



PWYW

Publishing Without Walls

Understanding the New Publishing Goals of Scholars:

Toward a sustainable model for broadly accessible
library publishing

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Library Publishing Forum

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most of our research
papers are dead
documents.”*

Project Overview

*A digital scholarly publishing initiative
from the University of Illinois*

- Partnership between
 - University Library
 - School of Information Sciences
 - Department of African American Studies
 - Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities (IPRH)
- Funded by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
- \$1M over four years (2015-2019)

Objectives

- Build capacity for participation in innovative publishing initiatives
- Create a new model for the conceptual development of scholarly communication
- Conduct research and assessment of how emerging technologies align with the expressed needs of participating scholars

Understanding Scholars' Needs in a Contemporary Publishing Environment

Research Goals

Understanding...

1. Current publishing practices
2. Gaps in the current environment
3. How scholars consume research
4. Publishing objectives
5. Needs for tools/platforms
6. Needs for services and support

Research Methods

National survey in 2016
Interviews
Focus Groups

Survey report:

<http://hdl.handle.net/2142/98576>

Theme: Interactive, multimedia, and linked evidence

“I’m trying to figure out a way to present an analysis of... visual evidence and material evidence. I’m trying to figure out a way using digital publishing to present in a way that you usually wouldn’t be able to do if you were writing a traditional scholarly book or article in print.”

Theme: Multiple Audiences

“I’m investigating how that [research] can be made more interactive and more participatory, particularly for the communities that get involved... how do you maintain that relationship with the community, so they can be part of that in a way they have access?”

Theme: Living Documents

“I can update as we learn more. If I suddenly decide I’m wrong, I can add writers to it. So an evolving document...a living document. That’s the phrase people have about constitutions: that they should be a living document. I think at the moment, most of our research papers are dead documents.”

Future Work

- Continue to code the remaining interviews
- Paper on survey analysis
- Paper on interview analysis

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Partners and Funders

