

## **Title: Collaboration, Communities and Collectives: Understanding Collaboration in the Scholarly Commons**

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**Level:** Beginner to intermediate

**Intended audience:** This course is suitable for all involved in scholarly communication, including researchers, librarians, publishers and funders.

### **Description:**

This course will focus on how scholarly communication turns into collaboration. The course will have two parts: 1) the theory of collaboration and competition, and 2) the Scholarly Commons as a special case of collaboration.

### **Part 1: The Global Research Community as Collaboration**

We will introduce a view on the global research community as a scholarly labor division system with collaborating and coordinating researchers. Then we will provide an introduction to the different types of such collaboration, and present a comparison of these types along several axes. We will introduce an abstract model of collaboration to analyze what distinguishes collaboration from communication and why people use many types of collaboration. Based on this model, we will look at scholarly collaboration mechanisms. We will discuss limitations of the scholarly publishing infrastructure, academic journals and traditional scholarly citation practice as a collaboration mechanism. We will analyze major requirements for scholarly communication tools and institutes needed to design a better mechanism for scholarly communication and more efficient collaboration.

There will be four short interactive sessions devoted to the following topics:

1. What are collaboration and competition within the scholarly labor division system?
2. What are incentives and expectations of researchers when they cite each other?
3. How much collaboration is enough, and why might researchers not like extra collaboration?
4. What are the ideal forms of scholarly communication and collaboration, and what are the main obstacles for them?

## Part 2: The Scholarly Commons as Collaborative Collective

The second part of the course will consider the Scholarly Commons as a special case of collaboration.

The principles of the Scholarly Commons

(<https://www.force11.org/scholarly-commons/principles>) are a Force11 initiative to define ways to practice open, inclusive and reproducible science and scholarship. The principles can function as an agreement among researchers and other stakeholders in scholarly communication to make research open and participatory. There are many “Open” manifestos, guidelines and statements; the Scholarly Commons leverages these by focusing on the implementation of such statements by individual actors.

This part of the course introduces students to the concepts of the commons and some of the techniques and technologies we have developed to assist in their implementation. Because the commons focuses on the individual rather than the system, this work will be necessarily hands-on. Participants will survey their own disciplines and practice for compliance or non-compliance with the principles, as well as discuss what steps might be necessary to make more of their practice open, inclusive and reproducible. In addition to bringing the commons into their own practice, students can anticipate feeding their own practice back into the commons: what aspects of your practice, discipline, or linguistic or economic context could be leveraged by others to improve their practice of scholarly and scientific communication?

## Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Describe in broad terms traditional scholarly communication as a collaboration and a competition activities among researchers within the scholarly labor division system.
- Understand differences between communication and collaboration.
- Identify and discuss significant differences between main types of collaboration, including collaboration in a team, in a hierarchical organization and in a global research community. What type of collaboration is the best one, and why do people use all of them?
- Describe the roles and limitations of a scholarly publishing infrastructure, academic journals and traditional citation practice as a scholarly collaboration mechanism.
- Apply an abstract model of collaboration within a global research community and articulate the major requirements for scholarly communication tools and institutes to respond to the question on: What would global scholarly collaboration look like if we were to design its mechanism again, given current technologies?

## Course Topics

This course will be presented over five days for 3 hours each morning and will cover the following topics

- Scholarly labor division system and how it works
- Scholarly communication, cooperation and collaboration
- Model of collaboration, shared mental models
- Limitations of academic publishing infrastructure as an instrument of scholarly communication
- Requirements for scholarly communication tools and institutes needed to design a better mechanism for scholarly communication and more efficient collaboration
- The current state and future prospects for open science and scholarship
- How researchers, librarians, and managers can promote the uptake of openness in their areas of competence and interest.

## Course Schedule

### Day 1 - Monday

#### Introduction (Antonova, Parinov, Martone, O'Donnell)

- About the course
- Outline of the week
- Opening exercises
- Day 1 conclusions

### Day 2 - Tuesday

#### Collaboration

- Communication, cooperation and collaboration
- Model of collaboration and shared mental models
- Day 2 conclusions

### Day 3 - Wednesday

#### Collaboration

- Traditional scholarly communication instruments
- Opportunities and requirements for designing a research information system provided better scholarly cooperation and collaboration

#### The Scholarly Commons: Collaboration for the Public Good

- Background and history to the Scholarly Commons
- What if we could start over again? What would an ideal Scholarly Communications system look like?
- Day 3 conclusions

### Day 4 - Thursday

#### Scholarly Commons

- Operationalising the Commons: What would it take to make open scholarly communications the default?

## **Day 5 - Friday**

### **Case studies and further research**

- On the last day we will look at student case histories in greater detail, and develop future plans for improving collaboration as an beyond the Commons.

## **Course Materials and Supplies**

## **Other Resources**

## **Other Helpful Information**