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New developments in Library-supported Open Access publishing at the University of Edinburgh

Repository Fringe 2018





Library-led publishing: context

Surge in HE publishing ventures

- Fulcrum, Manifold, Editoria, MUSE Open, Vega, Janeway, OJS 3

Library Publishing Directory 2018: **125 entries**

A new wave of university presses in the UK

- library-based, typically Open Access
- since 2015: UCL Press, White Rose Press, Cardiff University Press, the University of Westminster Press, LSE Press
- as many as 27 new presses by 2021 (2017 Jisc report)

‘Institution as e-textbook publisher’ project (Jisc)



Library-led publishing at Edinburgh

Different approach: **focus on hosting and support**

- service grew organically, driven by demand, not strategy
- Edinburgh has a traditional university press (EUP)

What we offer (all free of charge)

- journal hosting platform, technical support, preservation
- training, documentation, advice, policies
- initial set-up, limited customisation
- ISSN application, DOIs, metadata delivery

Not a publisher!

- no responsibility for peer review, production, promotion, etc.



The journal hosting service at a glance

- started in 2009 – no dedicated staff, no promotion
- currently **18 student and academic-led journals**
- arts, humanities, social sciences and medicine
- **fully Open Access**, Creative Commons licences, no APCs
- over 120,000 full-text downloads in 2017
- **Open Journal Systems (OJS)**
- support from Library-based developers



ISG strategic theme: Open Access publishing

- funding for **dedicated role**: Open Access Publishing Officer
- develop **service strategy and policies**
- set up governance structure
- ensure industry standards are followed
- **promote** and grow the service
- seek opportunities for involvement in **teaching and learning**
- focus on quality and support for good academic practice to deliver a **sustainable and scalable** publishing platform



Motivations for supporting the service

- demand from Edinburgh community
- **self-sustained** Open Access publishing model
- inclusive publishing
 - niche subject areas, not covered by commercial publishers
 - support for early-career researchers
- **student experience**
- teaching and learning
- **leadership for Open Access publishing in Scotland**



Recent developments

- **upgrade** to OJS 3.x
- standardised policies, updated Creative Commons licences
- meetings with Editors to **better understand their processes** and support needs
- OJS **guides** and other resources for Editors
- audit of journal coverage in abstracting & indexing services
- central DOAJ account and article-level metadata delivery
- **three new journals** in early 2018



Shared service and external hosting

— Shared service

- Scottish Digital Library Consortium (**SDLC**)
- offered to Scottish HE institutions and other Scottish organisations producing scholarly publications
- **journal and monograph** hosting
- cost recovery, collaborative venture
- steering group reporting to SCURL

— Hosting of **external publications**

- institutional level, acceptance criteria
- *Journal of EAHIL* ready to go live



Next steps

- new journals
- **governance**: Service Board
- criteria for launching / taking on journals
- roles and responsibilities
- update service pages on **University website**, publish resources
- partnerships and membership to industry organisations
- research **publishing practices** at Edinburgh
- promotion and **engagement** within Edinburgh
- scope possibility for open textbooks



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 journals.ed.ac.uk

 edin.ac/journal-hosting

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Thank you!