WHAT ARE LIBRARIES DOING AS PUBLISHERS?

Overview of Themes and Trends in Library Publishing
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AAUP Annual Meeting
June 23, 2014
What is library publishing?

Library publishing is the set of activities led by college and university libraries to support the creation, dissemination, and curation of scholarly, creative, and/or educational works.

Generally, library publishing:
• requires a production process;
• presents original work not previously made available;
• and applies a level of certification to the content published, whether through peer review or extension of the institutional brand.

Based on core library values and building on the traditional skills of librarians, it is distinguished from other publishing fields by a preference for Open Access dissemination and a willingness to embrace informal and experimental forms of scholarly communication and to challenge the status quo.
Service model

SCHOLAR
- content
- editorial focus
- peer review

LIBRARIAN
- production
- hosting
- distribution
- marketing
- preservation
- metadata
- copyright
- consultation
- training

PUBLICATION
Partners

- Faculty
- Students
- University presses (28)
- Campus departments
- Research centers
- Scholarly societies
- Research institutes
- Museums
- Private collections
- Library networks and consortia
- Other non-profits
Publications

- Electronic theses/dissertations: 79%
- Faculty-driven journals: 75%
- Student-driven journals: 56%
- Conference proceedings: 40%
- Technical/research reports: 40%
- Monographs: 37%
- Textbooks: 10%
Editorial programs

- Specific disciplines (e.g., philosophy, ecology, education)
- Geographic areas (e.g., the American South)
- Institutional focus (e.g., alumni mag., undergrad research)
Motivations

• Provide alternatives to commercial scholarly publishers
• Publish work that doesn’t “fit” elsewhere
• Complement existing campus publishing operations
Business models

• Preference for OA
  • 91% describe their programs as mostly or completely OA

• Lightweight publishing workflows keep costs low
  • Digital-only or digital and print-on-demand
  • Lean workforce
  • Reduced emphasis on “legacy” services

• But there are still significant costs
  • Staff time
  • Platform implementation and maintenance
  • Content storage and preservation
  • Production
Funding

- Library operating budget
- Library materials budget
  - redirect resources from purchase to publish
- Sales revenue
  - usually through freemium models
- Charge backs to content creators/editors
- Non-library campus budget
- Grants
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