Final Report

Richard Hayman - #101539

Project Title: *Investigating Faculty Perceptions of Open Access and Predatory Publications*

1.1 Project Summary

This study engaged the intersection of research and practice by analyzing scholars' awareness and knowledge of open access and predatory publishing at a Canadian, teaching and learning-focused undergraduate university, with a focus on issues related to both research and teaching contexts. Participants were limited to full-time faculty who self-identified as engaging in research and scholarship who opted-in to an online survey with closed- and open-ended questions. Survey data was analyzed using a combination of descriptive statistics and generic qualitative thematic coding strategies.

1.2 Project Outcomes and Impacts

The main outcomes of this project include a better understanding of the trends in perceptions of both open access and predatory publishing among MRU faculty. It is important to understand faculty attitudes toward these topics in the context of the various pressures faced by researchers, including the publish or perish environment in which they research, the limited support resources available, and increasing demands for accountability around making research outputs widely available. As an evidence-based practitioner, the findings will inform my own practice as a campus expert on these topics. In addition, it is my hope that publishing the findings will contribute to the overall research, theory, and practice around the systems of academic publishing, and in fostering accountable and sustainable scholarly dissemination and knowledge mobilization. Finally, the mentorship and training of a undergraduate research assistant was another outcome of this project.