



How Library Publishers Are Doing Big Things by Working Together

November 22, 2019

Vanessa Gabler, Electronic Publications Manager, University Library System, University of Pittsburgh

Member and President, Board of Directors of the Library Publishing Coalition



What is Library Publishing

- “...set of activities led by college and university libraries to support the creation, dissemination, and curation of scholarly, creative, and/or educational works.”
(<https://librarypublishing.org/>)
- Strives for openness, inclusivity, and sustainability
- Key characteristics (Schlosser, 2018):
 - Responsiveness
 - Core Services
 - Partnerships
 - Openness
 - Experimentation
 - Pedagogy



Why Libraries Publish

- Broadly aligns with library – and institutional – values
- Opportunity to demonstrate value throughout research lifecycle
- Disseminate faculty and student research
- Publish things that might not otherwise be published
- Create more equitable & just system of scholarly communication
- Alternative to mainstream publishing



Who Benefits from Library Publishing

- Disciplines not well served by commercial publishers
- Students
- Journals with practice-based readerships
- Readers and scholars around the world



Brief History of Library Publishing

- Founding of a few prominent university presses involved libraries
 - e.g., University of California Press, UNC Press (Okerson and Holzman 2015)
- Libraries involved with early electronic scholarly publishing in the 1990s
 - e.g. Project Muse, HighWire Press
- SPARC formed in 1998
- Platforms appear in early 2000s
 - e.g. OJS, DSpace, bepress
- LPC formed in 2013
- Open source infrastructures proliferate – currently



What do libraries publish?

Institutional repository materials	Platforms/tools
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Theses and dissertations● Journal articles published elsewhere● Conference papers/presentations● Technical reports● White papers● Other gray literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● CONTENTdm (OCLC)● Digital Commons (bepress/Elsevier)● DSpace*● Fedora/Samvera*● Islandora* <p>*open source</p>

What do libraries publish?

Type of material	Platforms/tools
Journals	Open Journal Systems *, Scholastica , Digital Commons , Manifold *, PubPub *
Books	Open Monograph Press *, Fulcrum *, Editoria *
Expansive digital projects	Fulcrum *, Manifold *, Pressbooks
Textbooks and other open educational resources	Pressbooks
Datasets	Dataverse

*open-source, nonproprietary projects being developed by the community.



Examples

Title	Publication type	Publisher	Platform/tool
<u><i>Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy</i></u>	Journal	U. Pittsburgh	OJS
<u><i>Excelsior: Leadership in Teaching and Learning</i></u>	Journal	Syracuse University	Digital Commons
<u><i>Teaching Religion in a Changing Public University</i></u>	Monograph	Atla Open Press	OMP
<u><i>Chinese Deathscape</i></u>	Expansive digital project	Stanford UP	Fulcrum
<u><i>Introduction to Electricity, Magnetism, and Circuits</i></u>	Textbook (OER)	U. Saskatchewan	Pressbooks
<u><i>Campaign Contributions in Prosecutorial Elections, 2014-2017</i></u>	Dataset	UNC	Dataverse

Services library publishers may provide

- Copyright
- Obtaining ISSNs for journals, DOIs for articles, ISBNs for books
- Technical setup and hosting digital content on a secure server/publishing platform
- Training and ongoing support
- Advice on publishing workflows, best practices, and ethics
- Maximizing discoverability through search-engine optimization -> robust metadata
- Preserving and archiving the digital content in perpetuity
- Assisting with print-on-demand services

Not all academic libraries provide every service; most offer a selection



Expertise needed to provide publishing services

- Copyright, fair use, open licensing
- Project management including budgeting
- Policy development including developing Memoranda of Understanding
 - What services your program can provide – and what it can't
 - See this helpful [MoU Toolkit](#).
- Publishing workflows
 - Document/cover design, layout, copyediting, etc.
- Content acquisition
 - Managing peer review or setting up an editorial board



Library Administrative Units Involved in Publishing

- Digital Scholarship Centers
 - [Emory Center for Digital Scholarship](#), [IUPUI Center for Digital Scholarship](#)
- University Presses + Libraries
 - [Michigan Publishing](#), [UNT Libraries Scholarly Publishing Services](#)
- Scholarly communications units/offices
 - [University Library System, University of Pittsburgh](#)
 - [University of Kansas Office of Scholarly Communication and Copyright](#)
- Various publishing services units
 - [Iowa State University Library Digital Press](#)



Common questions for libraries that publish

- How to decide what to publish? What **NOT** to publish?
- Only campus-based editors/authors?
- Will services be subsidized by library/university?
 - Or charge for services?
- 100% open access + authors retain copyright?
 - If so, what open licence(s) required or recommended?



Other Common Issues

- Publish only faculty work?
 - If a student journal, how to ensure continuity and sustainability?
- Are equity, diversity, and inclusion important ?
 - If so, how to ensure diversity of voices in published products, on editorial boards, etc?
- What infrastructures to use? How to sustain?



Developing a Business Plan for a Library Publishing Program

- Kate McCready, Emma Molls, University of Minnesota
- In [Business Models in \(Digital\) Academic Publishing](#)
- 2018, 6(4), 42; <https://doi.org/10.3390/publications6040042>

- Like any business venture, however, library publishers must develop a clear service model and business plan in order to create shared expectations for funding streams, quality markers, as well as technical and staff capacity. As the field is maturing from experimental projects to full programs, library publishers are formalizing their offerings and limitations...Other aspects include production policies, financial structures, and measures of success.

That's a lot to navigate









Library Publishing Coalition

- Founded in 2013 with 61 academic libraries
- In collaboration with the Educopia Institute
- Over 80 members, including a couple of consortia
- Member benefits:
 - Engage with an international community of practice
 - Jump-start or enhance local library publishing initiatives
 - Lead change in scholarly communications and publishing



LPC Board, Committees, and Task Forces

Some examples of current groups:

- Program
- Research
- Directory
- Professional Development
- Diversity and Inclusion



Library Publishing Coalition Resources . . .

- [Library Publishing Directory](#) (updated annually)
- [Webinars](#)
- [Professional Development Guide](#)
- [Job Board](#)
- [Shared Documentation Portal](#)*

*Available to members only.



Library Publishing Coalition Resources continued

- [Ethical Framework for Library Publishing](#)
- [Library Publishing Curriculum](#)
- [How-To Guide for Library Publishers: Directory of Open Access Journals Application](#)
- [Library Publishing Bibliography](#)

3 major LPC initiatives

- Appointment of Cheryl Ball (Wayne State) to 3 year term as Editor-in-Chief of the [Library Publishing Curriculum](#)
 - Created in partnership with Educopia as part of an IMLS funded project
 - Curriculum is moving to its permanent home as an ongoing program of the LPC
- Educopia, LPC, and 12 partner libraries received IMLS Leadership Grant
 - Investigate & document journal publishing workflows in a variety of library publishing programs
 - Goal to create a set of model workflows that can be adopted and adapted by other libraries
- Second round of [LPC Fellowship Program](#)
 - encourage participation in LPC community by important voices not from a member institution
 - broaden access to library publishing to underrepresented groups
 - mentor new library publishers

Shift from operational to strategic

- [LPC Strategic Plan](#) 2018–2023
- Educopia’s Mapping the Scholarly Communication Landscape – 2019 Census
 - <https://educopia.org/2019-census/>
- The Red Queen’s Race
 - <https://educopia.org/red-queens-race/> - Katherine Skinner
- Invest in Open Infrastructure - <https://investinopen.org/>
- Mind the gap - <https://mitpress.mit.edu/blog/mind-the-gap>
 - environmental scan of all available open-source software for publishing

What is needed from the **community** to move this forward to greater impact?

- LPC + fill in organizations here... (we are stronger together)
- Local investments
- Boost best practices and refine standards
- Develop and share common body of expertise and knowledge
- Lead development of what a library publishing ecosystem at scale means
- Solutions for libraries at all resource levels

References and further reading

- Bonn, M., & Furlough, M. (Eds.). (2015). *Getting the word out: Academic libraries as scholarly publishers*. Chicago, IL: Association of College and Research Libraries
- Fenlon, K. & Senseney, M., Bonn, M. & Swatscheno, J. (2019). Humanities scholars and library-based digital publishing: New forms of publication, new audiences, new publishing roles. *Journal of Scholarly Publishing*, 50(3), 159-182. <https://doi.org/10.3138/jsp.50.3.01>
- Hawkins, K. S. (2019). Creating a library publishing program for scholarly books: Your options are limited. *Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication*, 7(1). doi: <http://doi.org/10.7710/2162-3309.2262>
- Invest in Open Infrastructure (2019). Retrieved from <https://investinopen.org/>
- Library Publishing Coalition Ethical Framework Task Force. (2018). *An ethical framework for library publishing*, Version 1.0. Atlanta, GA: Educopia. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.5703/1288284316777>
- Library Publishing Curriculum Advisory Board. (2018). *Library publishing curriculum*. Atlanta, GA: Educopia. Retrieved from <https://educopia.org/library-publishing-curriculum/>
- Maxwell, J. et al. (2019). *Mind the Gap: A Landscape Analysis of Open Source Publishing Tools and Platforms*. Burnaby, BC: Simon Fraser University. Retrieved from <https://mindthegap.pubpub.org/>.

References and further reading continued

- McCreedy, K. and Molls, E. (2018). Developing a business plan for a library publishing program. *Publications: Business Models in (Digital) Academic Publishing*, 6(4), 42. <https://doi.org/10.3390/publications6040042>
- Mirza, R., Currier, B., & Ossom Williamson, P. (2017). *Memorandum of understanding collection*. Retrieved from <https://rc.library.uta.edu/uta-ir/handle/10106/25646>
- Okerson, A., & Holzman, A. (2015). *The once and future publishing library*. Arlington, VA: Council on Library and Information Resources. Retrieved from: <https://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub166/>
- Sandy, H. M., & Mattern, J. B. (2018). Academic library-based publishing: A state of the evolving art. *Library Trends*, 67(2), 337–357. doi: <http://doi.org/10.1353/lib.2018.0040>
- Schlosser, M. (2018). Building capacity for academy-owned publishing through the Library Publishing Coalition. *Library Trends* 67(2), 359-375. doi: <http://doi.org/10.1353/lib.2018.0041>
- Skinner, K. (2019). *Mapping the Scholarly Communication Landscape – 2019 Census*. Atlanta, GA: Educopia. Retrieved from <https://educopia.org/2019-census/>.
- Skinner, K. (2019). *Why Are So Many Scholarly Communication Infrastructure Providers Running a Red Queen's Race?* Atlanta, GA: Educopia. Retrieved from <https://educopia.org/red-queens-race/>.

Questions?

This presentation is shared under a [Creative Commons 4.0 Attribution \(CC BY 4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license.



Follow-up contact info:
Vanessa Gabler: vgabler@pitt.edu

