Book sprinting towards
Open Publishing
Developing strategy and tools to support digital scholarship

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Bethany Logan (@Hey_Bethany)
• What does Open mean for libraries?

• Open publishing at Sussex – a sprint or a marathon?

• Our booksprint experience

• Challenges and benefits of Open
What does Open mean?

Budapest Open Access Initiative Declaration: “…lay the foundation for uniting humanity in a common intellectual conversation and quest for knowledge”

Burton (2009): “the Open Scholar … makes their intellectual projects and processes digitally visible and … invites and encourages ongoing criticism of their work and secondary uses of any or all parts of it--at any stage of its development”
HEFCE and RCUK compliance

Accepted for publication - send to lseresearchonline@lse.ac.uk

LSE Research Online team deposits to university repository LSERO

Funded by RCUK?

Yes

Journal has green embargo (12 months: ESRC, AHRC, 6 months for all other RCUK councils)

Yes

LSERO COPY RCUK COMPLIANT

No

Journal is fully open access or has hybrid OA?

Yes

Is the OA license CC-BY?

No

No

JOURNAL NOT RCUK COMPLIANT

LSERO team will pay the APC out of the RCUK block grant

RCUK COMPLIANT

Adapted from University of Cambridge
Changing a research culture

From Brian Nosek

- **POLICY**: Make it required
- **INCENTIVES**: Make it rewarding
- **COMMUNITIES**: Make it normative
- **USER INTERFACE/EXPERIENCE**: Make it easy
- **INFRASTRUCTURE**: Make it possible

(COS CENTER FOR OPEN SCIENCE)
“Universities should be creating opportunities, not setting rules”

James Baker, Lecturer in Digital Humanities @j_w_baker
How can libraries support a transition to an Open research culture?

- Improving infrastructure and interfaces to make Open more easy – ORCID, integrations between repositories
- Establish Open as standard researcher behaviour through training and advocacy
- Incentivise Open by supporting open initiatives from within the Library budget (as advocated by David W. Lewis: https://scholarlycommons.net/)
What does your 2.5% look like?

- Precedent has been set to fund wider infrastructure and to invest in innovative open business models
- Financial constraints present an opportunity for radical reprioritisation in terms of budgets
- Supporting (and funding) local and wider Open initiatives that align with institutional priorities
Sussex and Open publishing – sprint or marathon?
Warming up

- Library Research Support team
- Statement on Open Access
- Isolated Open activity
- Sussex Humanities Lab

By Lance Cpl. Natalie Rostran (https://www.dvidshub.net/image/1057267) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons
Starting blocks

- Pressure from academic community
- Increase in support for Open publishing within the sector
- Position statement on Open publishing
- Creation of Open publishing group

https://www.flickr.com/photos/148686169@N02/36050635106/
Sussex 2025 reimagines the pioneering spirit of the original purpose of the University

Sussex...dares to be different

We will operate in an open environment and...enable access and share our research

Disruptive by design
Into our stride

- Formulating the idea of what a Sussex “Press” would look like
- Avoiding Skeuomorphism
- Developing the infrastructure

https://www.flickr.com/photos/wwarby/4782204077
A team approach

- Partnership – Library AND academic led
- Bringing in the External Relations team
Passing on the baton

- Establishing a “Press” is a long-term strategic initiative

- Continue to support short-term innovations to enable early career and doctoral researchers to experiment with Open

https://www.flickr.com/photos/bobthelomond/14854494665
Our booksprint experience
Sussex Research Hive

• SAGE Research Hive Scholars
• Research community events
• Imperative to publish
Book Sprint

- Collaborative writing
- Write and publish in days
- Opportunities for PhDs and ECRs
On your marks

• Logistics
• Academic scope
• The essentials
Get set

- Seven authors, four days
  - Writing on *home*
  - A formidable facilitator
  - Booktype software
Go

Day One

• Concepts and ideas
• Collective brain
• Chapter outline
"Everybody sat at their computers and worked, this was serious! Litres and litres of coffee, and loads of discussions later, the first day was over."

- Marian (booksprinter)
Going

Sonic Micro-geographies & Histories: Home

HOW: Interview (and Bookprint author) discuss how 'home' has shaped who we are as a person in an academic or non-academic context. Possibly also use visuals: photos, diagrams, maps.

WHY: Create a forum to imagine home's nature.

- Push boundaries of format.
- Enable creative conversations.

Who are you? How did you come to be here? How has home shaped and formed you?

Serve as people who enquire into home and its history, who question the limits of boundaries.

As intro/after content: stay.

hivebooksprint post ice cream break, the team are choosing a title for a chapter on murder at home

Sussex Research Hive
@sussexresearchive
"On the last day there is silence. Messy tables and stares. Some have not slept at all."

Marian (booksprinter)
Quick results

The finished book is available on Sussex Research Online

http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/68309/

Activity Overview

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Hurdles

- Creating something from nothing
- Disciplinary differences
- Unfamiliar workflow
Going for gold

EDUARD CAMPILLO-FUNOLLET
Finding home on Twitter.

"The booksprint showed me a completely different way to approach the writing process."

KETAN JHA
Permanent liminality, legal community, and migration law.

"I feel my thinking is richer for having taken part."
"[Is it] better to have a couple of articles in high-quality, reputable, peer-reviewed publications than many pieces of writing all over the internet?

While there are excellent arguments for both these strategies, I feel that participating in the booksprint and contributing to an Open Access, online publication has been a really useful experience. My research has such interdisciplinary and wide appeal (who doesn’t love a good murder story?) that I am eager for opportunities to share it as widely as possible". – Alexa (Booksprinter)
Step into their (running) shoes

How could open publishing benefit your organisation?

Are there any risks for your organisation?

How could open publishing benefit you as a researcher?

Are there any risks for you as a researcher?
Time trial
Questions

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