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Paywall: A Conversation about the Business of Scholarship with Filmmaker Jason Schmitt

Have you ever hit a paywall? That is, have you ever tried to access an article, book, or other resource and found it is restricted until you pay for it? Taking aim at paywalls is one of the many ways the Open Access movement is working to make research widely available to a worldwide community and is the focus of a documentary called *Paywall: The Business of Scholarship*. The documentary, being produced and directed by Clarkson University Associate Professor of Communications & Media Jason Schmitt, will be the focus of an event co-hosted by the UConn Library and Humanities Institute on Wednesday, October 25th at 2:30pm.



Why take aim at paywalls? The issue rests in research being inaccessible to those who could use it for potentially groundbreaking results. Open access allows more information to be added to the intellectual record and increases opportunities for collaboration, which is an integral component to developing the innovative strategies needed to address today's complex issues. "There is nothing gained other than money, and power, and things that as people we should want to push up against," an interviewee states from a *Paywall* movie trailer. Add to this that access costs continue to rise as library budgets continue to decrease, causing the burden to fall on the researcher to ensure that access to this restricted information is not lost.

Paywall: the Business of Scholarship takes a multi-disciplinary approach to the subject, containing interviews with a wide range of researchers such as neuroscientists and psychologists, librarians, and members of Open Access advocacy groups. Jason will screen and discuss the footage from his in-progress documentary and engage a panel of local guests who will share their views on making the results of academic research freely accessible online.

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Wednesday, October 25, 2:30-4:00pm

Konover Auditorium

Thomas J. Dodd Research Center

UConn, Storrs

For more information, please contact Jean Nelson at jean.nelson@uconn.edu