

Appalachian State University
[University Research Council](#)
January 21, 2025 - 4:00-5:00 PM
Approved Minutes

Meeting Time: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Karen Fletcher convened the meeting at approximately 4:00 PM.

Present: Adam Hege, Alan Needle, Ashlea Green, Ashley Colquitt, Ashley Marshall, Becki Battista, Charna Howson, Christine Hendren, David Russell, Dennis Guignet, Ellen Cowan, Grace Plummer, Heather Waldroup, Jennifer McGee, Karen Fletcher, Nicholas Cline, Nimet Degirmencioglu, Panda Powell, Twila Wingrove

Excused/Absent: Xiaofei Tu, Qingqing Sun, Gabriele Casale, Shanté Mathes, Chauntee Thrill

Admin: Whitney Wallett

Guests: Natalie Foreman, Agnes Gambill, Kevin Freeman

Thank you, Heather Waldroup, for volunteering to take minutes.

Introductions

New Admin:	Whitney Wallett (Office of Research and Innovation)
New Council Members:	David Russell (College of Arts and Sciences)
	Ellen Cowan (College of Arts and Sciences)
	Qingqing Sun (College of Fine and Applied Arts)

Approval of Minutes

November 19, 2024 [meeting minutes](#)

Motion to Approve by: Heather Waldroup

Motion Seconded by: Ashley Marshall

No discussion. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions beyond those not in attendance. November 2024 minutes approved.

New Business

I. Presentation: Appalachian Libraries - Digital Scholarship and Initiatives.

Presenters: Agnes Gambill, Head of Scholarly Communications; Kevin Freeman, 3D scanning and Metadata; Natalie Foreman, Open Access Publishing Manager

- Natalie Foreman introduced herself and her fellow presenters before reviewing some of the subjects and services that the Digital Scholarship and Initiatives group is typically responsible for, including: digital scholarship preservation and access, copyright use, intellectual property, open access and scholarly communications, metadata services, and associated resources/guidance. Natalie indicated that more information could be found at DSI's website: <https://dsi.appstate.edu>.
- Agnes Gambill presented the Appalachian Book Publishing Support Program (ABPSP) that she developed in early 2024 to meet a campus need for services and programming to support faculty in book publishing. Two categories of immediate needs emerged - (1) structured time for writing with peer support, and (2) practical workshops that explain the nuances of academic book publishing. Tracy Smith and the CETLSS team tackled the first with a Winter Writing Retreat program held in December 2024. This retreat focused on creating structured time for writing and providing peer support for faculty that could benefit from a community of writers. Agnes addressed the second need by developing the ABPSP to help faculty understand the practicalities of publishing and how to take practical steps to actually get published. Getting published with an academic publisher or university press is a "difficult and sometimes mysterious" process, and the traditional book publishing world is complex to navigate, especially for first-time authors. This led Agnes to structure the ABPSP around specific goals: helping faculty figure out how to write a book proposal, how to work with editors, and how to land a book deal with a publisher. Agnes held a half-day of workshops in early October 2024 covering topics such as how to land a scholarly book contract, how to work with an editor, and how to pitch a book proposal. Workshops were led by senior editors at major university presses, such as the editor-in-chief at UGA, the executive editor at UNC - Chapel Hill, and the senior acquisitions editor at USC. Following the workshops, faculty members had the opportunity to pitch their book ideas and proposals to those senior editors, a rare opportunity given the editors' authority to make acquisitions decisions and tendency to be very hard to contact. Pitch sessions were structured in a speed-dating manner, with faculty only having 15 minutes to both deliver an elevator pitch and receive feedback from the editor. The 2024 iteration of the APBPSP was an experimental pilot project, and Agnes hopes to keep hosting the program on an annual basis as a service to the faculty on behalf of University

Libraries. The pilot project allowed Agnes to collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative data from surveys, reviews, and interviews conducted with the 43 faculty, staff, and graduate students registered as participants. The majority of participants were faculty from humanities disciplines, but the social sciences and STEM disciplines were also well-represented. Pitch sessions with editors were in high demand, with 22 total requests for the nine spots available, but other workshops, including marketing, book promotion, copyright, open access publishing deals, contracts, and STEM publishing, were also interesting to participants. The editors that participated stressed the heightened importance of the book proposal and that book proposals should be treated as their own genre with a specific, expected style. Editors made it clear that a strong proposal is probably the most important factor persuading them into book deals. Agnes' future goals for the ABPSP include developing stronger relationships with local and regional publishers and senior acquisitions editors to provide a pipeline of editors accessible to our faculty. Editors that presented noted that faculty from non-R1 institutions are often overlooked, so it's critical to host similar programs to get our faculty in front of the publishers and put Appalachian State on their radar.

- Kevin Freeman provided an overview of the capabilities and potential uses of DSI's Digital 3D Scanning resources as they relate to university research, showing 3D scans of the following: the winning sculpture from a 2023 student-wide art contest, a Special Collections artifact/candle from the 2007 Transgender Day of Remembrance, a prosthetic leg that resulted from a 'design meets disability' project completed by students in the Department of Applied Design, Special Collections' clothing/costumes worn by 1930s/40s country-music duo Lulu Belle and Scotty, and a large sculpture from the Turchin Center. Kevin highlighted that this technology makes exhibits and collections that someone may not be able to come in and see for themselves, or that someone may not be able to peruse due to Special Collections' restrictions, viewable and accessible online. In addition, the scans generated can be used to make 3D-printed replicas of items or artifacts in the library's Makerspace, and the portable nature of the scanning equipment and recent acquisition of a Matterport camera have the potential to make 'walkable' scans of large rooms, objects in the field, full galleries, etc. an option. The library's website hosts '[Treasures from the Archives](#)', a curated selection of 3D models of artifacts from several university collections, as well as additional information, FAQs, and the intake form needed to request 3D scanning services [<https://library.appstate.edu/technology/3d-scanning>]. As the program looks to the future, departmental outreach and informing the campus community on what all they can do is a top priority.

- Natalie Foreman introduced and previewed Open AIR (App State Institutional Repository), a forthcoming all-in-one institutional repository used to showcase and track all forms - papers, datasets, and non-traditional products - of the university's research output. Open AIR stands to equip our faculty, staff, and students to adhere to open content principles, and will advance App State's participation in open science with its capacity to allow the sharing of/collaboration on large datasets with a broad audience. As UNC-G can no longer host NC DOCKS, the long-time institutional repository, the library is seizing this opportunity to upgrade its own repository. Open AIR will be hosted on the cloud on the FigShare platform and offer a modern, easy-to-use interface with an exciting array of features to help showcase researchers' work soon. Testing of the Open AIR stage environment is slated to start early next week, and if the two-week testing period goes to plan, a soft launch of the repository can be expected by the end of February. After the soft launch, the new repository will be up and running for the addition of any new content, and a migration process of existing content from NC DOCKS into the new repository will be completed.
- Questions:
 - Will the transition from NC DOCKS to Open AIR be in lieu of a previously communicated transition from NC DOCKS to Fig Share? No, Open AIR is the name of the repository, but FigShare remains the platform (i.e., Open AIR is a FigShare repository). Open AIR can be expected to retain familiar FigShare features/capabilities. Ashlea Green chatted: Unlike NCDOCKS, the new IR has DOI minting features.
 - Is OpenAIR intended primarily for reports and publications, or will it include things like code or data sets as well? Whereas the primary content of NC DOCKS was theses, dissertations, and journal articles, Open AIR will be capable of accepting a much broader range of file types and content, including datasets and code.
 - Is the library able to weigh in on confusion concerning copyright concerns, publication agreements, etc., or is it mainly left to researchers to determine how to post/share materials responsibly? The library can assist with these concerns. Sherpa Romeo provides a lot of information concerning specific protocols in regard to publication on the repository, and library staff are happy to help you ensure that what you're posting is in congruence with the publication you're working with. Depending on the publication, that may require an embargo for a stipulated amount of time or other conditions, but the library is happy to assist you through the process.
 - Will faculty be able to upload materials on their own, or will there be some sort of centralized portal to go into/through if you'd like to upload

something? Everyone who works at App State will have access to the deposit site with their App State login. As the site is currently being set up, users will upload their own content to be reviewed internally, and if there are no questions or concerns, the content will be published directly. The process is in multiple steps at this early phase, but eventually faculty, staff, and students will be able to upload their own content.

- With the 3D printing technology as it currently stands, is it possible to scan an outdoor environment? It's totally possible, and that's something the library is working on at the moment. With the Matterport camera, you can take multiple scans and assemble them into a 'tour' of the room or area; they're attempting to do this with the first floor of the library right now. They've already started with the third floor, and as it's a massive space with lots of objects within, a scan of an outdoor space should be feasible.

II. Open Discussion

A. AI and App State

1. How are faculty using AI?

- a) App State NotebookLM provides a fascinating way to have a closed-circuit AI interaction. In NotebookLM, you download your own sources and can pose related questions from them. It can't generate content as it only pulls from the sources that you put into it, but it can create podcasts, quizzes, etc. These are the types of things coming out of AI tools that can be useful (or scary).
- b) Concern expressed about not using AI enough, and how students are using it to write their papers without ever reviewing what the robot or AI wrote.
- c) Recent candidate searches - appear many cover letters were very similar and likely AI-generated. Noted: although the creation of cover letters is a fine use of AI, users should still be reviewing the product and ensuring that their voice is still coming through.
- d) Use of <https://elicit.com/> which has been a great tool to get some articles.

2. What do faculty want to know about how AI and research intersect?

- a) Questions concerning different sponsors' limitations on the use of AI (e.g., when it needs to be disclosed or not). It might be nice for ORI to give guidance on what those rules are, as well as some boilerplate language to use for related disclosure(s). ORI has an existing AI guidance policy page (link below) that was started as a resource last year. The page should be reviewed for any necessary

updates as AI increases in capacity; anyone can submit suggested changes or additions to the page at any time.

<https://grs.appstate.edu/get-started/proposal-development/generative-ai-and-research-guidelines>

- b) On the institutional repository (Open AIR) side of things, the library is discussing developing policies on data/content redistribution, in terms of users downloading content and feeding it into AI for analysis. This is something repositories are grappling with. Here's an example policy:
<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/datamanagement/policies/redistribute.html>

If anyone has any thoughts or suggestions on this, please let Ashlea know.

- c) Christine Hendren asked if anyone on the URC is also on any of several AI committees on campus (e.g., Gabe Casale sits on the Chancellor's AI Committee, Academic Affairs has its own AI committee, etc.). Hearing none, she passed on an institutional repository wish for related policy(-ies) to help ensure that everybody is aware of any changes given the rapid pace at which they're made.
- d) One concern/topic of discussion is how quickly AI is integrated into professional creative software (Adobe, music production, etc.). Simply keeping pace with the development and thinking about how to train students to use/learn how to use these AI-enhanced tools. And what that means for education in the field.

B. ORCID ID

1. The following information concerns ORCID IDs, as well as ORI's efforts to encourage App State researchers and/or contributors to obtain their own:
 - a) What is ORCID? ORCID stands for Open Researcher and Contributor ID, a unique identifier that helps distinguish researchers across different platforms and institutions
 - b) ORCID iD is currently required for most grant submissions to federal agencies like the NIH, AHRQ, CDC, and NSF, meaning that you generally need to provide your ORCID when applying for a grant from these organizations; this requirement is expected to become standard across all federal funding agencies by the end of 2025.

- c) Many journals and publishers require or at least recommend authors to provide an ORCID iD at submission. This is a good thing—as more and more publishers enable authors to link their ORCID iD to their work, it becomes that much easier for authors to associate their professional output with their professional identity.
 - d) It's free, simple, and a quick process (approx. 5 min) to register: <https://orcid.org/>
 - e) ORCID can be an easier way to log in to grant systems. Users do have the ability to add/associate former publications and materials to their ORCID once created.
2. Ashlea Green chatted: Can't remember if it's required for ORCID creation, but App State's ROR = <https://ror.org/051m4vc48>. Charna Howson responded in the chat with: ROR is not needed to create the ORCID ID but could be helpful. Who on our campus maintains this data? This is not known at this time.
 3. Charna Howson reiterated that ORCIDs will be mandatory for anyone applying to Federal agencies in the future and that the ability of the ORCID to identify specific individuals - across time, institutions, or name changes - is a useful benefit. It also provides a very efficient way to pull in all of your publications and personal data when populating applications and/or support forms for Federal grants.
 4. Dennis Guignet confirmed that ORCID was the easiest of 4 or 5 login methods when attempting a recent application.
 5. URC members should relay this information and encourage others in their colleges or departments to obtain their ORCIDs. Charna Howson indicated that she may have a handout or information that she's provided to people in the past, and that she will pass it on when she's able to locate it. Karen Fletcher requested that they work together to provide this language/information to all URC members.
 6. Heather Waldroup asked if users have the ability to link their ORCID to past work or publications. Charna Howson indicated that yes, users can associate former publications to their ORCID, but that she would have to review the process for how to do so.

C. USAID Visit to Campus (via OIP)

1. Jeff Cohen of the Office of International Programs has been invited to join the URC, is working to bring USAID to campus, and has asked what the URC would like to hear about:
 - a) A brief overview about what it is.
 - b) Funding Opportunities

- c) Relationship building with USAID
- d) Internships for students
- e) Opportunities for students, including research opportunities.
(Office of Student Research would be interested in this)
- f) General info session

Old Business

- I. URC grant
 - A. Language re: better defining allowable costs to be inclusive of creative arts
 - 1. Panda Powell is drafting sample language to consider.

Announcements

- Please encourage new faculty (last three year start) to attend the New Faculty Researcher Welcome Event, **January 30, PSU 420 Parkway Ballroom, 2:00 - 3:30pm**. URC members are encouraged to attend to meet new faculty and be 'experts' in the room for new faculty. The event is an informal tabling event where faculty can move from one table/poster to another to gather information about research resources on campus. Light refreshments will be provided to encourage mingling. Research bingo will be available.
- Please encourage your colleagues to attend. [Research and Creative Activity at Appalachian event](#) has been rescheduled for **Wednesday, February 5th from 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm** in the Hayes School of Music, Rosen Concert Hall. Five-minute lightning style talks will take place from 2 - 3:00pm and from 4 - 6:00pm. From 3:00 - 4:00 there will be an intermission with light refreshments and posters. Please come support your fellow faculty and encourage others in your college to attend.
- Research podcast now streaming on Spotify: [Research Excellence: Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity](#). First two episodes feature the 2024 Chancellor and Provost awardees for Research Excellence. Karen Fletcher added that episodes were delayed due to Helene but will be released monthly when regular schedule resumed.
- Office of Student Research - Research Grants are available in February. Travel Grants are still available and must be completed at least one month prior to departure. Becki Battista added that every spring in the past five years, OSR has had a UNC System request for proposals for undergraduate research addressing the creation of cures, diversity & inclusion, and digital learning. Grants are for \$35,000, funds must be spent within the following fiscal year, and the associated RFP will be released the first week in February and due in April.
- Save the Date - Annual Celebration of Student Research and Creative Endeavors - Wednesday, April 16, 2025. Becki Battista added that this event celebrates the endeavors of both undergraduate and graduate students, and that the call for abstracts will begin the first week of February and end right before spring break. This event will include the poster competition again, and more information will be available on the website and in

correspondence from the Research Google group. Becki also relayed the need for both reviewers and day-of help for the event.

- Graduate Student (GSGA) Travel and Research grants- January 31st and March 31st
- Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT)- Friday, January 24th 1-4 PM (PSU 226 Linville Falls)
- Ashlea Green relayed that an Elsevier Read & Publish deal for 2025 has been negotiated by the Carolina Consortium, as well as the following details:
 - The deal began on January 1.
 - APC (article processing charge) waivers will be for hybrid OA journals only, they will not be applied to any fully Gold OA journals.
 - Fully Gold OA journals: All content is open access, and usually, authors have to pay APCs to publish there.
 - Hybrid OA journals: Part of the journal is open access (for authors who pay the APC), but the rest of the content is still behind a paywall.
 - Based on current publishing trends, we expect to have enough waivers (for Open Access licensing) to cover App State corresponding authors for almost all of 2025. Some exceptions will apply.
 - The waivers will not cover monographs, book chapters, book reviews, or editorials.
 - For more info, contact John Wiswell at wiswellj@appstate.edu, or see this page: <https://guides.library.appstate.edu/publishing-trends> for 2025 trends; or this page for a list of Elsevier journals:
https://guides.library.appstate.edu/ld.php?content_id=79512541

Next meeting to be held via Zoom on February 18, 2025 at 4:00 pm.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by: Grace Plummer

Motion Seconded by Ellen Cowan. Meeting adjourned at 4:57 pm.