

# **University Libraries and University Presses: Working Towards True Collaboration**



**UNIVERSITY OF  
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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

- 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

## ■ 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



# Removing the Concept of Subsidies

- 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?



# Aligning Our Values and Vision

- 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!**