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. User experience issues & Preservation issues: 27 (32%)
6. Lack of will/interest among faculty: 23 (27%)
7. Lack of funding/Affordability: 58 (68%)
8. Discovery issues: 15 (18%)
9. 5. Discovery: 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. 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. User experience issues & Preservation issues:
6. Lack of will/interest among faculty:
7. Lack of funding/Affordability:
8. Discovery issues:

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

1. 103 valid responses
2. 1 authoritative response per library
3. 37 states and D.C.

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 publishers
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