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Opening up the Library: Transforming our Structures, Policies and Practices

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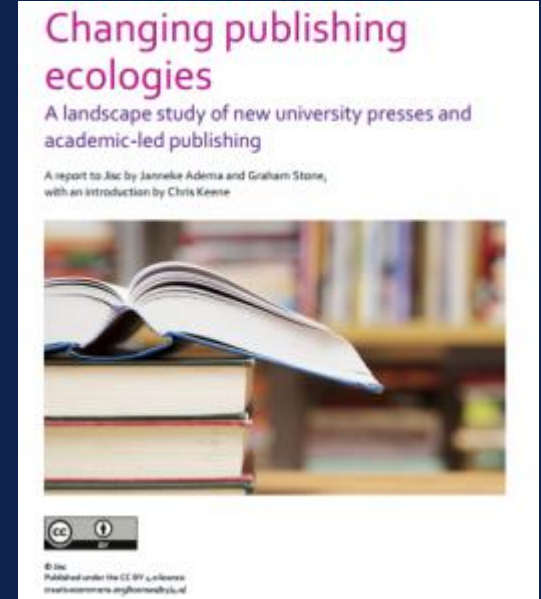
Opening up the library

- Open access monographs in the library supply chain
- Open content in the library supply chain
- A culture of openness
- Demonstrating the value of open content
- Engagement with academic communities
- Next steps

The transition to open

Where we are today

- As part of the changing publishing ecologies interviews, Rupert Gatti noted it would be helpful to have a service that:
 - “looks at how to bring academic content into the catalogues and the digital learning environments of the universities and to allow universities to also relate back to the publisher, so that there is a flow of information going back both ways”
- The [mapping the free ebook supply chain report](#) found that:
 - Workflows designed to lock down, not open up books
 - Amount of OA content still small
 - Unresolved questions about sustainability and lack of awareness



OA monographs in the library supply chain

“OA publishers have difficulty accessing the channels that library acquisition departments use to buy print and e-book content”

- A [community workshop](#) was held in July 2018 to surface issues with key stakeholders from NUPs, ALPs, book suppliers and distributors, metadata suppliers, libraries and other experts in OA publishing to discuss the above statement
- The core aim of the workshop was to allow the experts to share their experiences and knowledge in order to get a better understanding of the supply chain and to gain insight into the problem statement
- 4 key themes were identified:
 - Mapping the library supply chain
 - Metadata
 - New forms of content
 - Cultural change in the acquisitions process
- This view is also supported by the ScholarLed group of 6 Academic-Led Publishers
 - <https://scholarled.org/>

How successful have we been in influencing cultural change?

Supporting Open Access and Scholarship within institutions



Institution



Research community



Library?

OA monographs in the library supply chain

Practitioner workshop at #NAGcd10

- Over 70 collection / acquisition managers plus a number of publishers, book suppliers and intermediaries were present at #NAGcd10 *Streamlining and Futureproofing your Collection* in May 2019
- Workshop delegates discussed the following topics:
 - If we were to redesign our libraries around the premise of open rather than closed content, how would the library supply chain support open content?
 - How do we drive our own 'transition' of culture, processes and services so that they're built around open?
 - How do we rethink how we demonstrate value for money for resources invested in open?

Open content in the library supply chain

Open content in the library supply chain

Are we ready for open?

- Processes, systems workflows still predicated on purchasing/licensing of closed content
- Lack of a single database that includes OA monographs alongside paid-for books
- Libraries do not have the time and staff resource to check other, additional sources for OA monographs
- Information about OA books can differ considerably between book supplier databases and the knowledgebases that feed into discovery layers, both in terms of coverage and quality
- Importance of good quality metadata
 - MARC Advisory Committee have recently approved a proposal to include information about open and restricted access, as well as license information, in MARC21 fields:
<http://www.loc.gov/marc/mac/2019/2019-01.html>

A culture of openness

A culture of openness

Everyone offloads everything OA to the OA team

- Some library staff may not have engaged with OA because it's still regarded as a specialist area rather than something that's become mainstream
- Practical solutions could be to:
 - Incorporate some element of OA provision in the work of existing collections teams, rather than build brand new structures around it (just as teams dealing with print resources transitioned to work also with 'e')
 - Dedicate some staff development time to OA, which could include (for example) some training on how to identify bone fide OA content - this could then be cascaded and incorporated into the advice and guidance we give to lecturers about reading list content
 - Include OA content in collection development policies, and consider how we can redefine our collections to be about more than the resources we own or purchase

Demonstrating the value of open content

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- Develop a clear understanding of the costs and benefits of delivering open content
 - What does it cost to select and acquire an Open Access resource and make it discoverable?
- Enable evidence-based decision making about which Open content and platforms to invest in, e.g. Open Library of the Humanities or Knowledge Unlatched?
- Define alternative meaningful measures of the value of content
 - Move away from cost-per-use figures which don't work with Open content
 - Explore alternatives such as citations, or the impact on our community

Engagement with academic communities

Engagement with academic communities

- Raise awareness of the benefits of selecting and using open content in teaching
 - Maximise opportunities for adapting and customising resources and content
 - Minimise costs for students in purchasing own copies
- Give equal priority to the discovery of open and purchased/licenced content
 - e.g. through our discovery systems or LibGuides
- Advocate for the inclusion of open content in reading lists

Next steps

Cultural change within libraries

- Shift our mindset from open as an add-on to being a shared responsibility
- Lead a cultural change within libraries to engage our staff and integrate "open" into roles across the library – collections, customer service, teaching support
- Redefine what a successful library looks like
 - Move away from measures relating to the size of our content budget or collection, and find alternatives that measure the impact we have on our user communities

A community approach

Steps required by the international library community

- Establish set of best practices for libraries to fully integrate Open content into their practices, workflows and culture
- Suggest practical steps that libraries can take
- Share examples of collections policies that integrate Open content
- Engage with community initiatives, for example
 - Community-led Open Publication Infrastructures for Monographs (COPIM)
 - Techniques for Electronic Resource Management (TERMS)

Thank you

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