Scaling Up: Assessing the Future of OA Monographs in the Humanities and Social Sciences

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**ASSESSING THE FUTURE OF OA MONOGRAPHS IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**2016-17 OA MONOGRAPH SCALABILITY SURVEY OF COLLECTIONS UNITS AT ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN THE U.S.**

**Q4.3 - When your library is evaluating an OA initiative, what are the major...factors you consider in determining whether or not to participate?**

1. Content quality: 89 (94%)
2. Cost/Contribution amount: 88 (93%)
3. Business model of OA initiative: 69 (73%)
4. Reputation of publishers: 63 (68%)
5. Discoverability: 59 (63%)

**Q4.5 - Looking forward, what are the biggest obstacles to or areas of concern for an expansion in your library’s participation in OA book initiatives in the Humanities and Social Sciences?**

1. Lack of funding/Affordability: 58 (68%)
2. Content quality & Usage rates: 27 (32%) (tie)
3. Lack of will/interest among faculty: 23 (27%) (tie)
4. Discovery issues: 15 (18%)
5. User experience issues & Preservation issues: 10 (12%) (tie)

**Q4.6 - How will you judge the success of your participation? (select all that apply)**

1. The success of the OA initiative: 71 (84%)
2. Usage rates: 66 (78%)
3. Increase in participation by peer institutions: 40 (47%)
4. Savings on monograph expenditures: 25 (29%)
5. Increase in participation by OA monograph initiatives: 24 (28%)
6. Cooperative agreements: 10 (12%) (tie)
7. User experience issues & Preservation issues: 10 (12%) (tie)
8. Lack of interest among faculty: 9 (11%) (tie)
9. Cost/Contribution amount: 8 (9%)
10. Content quality: 2 (2%)
11. Business model of OA initiative: 1 (1%)

**SURVEYS OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS CONCERNING OPEN ACCESS MONOGRAPHS**

2013 KU Pre-Pilot Survey of Libraries
- **Responses:** 62 from U.S. & U.K.
- **Focus:** ideal platforms (HathiTrust, JSTOR, Project MUSE), selection (subject packages or individual titles), pricing, number of titles
- **51%** of US respondents were concerned or somewhat concerned about free riders.

2014 OAPEN-UK Librarian Survey
- **Responses:** 109 from U.K.
- **Focus:** acquisition, discovery, business models
- 43% participate in OA monograph initiatives using library-funded, consortium-based business models.

2015 PCG OA Monographs Survey
- **Responses:** 152 from 34 countries; 78% librarians, 17% publishers, and 5% library staff member
- **Focus:** acquisition, discovery, funding, role of libraries
- 68% of libraries decide to list OA books in their catalog based on relevance to the curriculum while 67% do so by faculty request.

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**7 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A SCALABLE & SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR OA MONOGRAPHS**

1. **Limit to highest quality content from trusted scholarly publishers**
2. **Implement scaled pricing to enable smaller schools to participate**
3. **Employ business models that are sustainable, i.e. straightforward and financially fair to libraries and pubs**
4. **Gather reliable local usage data**
5. **Improve discoverability by standardizing workflows and best practices**
6. **Advocate for OA monographs among faculty and school administrators**
7. **Institute campus-wide OA policies**