Library as Journal Publisher: Partnering with Faculty

Wendy Robertson

University of Iowa
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Wendy Robertson
The University of Iowa Libraries
http://ir.uiowa.edu/lib_pubs/47/
Overview

• Why libraries should publish journals
• General policies and planning
• Basic information needed from editors
• Additional set-up work
• Future plans
• Questions
Libraries should be involved in publishing journals, particularly those of local interest and of small societies.
“Over 97 percent of society publishers publish three or fewer journals, with almost 90 percent publishing just one title.”

Raym Crow, Publishing cooperatives: An alternative for non-profit publishers, First Monday, v. 11, no. 9, 2006
“...performing the curatorial work needed to ensure the permanence of current and future published information is a central and unifying challenge for us...”

“The effort is premised on the belief that libraries are a valuable and indeed essential part of the global information space, and that we will only continue to be so if we take active responsibility for moving our content, services and values into this information ecosystem.”

Journals are the primary mode of communication in many fields and hold an important secondary position in fields still focused on the monograph.
Look at other sites as you develop your program.
Clearly state what you will do and what you will support.
Our goal is to transition subscription-based titles to open access, and OA titles to Creative Commons licenses.
Standardize your policies and basic set-up as much as possible, while allowing journals to have their own look and feel.
Review your copyright and permissions language carefully, having a few options for editors to select.
Make it clear what can be added to a repository and if there is an embargo. Encourage allowing the Version of Record, with links back to the journal site.
Do your homework before meeting with the editors, looking at their websites and at journals in their field, and start gathering basic information for the site.
Work with your subject librarians; they will be familiar with publications in the field and bring additional expertise.
Gather as much information as possible from the editors so that you can set things up for them and ensure the site includes necessary information.
Talk to editors about general goals for journal.
Talk to the editors to make sure they have a realistic idea regarding the effort required to produce a quality journal.
Make sure editor’s responsibilities are clear
(e.g. ask for submissions, review content, check for plagiarism, copy edit and format, group content into issues, post and publicize the journal).
Editors may not have solid ideas up front regarding the design, but they know what they don’t like.
Learn what special pages of content may be needed for the individual needs of the journal.
Medieval Feminist Forum includes reviews of current scholarly books that address issues of feminism(s) and gender studies in relation to any of the disciplines of Medieval Studies.

Information for Reviewers

Unsolicited reviews are not accepted. Reviews (1,000-1,200 words, single monographs; 1,500-1,600, two monographs) should be submitted in electronic format and follow the specified submission style guidelines.

Reviewers should be faculty or qualified independent scholars who are SMFS members, but advisors, mentors, or faculty members of SMFS may also suggest graduate students as reviewers of specific works that, in their judgment, the student is qualified to review. Upon assignment and publication of a review, SMFS membership must be in current standing. Qualified persons interested in reviewing books should contact the Book Review Editor, Helene Scheck, Department of English, University at Albany, State University of New York, Albany, NY 12222, hscheck@albany.edu.

Information for Publishers and Authors

Publishers or authors interested in having a monograph reviewed in MFF should send a copy to: Helene Scheck, Department of English, University at Albany, State University of New York, Albany, NY 12222, hscheck@albany.edu.

Books submitted are not returned, and become the property of MFF.
CONTRIBUTORS

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Reviews


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Remember that subscriptions means licensing and standard expectations like perpetual access, grace periods and usage statistics.
MFF follows the SERU guidelines as published on the NISO SERU website:

http://www.niso.org/committees/SERU/
If there are back issues, can you take on their digitization? If they are already online be sure to follow good transfer practices.
Work with your catalogers on article metadata and consider if subject work is appropriate.
Do not overestimate how much the editors know about MSWord and Adobe Acrobat, let alone Adobe InDesign or XML.
Remind editors of expected practices for good publications, including sufficient information in header and footer for citation and to find online version.
You should do all the general set up for editor and ask them for input—don’t expect them to do anything but respond (and do the actual editing of the journal).
Review the site from a variety of perspectives, including author, reviewer, indexer, ERM librarian, and instruction librarian.
Request an ISSN for the journal if it doesn’t have one yet.
Pay attention to metadata fields and how they will be exposed through OAI and potential harvested into WorldCat.
Think about other features that would enhance the site, such as ISBNs for reviewed books.
After the title is set up, notify DOAJ if appropriate, make sure it is cataloged locally and in WorldCat, notify link resolvers, and, if it is a subscription title, notify agents.
Try to get title into LOCKSS or even Portico.
Implement DOIs for the titles.
Keep up with new developments and encourage editors with future enhancements. Our editors are very traditional and are not requesting new features.
Possibilities for the future include moving to CC-BY for SPARC Europe Seal, using e-pub format, citation linking, publishing in XML, and exposing additional metadata for mash-ups.
Resources

http://www.zotero.org/groups/epublishing_and_libraries
Questions?
What have I forgotten about?

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