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Book Review

Getting the Word Out: Academic Libraries as Scholarly Publishers

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BOOK REVIEW

Getting the Word Out: Academic Libraries as Scholarly Publishers

edited by Maria Bonn and Mike Furlough

2015 | ACRL | 288 pages, softcover | ISBN-13: 978-0-8389-8697-4 | U.S. \$50.00 print, \$0-\$35 digital download

Libraries large and small are developing services to support the creation of scholarship as part of a broader trend in redefining librarianship in the 21st century. *Getting the Word Out: Academic Libraries as Scholarly Publishers* documents the current state of academic library publishing; including its justifications, methods, and products, providing an essential and timely snapshot of the state of library publishing. In a growing number of cases university presses are reporting to their institutional libraries, or working with libraries to build meaningful collaborations that benefit both parties, and more importantly, authors and consumers. Many libraries are building services to meet a broad range of publishing needs within their institutional communities, with outputs ranging from traditional products such as peer-reviewed journals and monographs to undergraduate research and grey literature.

Dan Cohen and Kathleen Fitzpatrick briefly contextualize the book in their Foreword, noting the opportunity of library as publisher to “expand and diversify the realm of publishing at the same time that it remodels that realm for the next century.” Maria Bonn and Mike Furlough follow with an examination of the history of library publishing and early projects, framing the volume as a whole. Hereafter the eleven chapters, each written by authoritative colleagues, are divided into three sections: Why Libraries Publish, How Libraries Publish, and What Libraries Publish.

Getting the Word Out is an excellent overview with broad supporting documentation for anyone who wants to understand the global status and contribution of this vibrant and exciting area, and may be read cover to cover. More granular readers will find individual chapters useful depending on their interests and circumstances as well. J. Britt Holbrook reminds us that the scholars we seek to serve often have values and assumptions different



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from those “we librarians” might possess, and that we would do well to approach publishing with an eye toward empowerment, freedom, and creativity. Readers interested in university press/library collaborations will benefit greatly from chapters by Monica McCormick of NYU and Charles Watkinson of Michigan Publishing, both highly visible leaders in this emerging field. Colleagues at small academic libraries should look to Lisa Spiro’s chapter for her analysis of case studies, patterns observed, and conclusions arrived at smaller teaching-oriented institutions. Closing chapters provide concrete examples of the diverse spectrum of products coming out of library publishing programs, including open educational resources, undergraduate research, and the hot-button issue of data publishing and stewardship.

On the whole, *Getting the Word Out* is a necessary addition to any collection, personal or professional, where an understanding of the status and trends in library publishing would be useful. Bonn and Furlough have provided a valuable resource in curating it for us. It is available for purchase from ACRL in print or digital download in multiple formats, or a free open access version in PDF (<http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=11378>).

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