

Universal Access Digital Library Summit
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Opening Remarks



*Peter Nicholls, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of Connecticut*

It is a pleasure to be co-hosting this summit with my colleagues from the Universities of Massachusetts and New Hampshire. I'd like to thank the Sloan Foundation for sponsoring this event.

I've worked exclusively at public universities since I came to the United States and, as the current Executive Vice President and Provost at a Research I public university, I am keenly aware of the need for information of all kinds to be available in the public domain. As we engage in research at the University of Connecticut, it is vitally important that our faculty, staff and students have access to the broadest array of knowledge possible and, at the same time, it is critical that our researchers' findings are shared with the research community as quickly as possible.

Fortunately, at the University of Connecticut, our libraries and faculty members are actively supporting open access to our research output. Our library was a charter member of SPARC and BioOne. Both our Graduate Research Council and our University Senate have passed resolutions supporting faculty copyright retention. Our faculty, staff and students are encouraged to deposit their research in our institutional repository, the Digital Commons@UConn. Our institutional repository currently houses about 5,000 documents that are downloaded about 100,000 times a year. Last spring, we moved rapidly to comply with the NIH Public Access Policy at both our Storrs and Health Center Campuses.

Both President Hogan and I also strongly support our Libraries' participation in the Open Content Alliance. As a public university we have a strong commitment to public engagement and we are pleased to see our Libraries contributing rare and unique materials to the public domain in digital formats. We plan to remain committed to our University's participation in the Open Content Alliance for the foreseeable future.

Thank you very much.

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