Library Publishing Coalition: A Community-Driven Initiative to Advance Library Publishing
University of Michigan
October 1, 2013
About the LPC

A two-year project (January 2013 to December 2014) led by 60 academic libraries, in collaboration with the Educopia Institute, to design and build a membership organization dedicated to advancing the emerging field of library publishing.
Our Mission

The Library Publishing Coalition promotes the development of innovative, sustainable publishing services in academic and research libraries to support scholars as they create, advance, and disseminate knowledge.
Aims and Ambitions

• Encourage mainstreaming of library publishing in a range of forms, appropriate to different institution sizes, goals;

• Establish effective channels and networks, both within the library community and between library publishing efforts and other publishers, that ultimately improve the scholarly communications ecosystem; and

• Provide services to practitioners.
Project Foundation

- **Strategies for Success** project and report
  - IMLS-funded project led by Purdue University, Georgia Tech, University of Utah, and SPARC
  - Survey of academic libraries of all sizes
  - 120 attendees at three workshops

- Evidence-based recommendations
  - Develop best practices
  - Collaborate to create community-based resources
  - Formalize skills and training
Project Deliverables

- Design, implementation, and launch of the LPC
- Targeted research
  - Document the range of activities
  - Refine justification and positioning
  - Help libraries envision and develop services
- Knowledge base of model documents
- First edition of Directory of Library Publishing Services
- First annual LPC Forum
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.
Who is doing library publishing?

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<th>2010* (have or are interested in)</th>
<th>2013** (have active program)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>56</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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* [http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1166&context=lib_research](http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1166&context=lib_research)

** Library Publishing Coalition survey ([http://www.librarypublishing.org/resources/directory-library-publishing-services](http://www.librarypublishing.org/resources/directory-library-publishing-services))
Publications

- ETDs (79%)
- Faculty-driven journals (75%)
- Student-driven journals (56%)
- Monographs (37%)
- Textbooks (10%)
- Technical/research reports
- Conference proceedings
- Digital humanities projects
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 traditional publishers
• Publish work that doesn’t “fit” elsewhere
• Complement existing campus publishing operations
• Extend library involvement within the research lifecycle
Services: Access, discovery, preservation

- Publishing platform
  - OJS/OCS/OMS (45%)
  - DSpace (37%)
  - Digital Commons (bepress) (35%)
  - Locally developed software (20%)
  - Wordpress (19%)
- Metadata (85%)
- Assignment of identifiers (42%)
- Digital preservation (95%)
Services: Outreach and education

- Outreach (55%)
- Training (67%)
- Author copyright advisory (78%)
- Other author advisory (35%)
Services: Editorial and production

- Peer review management (29%)
- Copyediting (23%)
- Typesetting (20%)
- Graphic design (40%)
- Marketing (40%)
- Compiling indexes (11%)
- Print-on-demand services (16%)
- Digitization (77%)
Services: Business planning

- Budget preparation (6%)
- Business model development (12%)
- Contracts and licenses (28%)
Organization

- Centralized in a library department (46%)
- Distributed across the library (36%)
Partners: On campus

- University presses
- Campus departments
- Research centers
- Individual faculty
- Students
Partners: External

- Scholarly societies
- Research institutes
- Individual faculty
- Museums
- Private collections
- Library networks and consortia
- Non-profits
Sustainability: Costs

- Lightweight publishing workflows keep costs low
  - Digital-only or digital and print-on-demand
  - Less emphasis on copyediting, typesetting services
  - No heavy marketing
- But there are still significant costs
  - Platform implementation and maintenance
  - Staff time
  - Unique identifiers
  - Storage and preservation of content
Sustainability: Funding

- Library operating budget
- Library materials budget (redirect resources from purchase to publish)
- Sales revenue (usually hybrid OA models)
- Charge backs to content creators/editors
- Non-library campus budget
- Grants
Challenges

- Scaling services
  - Developing policies
  - Identifying partners
  - Streamlining workflows
- Sustaining services
  - Securing funding
  - Demonstrating value
- Raising credibility and visibility
  - Mainstreaming practices
  - Encouraging adoption
LPC Responses: Scaling & Sustaining

- Develop best practices
- Maintain knowledge base
- Facilitate networking
- Identify opportunities for collaboration
- Coordinate resource sharing and collective purchasing
- Provide training and professional development
LPC Responses: Raising visibility

- Produce Directory of Library Publishing Services
- Hold Library Publishing Forum
- Document range of activities
- Build relationships with other organizations
- Bring libraries into conversation with other Open Access publishers
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Visit our website
www.librarypublishing.org