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

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**SCALING UP**: 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**: 82 (88%)
- **3. Business model of OA initiative**: 69 (73%)
- **4. Reputation of publishers**: 65 (68%)
- **5. Selection of OA initiatives**: 63 (68%)
- **6. Discovery issues**: 15 (18%)
- **7. Lack of will/interest among faculty**: 23 (27%)
- **8. Cost/Contribution amount**: 85 (93%)

**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%)
- **3. Lack of will/interest among faculty**: 23 (27%)
- **4. Discovery issues**: 15 (18%)
- **5. User experience issues & Preservation issues**: 10 (12%)

**Q4.6 - How will you judge the success of your participation?**

- **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, 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**