

Title

Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Faculty Perceptions of Open Access in the Social Sciences and Humanities

Coordinators

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Scope and Rationale

In this session we will present the qualitative methods and analysis process used in the study, including intentional approaches to collecting demographic data for BIPOC subjects. This included asking participants to self-identify race, ethnicity, gender, nationality, and how their race or ethnicity is perceived in order to gain a deeper perspective on how identity impacts tenure, promotion, and open knowledge production. We will also present results of the study that include perceptions of whether open access publishing contributes to or challenges racial, geographic, and language biases in the global south and academic publishing broadly. We will open a discussion with session attendees to further discuss audiences experiences with knowledge inequities.

Abstract

In 2020, our research team (Thomas and Bryant) conducted a qualitative study on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Faculty Perceptions of Open Access in the Social Sciences and Humanities (which will be published in the forthcoming 2023 College and Research Libraries special issue on Open Access). We interviewed an international pool of 38 faculty who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, a population which is historically underrepresented in academia. The focus groups were semi-structured with a controlled set of questions, and some follow up questions as participants elaborated on their experiences and knowledge of open access. Racial and ethnic identities were collected as well as gender, professional status, and institution size. The investigators used a grounded theory method to analyze results, coding themes emerging from perceptions and lived experiences. Participants highlighted their perceptions of the culture (or lack thereof) of open access at institutions. However, participants did identify informal messaging and experiences with the publishing process which illustrated inequities in the scholarly communication landscape. Outcomes of the study will benefit libraries by encouraging empathy, critical examinations of open access, and informing outreach to BIPOC faculty and models for scholarly communication services.

Keywords

Black, indigenous, people of color, open access, humanities, social science, academic publishing