# Academic Librarians, Open Access, and the Ethics of Care

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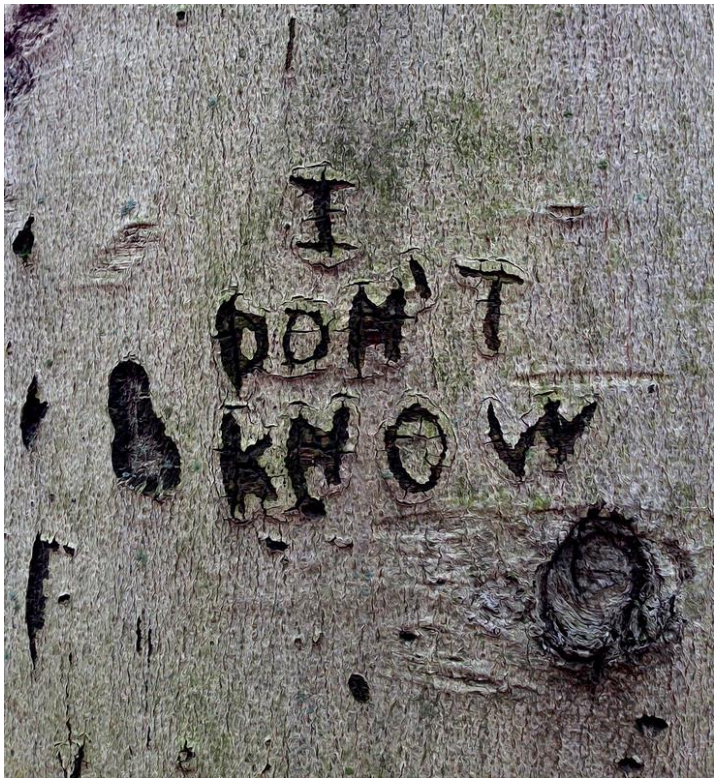
# My starting point . . .

- The non-university public (for whom we are ostensibly engaging in open access work) are seldom the target of open access education and advocacy efforts, nor are they regular participants in conversations about the value and impact of open access.



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# Got to thinking . . .

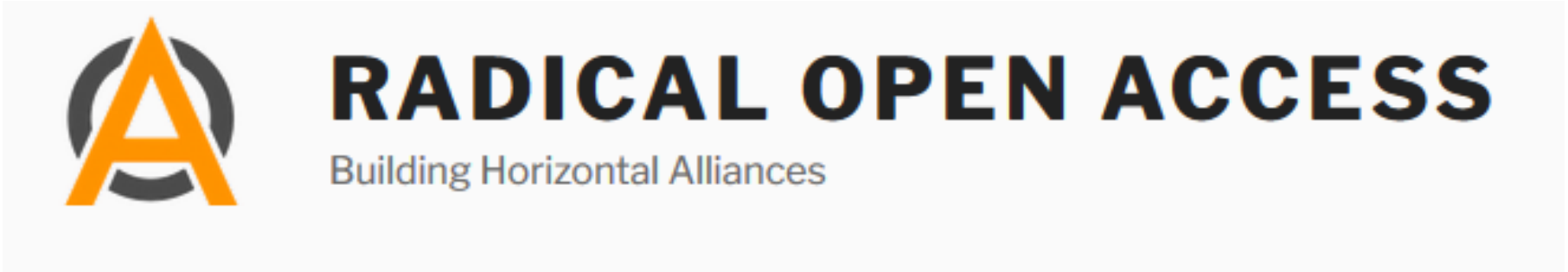
Might the ethics of care, a feminist framework for acknowledging relational interdependencies and valuing care, provide inspiration for scholarly communication librarians considering open access advocacy and education beyond the academic setting?

# What is the Ethics of Care?

- Feminist philosophical framework
- Relational, interdependent
- 1st and 2nd generation theorists
- Not just personal, but social, economic, political implications

"a *species* of activity that includes everything we do to maintain, contain, and repair our 'world' so that we can live in it as well as possible" (Fischer & Tronto, 1991, 40).

# Inspiration . . .



# 4 Phases

1. Attentiveness—"caring about"
2. Responsibility—"taking care of"
3. Competency—"care-giving"
4. Responsiveness—"care receiving"

Tronto, J. (1993). *Moral boundaries: A political argument for an ethic of care*. New York: Routledge.

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# Conclusion

Care ethics provide a new way for academic librarians to think about their scholarly communication work.

Care ethics moves scholarly communication decisions beyond the personal to highlight the moral and political imperative of open access work.

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