University Libraries and University Presses: Working Towards True Collaboration

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Established in 1981 under the auspices of the University President
Transferred to the Library in 1989 during a time of fiscal constraint and without base funding
University Librarian assumed full responsibility for the Press
Plans for achieving gradual recovery
When I arrived in 2006, the Press was in a state of transition and without a Director

First steps:
- Establish an understanding of current operations and budgetary state of the Press
- Build a mutually supportive relationship with the Chair of the Editorial Board and its members
- Appoint an Interim Director – Geoffrey Simmins, a senior professor of architectural history and longtime member of the Editorial Board
Financial Status

- Press funded by sales revenue plus additional funding from the Library’s base allocation

- In spite of this shared reliance, financial reporting, operations, and staffing were managed independently
Envisioning Common Operations

- Priorities
  - Conceptualize the operating costs of the Press as an integrated element of the Library budgeting process
  - Look for shared efficiencies in staffing and technologies
  - Hire a new Press Director
  - Re-engineer the Press to achieve symbiotic operations
In alignment with a principal goal of academe, university presses and university libraries have a common commitment to the dissemination of scholarly literature.

We do not characterize support for scholarly communications librarians as requiring subsidies. Why do we see Press staffing differently?
If libraries value the widest possible accessibility to scholarly information, presses should share this commitment.

To realize this mutual commitment, the University Librarian, the Director of the Press and the Press Editorial Board adopted an Open Access mandate for peer-reviewed monographic literature through which most new titles appear simultaneously in both print and online. This was adopted and implemented in 2010.
I not only urge this alignment of mission but would also ask why not!