A new university press as a space to connect the building blocks of Open Science

A look through the prism of an open textbook publishing pilot

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Who we are & how we are involved

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New university press as an Open Science platform

NUP as a playground for connecting the building blocks of Open Science

› More sustainable transfer of know-how
› Better dissemination of knowledge
› Closer engagement with the open agenda
› Faster transition to more open and accessible research and education
University of Groningen Press | UGP

Part of the University of Groningen Library
Started in 2017 with OA journals, 2019 - with books, 2021 - with open textbooks
UGP is a New University Press (NUP)

Common characteristics are:
› Open access
› Digital first
› Library-based
› Often offer a smaller set of services than a traditional publisher
Open Science and Open Education at the UG (1)
Open Science and Open Education at the UG (2)
UG Press as an Open Science platform

› Open access scholarly publishing
  ○ monographs, journals and campus publications that span the whole field of academic scholarship
  ○ more diversity and inclusiveness

› Open infrastructure
  ○ open-source publication platforms
    PKP: OJS - Open Journal Systems: https://pkp.sfu.ca/ojs/
    OMP - Open Monograph Press: https://pkp.sfu.ca/omp/
    Pressbooks: Open Textbooks project: https://pressbooks.com/
UGP as an Open Science platform

 › Open practices
   ○ sharing, open pedagogy and co-creation, recognition and visibility

 › Engaging with the public
   ○ community outreach via campus publications, social annotation
   ○ campus-wide audience and beyond
   ○ researchers, lecturers, students, library specialists, educational experts, wider community

 › Open educational resources
   ○ open textbooks
   ○ guides and readers
Supporting the open textbook pilot

- In-house expertise from UGP built on experience of OA publishing projects
- In-house expertise from OER team at University Library
- Invited expertise: didactic and pedagogical experts at Education Support & Innovation
Lessons learned from OA publishing projects

› **How to**
  ○ Publishing expertise, visibility and findability
  ○ Quality matters
  ○ Plan for copy-editing
  ○ Copyright awareness, open licenses
  ○ What to pay attention to when negotiating with publishers

› **How not to**
  ○ Danger to fall into the same pitfalls as OA movement
  ○ Still much power on the side of the (commercial) publishers and more affluent countries
  ○ Costs are rising hard, ideological considerations
Lessons learned from the open textbook pilot

› How to

○ Help unite research output and teaching

○ Produce innovative & pedagogically sound materials

○ Integrate the (often missing) student element, encouraging student agency and empowerment

○ Step-by-step approach: pilot first chapters with students and learning communities

› How not to

○ Use one-size-fits-all approach

○ Be too ambitious and vague with time-planning

○ Leave (student) co-authors without a framework to work in

○ Forget about the learning curve with the publishing platform
Further discussion

NUP are reflecting, facilitating and spurring greater uptake of open practices and contributing to a better synergy between the Open Science elements

› What is missing in the current discussion?
› What are the potential challenges, blind spots and missed opportunities along the way?
› How could we better facilitate and optimize the synergy between the building blocks of Open Science through new university presses?
Let’s keep discussing this together!

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