Sustaining OA with Publishing Cooperatives

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Status Quo Still Isn’t Working

- Too many journals are still not OA
- Prices continue to rise
- Big deals aren’t great deals
- Flat library budgets
- For Canadians - a dismal exchange rate
The APC Option

- Insufficiently disruptive to benefit libraries
- Often retains established relationships
- Challenging for many in humanities and social sciences
APCs that can be as high as $5000
Opaque pricing justification
Many Canadian libraries are stepping away from their APC funds
Looking for new ways to sustain open access
The OA Cooperative Study

- 2 year research study
- MacArthur Foundation support
- PKP Director, Stanford Professor John Willinsky is the PI
- Stanford PhD student, Kamran Naim
- Expert advisor, Raym Crow, SPARC
- Advisory Board
- http://oa-cooperative.org/
Inspiring Collaborations

- SCOAP3
- Open Access Network
- Open Library of the Humanities
- Hundreds of journal-library partnerships
The Research Question

Are there forms of cooperative associations among scholarly publishing stakeholders that offer an economically responsible and sustainable model for advancing the scholarly and public quality of research and scholarship?
Why a Co-op Model?

- What are co-ops?
- Why do they exist?
Did you know?...

- In the United States, 30,000 co-operatives provide more than 2 million jobs.
- In Kenya, 63% of the population derive their livelihoods from co-operatives.
- In Denmark, consumer co-operatives hold 36.4% of consumer retail market.
- In Japan, the agricultural co-operatives report outputs of USD 90 billion with 91% of all Japanese farmers in membership.
- In Canada, four of every ten Canadians are members of at least one co-operative.

Source: [http://ica.coop/](http://ica.coop/)
Why a Co-op Model?

Based on 7 principles:

- Voluntary and open membership
- Democratic member control
- Autonomy and independence
- Education and training
- Cooperation among cooperatives
- Concern for community
How Would This Work?
Identify Stakeholders

- Journals
- Libraries
- Funders
- Service providers
Co-op Economics

- Members share financial data
- Libraries: What they have to spend
- Journals: What it costs to publish as well as additional revenue (grants, etc.)
- Allocation of resources
Benefits for Journals

- Predictable annual income
- Cost savings through economies of scale
- Greater resources to access specialized services and technologies
- Reduced risk, increased opportunity for innovation
- Increased visibility through content aggregation and open access
Benefits for Libraries

- End to opaque price increases
- Predictable collection budgets
- Access to aggregated content
- Innovative content
How do we get from here to there?
The Subscription-Equivalent Transition (SET)

- For 3 years: libraries continue to pay subscription-equivalent fee as an OA fee
- Journals immediately go fully open access
- Form the co-op

http://oa-cooperative.org/set.html
Case Studies
Discipline-Based: Anthropology

- Libraria (http://libraria.cc)

Anthropological Forum – A Journal of Social Anthropology and Comparative Sociology
Critique of Anthropology
European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
European Association of Archaeologists (EAA)
Limn
Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)
Society for Cultural Anthropology
Society of Ethnographic Theory (with HAU Journal of Ethnographic Theory and HAU Books)
Society for the Anthropology of Work
Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)
Public Knowledge Project
Valuation Studies
Wenner-Gren Foundation
Regionally-Based: Sub-Saharan Africa

- African Journals Online (http://ajol.info)
- 517 journals (208 open access)
Nationally-Based: Canada

- **Journals**: Canadian Association of Learned Journals (96 journals)
- **Libraries**: Canadian Association of Research Libraries (31 research libraries) / Canadian Knowledge Research Network (75 academic libraries)
- **Funders**: SSHRC / FRQSC
- **Service Providers**: PKP / Erudit
Multiple Solutions to Sustaining Open Access
The time is right to repatriate scholarly publishing to the academy and disrupt centuries-old print paradigms. We want scholarly publishing that is not only sustainable: we want it to thrive.

Owen & Whitehead (2016)

Canadian Universities and Sustainable Publishing White Paper

http://i.sfu.ca/vxfmhd