

## *Library Publishing Toolkit* edited by Allison P. Brown

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# *Library Publishing Toolkit*

edited by Allison P. Brown

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The “library as publisher” is a hot topic right now in both public and academic libraries. From promoting open access to providing patrons with new services to meet a growing demand, libraries are rising to the challenge of moving from being consumers and providers of information to becoming publishers of information. For those libraries who are interested in learning more, or are implementing such programs at their institutions, the *Library Publishing Toolkit* serves as an excellent guide.

The *Toolkit* is a joint effort between the Milne Library at SUNY Geneseo and the Monroe County (NY) Library System. At over 370 pages, the *Toolkit* is quite large, but the editor has grouped the items logically into public library initiatives and academic library initiatives. The format supports those who want an overview of library publishing as well as those looking for specific information regarding planning and implementation. Unfortunately, although public and academic library examples are clearly labeled as such, there is no indication of the size of the libraries, or of the location of some of the public libraries (e.g., there is likely a “Douglas County Library” in many states); this information would be helpful for readers who wish to read about libraries similar in size to their own.

The public library section contains mostly summaries of interviews with those who developed and/or are managing publishing services. The types of publishing initiatives public libraries have engaged in include everything from hosting writers’ circles to operating a publishing house using an Espresso Book Machine. The interviews include both those initiatives that have been a success as well

as initiatives that were not as successful as hoped. The *Toolkit* also provides resources such as an “Author Support Starter Kit” and “Design & Production Checklists” from featured public libraries.

Compared to the public library section, the academic section is larger and organized a bit differently. The case studies in this section were written by those involved in the management/planning/implementation of publishing services or tools at their institutions. To supplement the case studies, helpful appendices are provided, including survey questions, interview questions, workflows, digital production checklists and much more. The case studies describe a variety of service models, which include: working with a university press and other cross-institution collaborations; libraries as publishers of faculty journals and student journals; publishing via LibGuides; and publishing via the Espresso Book Machine.

The above listed initiatives are just a few of the topics covered in this extensive *Toolkit*. The spectrum of publishing tasks that libraries are engaged in is quite large and libraries that are considering implementing publishing services would be well advised to consult the *Library Publishing Toolkit* prior to embarking on their own planning process. Those that take the time to consult the *Toolkit* will come away with some of the tools and ideas needed to implement publishing services at their libraries.

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