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

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.

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%)

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, and
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