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In response to Steven Schwartz (“The end of the scholarly journal” Campus Review 18.5, 2008: 5), I would like to point out another more author-friendly alternative to Library databases such as the National Library of Medicine, PubMed Central or other online open access repositories, that may, as he speculates, turn to charging fees from the contributing authors. This additional option is the university operated self-archival facility, which is usually accessed via the universities library home page under the title “ePrints”. At my institution, Queensland University of Technology, it is free and simple for postgraduate students and staff to upload complete published papers (or abstracts if subject to a publisher’s embargo), papers in press or under review for publication and papers that are still at draft stage or that are not yet ready for publication (i.e. preprints). Such a facility has many benefits: it further strengthens copyright and discourages plagiarism of work that is circulating as it is reviewed for publication since each paper uploaded to ePrints is dated; it permits statistics regarding the number of times the paper has been accessed to be automatically acquired (I’m hoping to crack the QUT “Top 50 Authors” list sometime soon!); it permits browsing across the entire repository according to subject, year or person; it enables searching the entire repository according to title, abstract or keywords; and it can let the user search across multiple ePrint archives. Reworked versions of preprints can be uploaded to replace older drafts. Each ePrint also includes, where applicable, a hyperlink to the URL where the paper resides, if it has been published in an online journal. If it is a book that is commercially available, the ePrint may consist simply of a synopsis and a link to the publisher’s homepage where the book may (hopefully) be purchased, thus serving as free advertising for the entrepreneurial author. And although it is described as an “Open access archive of QUT research literature”, I am permitted to upload my creative writing, some of which has been published in online journals that may not still be operating in years to come. As a student and staff member in the creative industries, this is an invaluable asset: each time I send an email my signature at the bottom includes a link to my ePrints, thereby acting as my de facto CV.

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