The ScholarLed Consortium

OA Monograph Publishing and ‘Scaling Small’

Lucy Barnes
ScholarLed and Open Book Publishers

@scholarled

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Overview

- OBP and ScholarLed – who we are
- The ‘Scaling Small’ concept that underlies our work
- How this can grow Open Access book publishing
- The COPIM (Community-led Open Publication Infrastructures for Monographs) Project
Open Book Publishers

- Award-winning Open Access book publisher
- Not for profit & academic-led
- 158 titles published – at least 24 every year
- No Book Processing Charges for authors
- An emphasis on innovation
- Publishing is a community activity
OpenAIRE relies on linking existing actors and services (including open repositories) to advance open. It doesn't have to be about building new things #OpenScienceUN

7:11 AM - 19 Nov 2019
What defines ScholarLed?

- Five OA book publishers – different sizes, business models and editorial aims
- All not-for-profit & academic-led
- No Book Processing Charges for authors
- Seeking to work in collaboration, not competition
“This is great, but how does it scale?”
Diversity is valuable

- Editorial outlook
- Subject areas
- Innovation (Deville et al, 2019)
- Adema & Stone (2017) note emergence of new OA university presses (3) and scholar-led publishers (7) in previous 10 years
How do we scale that diversity?

Scaling Small
• Over 500 books from ScholarLed presses
• Over 80 new titles in the forthcoming year
• Multiply that by 5, by 10, by 20…
• Working to capacity
• A range of sizes
• Sustainable – financially, workload, technology
• Effective: able to distribute books widely
‘Scaling small’ involves creating an environment in which a large number of OA publishers of whatever size can thrive...

...which means to be financially sustainable, without the need to charge authors to publish Open Access, and with the means to support and disseminate work that they believe in.
We need infrastructure!

...systems that allow diverse scholarly publishing initiatives to operate collaboratively, and so to foster a robust, inclusive and community-managed publishing ecosystem in partnership with all actors involved in scholarly publishing (including scholars, libraries, and funders).
Open and community-governed

‘Everything we have gained by opening content and data will be under threat if we allow the enclosure of scholarly infrastructures’
(Bilder et al, 2015)
Leaked document prompts fears of big publisher ‘lock in’

Elsevier could sell Dutch universities a bundle of journal access rights and software, raising concerns that universities could become stuck in one publisher’s software ecosystem

November 20, 2019

By David Matthews

Twitter: @DavidMjourno

Big publishers could “lock in” universities so that they are unable to switch research management tools, open access advocates have warned, after a leaked negotiating document between Elsevier and Dutch universities suggested that the latter would have to pay an additional fee to access SciVerse. 

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'The open availability of content is a radical step in making knowledge freely available, but it is only a first step.'
(Barnes and Gatti, 2019)
COPIM

• Community-led Open Publication Infrastructures for Monographs
• An international partnership including the ScholarLed presses, universities, libraries, & infrastructure providers
• £2.2 million funding from Research England and £800,000 from Arcadia Fund
• Creating open, community-governed infrastructures to support OA book publishing
Project Management

Revenue Infrastructures & Management Platform

Knowledge Exchange & Piloting Alternative Business Models

Community Governance

Building an Open Dissemination System

Experimental Publishing, Re-use and Impact

Archiving & Digital Preservation
‘Our view is that the success of Open Access depends utterly on open and inclusive forms of collaboration, to enable the creation of infrastructures that respond to the diverse needs of different users. In this respect, the COPIM project depends very much on collaborations that it has not yet established.’ (Deville, 2019)
Contact us

• lucy@openbookpublishers.com (@alittleroad)
• info@scholarled.org (@scholarled)
• COPIM website forthcoming
• Until then: https://scholarled.org/#infrastructure

Thanks for listening!