

The Library as Publisher

Creating Scholarly Resources

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What is the Scholarly Publishing Office (SPO)?

- SPO is the publisher for the University Library.
- All of our publications are designed for electronic distribution, but we sometimes arrange for print copies of certain publications.
- We work closely with the DLPS staff.
- We use DLXS but modify it so that it will work better for contemporary publishing.

Why does the Library need its own publisher?

- The scholarly publishing market is dominated by a few large commercial publishers, so authors have few choices when looking for a publisher.
- Commercial publishers often require scholars to turn over all intellectual property rights.
- As some argue, it's absurd that universities have to "buy back" the output of their scholars.

What do we publish and for whom?

- We publish scholarly material of all forms primarily in the humanities and social sciences.
- We work with individual scholars at this or other universities, campus units, and scholarly societies not at the university. Basically, our services are available to any non-commercial producer of scholarly content.

Why should we be your publisher?

- We pledge to maintain content that we publish.
- We provide rich searching that exploits the power of XML.

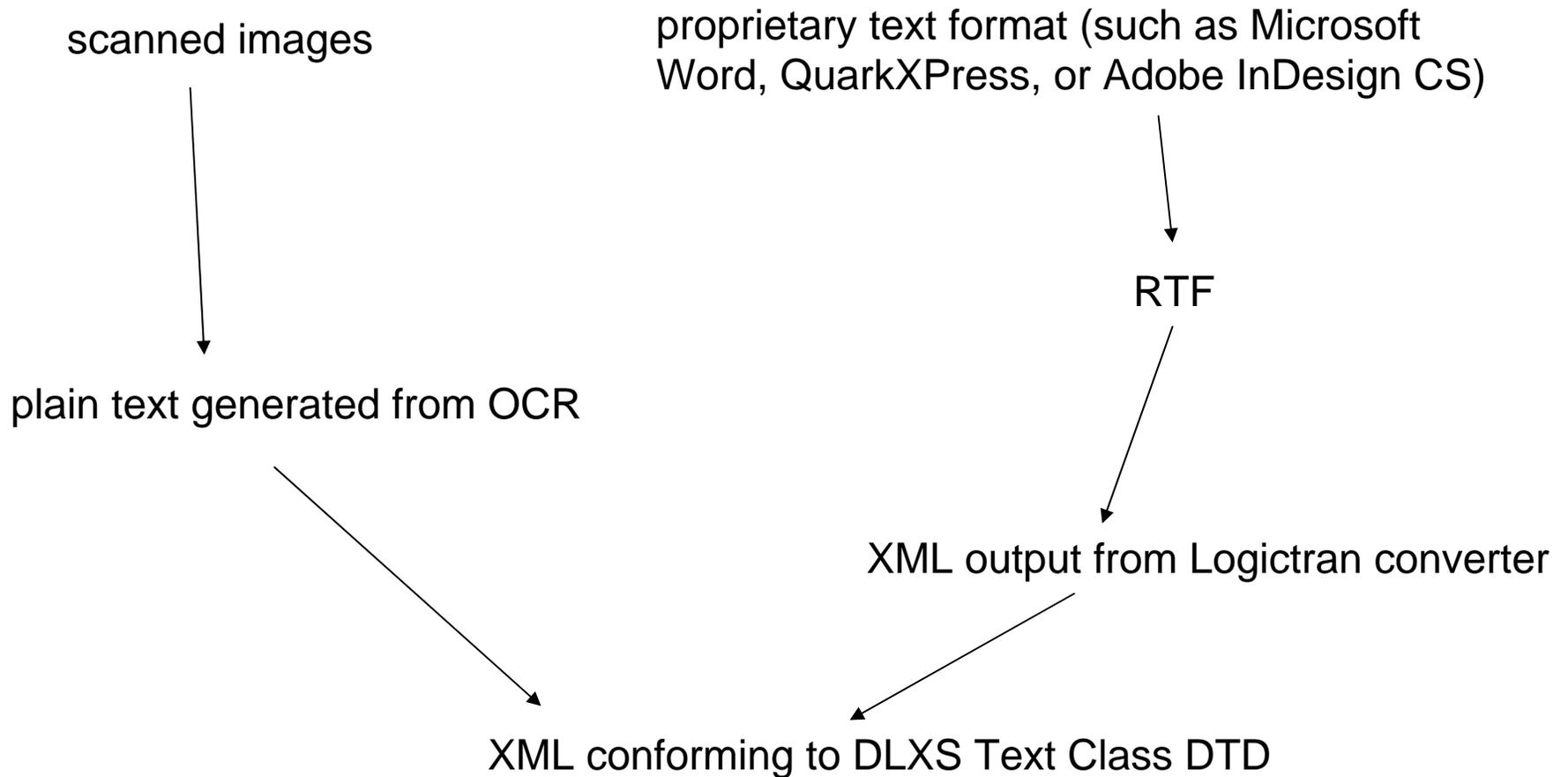
*Publishing online is not the same
as simply putting up a website.*

- We can facilitate the peer review process.
- We are particularly interested in niche topics for which authors often have trouble finding a commercial publisher.
- We insist on intellectual property agreements friendly to the scholarly community.

Intellectual Property

- Authors retain copyright but give us a non-exclusive license to distribute the content online forever.
- We advocate free online access, but we are willing to set up restricted access to our publications by IP range.

How do we do it?



Sample publications

- ACLS History E-Book Project (<http://www.historyebook.org/>)
- *Algorithmic Composition: a Gentle Introduction to Music Composition Using Common LISP and Common Music* (accessible from <http://www.hti.umich.edu/s/spobooks/> ; audio files are at end of table of contents)

How are we funded?

- Our services are generally free to members of the university community. This is our “service mission” to the university in return for its funding.
- For services to those outside the University of Michigan, we charge for our services, but we have done simple projects for free if the author is willing to make the publication available for free.
- We charge for services out of the ordinary such as graphic design and interface customization.

For more information

- SPO: <http://spo.umdl.umich.edu/>
- R2Net: <http://www.logictran.net/products/>
- Kevin Hawkins: kshawkin@umich.edu