A Portrait of the Librarian as an Emerging Publisher: A Proactive Approach

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Library Publishing Services

Library publishing is one of the promising directions for research libraries in the twenty-first century. Although this exciting terrain cannot be explored without librarians to lead the way, the role of the publishing librarian has not been seriously considered in the growing research literature about library publishing services. The general assumption, so it seems, is that librarians understand publishing through and through due to their traditional role as the ultimate customers of published materials or due to their experience as contributing authors.

The Publishing Librarian

The essential knowledge and skill set required of the publishing librarian resemble those of the scholarly communication librarian, but embrace much more. The publishing librarian should be well versed in managing the peer review process, including editing and copyediting, handling graphic design and page layout, and exhibiting expertise in metadata schemes such as XML. These skills should be systematically acquired and professionally practiced.

The Proactive Approach

Libraries wishing to offer professional publishing services should have serious training programs in place for publishing librarians. As leader in the field, the LPC could create new standards for library scholarly publishing and new competences for the publishing librarian.

Sources

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Carpenter, Maria, Jolie Graybill, Jerome Offord, and Mary Piorun. 2011. "Envisioning the Library's Role in Scholarly Communication in the Year 2025." *Portal: Libraries and the Academy* 11 (2): 659–681.

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vanDuinkerken, W., and WA Kaspar. 2013. Continuing the Discussion on OA and the Role of Libraries as Publishers. *Journal of Academic Librarianship* 39 (6): 445–446.

Benjamin Franklin-Craftsman, a statue by Joe Brown, Philadelphia, PA, 1981. "Ben's Printing Press", photo captured by MTSOlan. <http://file.kripa.org/2014/02/24/>

Carpenter et al. 2011, 633:

"Librarians need to develop new abilities [...] developing better knowledge of the publishing process as a whole (e.g., selection, peer-review, and manuscript production)."

AAUP Library Relations Committee 2013, 19–20:

▼ Librarians and university presses agree: librarians would benefit from internship programs; "need schooling".

▼ Librarians think they can "learn by doing".

▼ Publishers: librarians should "get out of the library silo" and attend AAUP meetings.

VanDuinkerken and Kaspar 2013, 445:

"[...] there are simply not enough knowledgeable librarians assigned to the repository service to meet the academic institution's need."

Mullins et al. 2012, 15:

"Library publishing programs—many of which offer skeletal production systems and minimal editorial support—have discovered that authors and editors continue to demand publishing services that the library had assumed to be irrelevant in an era of digital dissemination."

Library Publishing Coalition Action Plan

I. Develop Standards for Scholarly Library Publishing

1. Managing Peer Review
2. Editing, Copyediting, and Proofreading
3. Page Layout

Potential collaborators: SPARC, International Digital Publishing Forum (Lefevre and Huwe 2013), publishing certificate programs, university presses, experienced publishing librarians.

II. Develop Competency Standards for Publishing Librarians

1. Incorporate into curricula of library schools (Carpenter et al. 2011, 674–675).
2. Serve as guidelines for in-house training programs.

Potential collaborators: SPARC, publishing certificate programs, university presses, experienced publishing librarians.

III. Develop Internship Programs for Publishing Librarians

Translate Competency Standards for Publishing Librarians into professional experience with the help of internship programs.

Potential collaborators: AAUP, individual university presses, commercial academic publishers, publishing certificate programs, experienced publishing librarians.

Professional Development

Courses or webinars offered by professional associations and vendors could compliment formal schooling based on LPC's Competency Standards for Publishing Librarians.

Examples for existing professional development opportunities:

- ▼ Association of American University Presses (AAUP)
- ▼ Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP)
- ▼ Council of Science Editors
- ▼ Bepress