THE AMHERST MODEL
Recursive & Reciprocal: The Scholarship Lifecycle

01 All scholarship is a recursive process that both libraries and presses participate in...

Libraries don't just buy books: they fund and support their genesis and creation in countless ways. When asked to then buy the products of research, libraries fund books again--and again, through additional costs related to preservation and copying, and via librarians' labor investigating copyright claims.

02 The Amherst Model is a way to think about the reciprocities between libraries and scholarly presses

Libraries can't buy all the scholarship produced and are often excluded from conversations about the scope and direction of scholarly publishing. Presses often publish into narrowly specialized or market-driven niches. Working together, we can build more responsive processes and produce truly transformative scholarship.
Production + OA Publication = Widespread Use at No Cost

Library-supported Research, Teaching, Writing

Responsive Editorial Process

Peer Review, Revision, Board Approval
Scholarly communication is embedded in the work of liberal arts colleges and their libraries

Most university presses are housed at large institutions. The needs and opportunities of liberal arts colleges are typically under-represented. In funding Amherst College Press (ACP), Amherst College and their library are shaping the future and direction of scholarly publishing by investing in the publication of research that serves the needs of students and faculty at liberal arts colleges and beyond.
ACP Lists:
- Art History
- Visual Studies
- Literary Studies
- Slavic Studies

ACP Series:
- Law, Literature, and Culture
- Mammoth Records
- Russian Travelogues

Amherst College:

Art & Visual Studies:
- Mead Art Museum

English & Literary Studies:
- Lit Fest, The Common, Archives & Special Collections

Music:
- Jazz @ Amherst

Slavic Studies:
- Amherst Center for Russian Culture & Archives
Who's Involved:

Library:
- Administration
- Digital programs
- Director (on Faculty Board)
- Research & Instruction
- Outreach/programs
- Tech & access services

Campus:
- Faculty, including Board members
- Students: assistants, interns, Interterm courses
- On-campus partners: museums, centers, and initiatives

Community:
- Outside researchers, readers, and the general public
- Community groups
- University presses
- Other colleges, universities, and community colleges
FOSTERING COLLABORATION
Amherst College Press is partnered with Lever Press and Fulcrum, the digital publishing platform built and hosted by Michigan Publishing Services.

ACP is part of a network of entities attempting to rethink scholarly publishing models: open access, library-based, media-rich digital books produced with an eye toward long-term sustainability and durability.
Lever Impact Map, April 16 2020
Existing endowments cover operating expenses. ACP is a founding member and contributor to Lever Press, which is funded by a consortium of liberal arts college libraries.

Library retirements fund the director and editorial positions: acquisitions editors and the director work for both Amherst College Press and Lever Press.

Amherst library staff provides support: web designers & digital programs set up initial site, built first platforms. Admin office offers budgeting assistance, payment tracking.
WHAT'S NEXT

01 Continuing to develop the ACP pipeline by acquiring in fields that reflect the strengths of Amherst College and the needs of liberal arts college faculty, students, and libraries.

02 Collaborating with Amherst College Library on programming to highlight the work of faculty and ACP and Lever authors and to better surface OA titles in library search platforms.

03 Increasing student involvement and faculty buy-in through assistantships, interterm courses, class visits, and campus talks on OA and the work of ACP and Lever press.
We are working to create new paths for scholars in the humanities to communicate their ideas to each other, their students, and interested readers.
BE IN TOUCH

www.amherst.edu/library
www.fulcrum.org/amherst
www.leverpress.org

Hannah Brooks-Motl, Assistant Acquisitions
Editor: hbrooksmotl@amherst.edu

Este Pope, Head of Digital Programs:
epope@amherst.edu

ACP: acpress@amherst.edu