

## **ePublishing Paper to the Information Futures Commission.**

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### **1. Proposal:**

That the University Library takes on the research library role of being a publishing service provider. Library publishing services are part of a range of new kinds of services university libraries are developing, such as repository and digitization services. Library publication services are developed in ways that are consonant with research library service culture, including close consultation with researchers and frequent use of partnerships. Without commercial pressures, editors can define their own community.

By supporting epublishing, that is ejournals and e-monographs, the university effects a great benefit to the research community at large. It would allow communities of different shapes and sizes to have their own peer-reviewed research outlet.

Faculty members would get quick and easy tools to run peer-reviewed journals for their research communities, tools that also come with much-needed support and encouragement from their university. They would also get a foothold in journal publishing, without becoming full-fledged professional publishers with complex marketing and sales operations. The University libraries would be able to capture and showcase their faculty's valuable work and develop new roles vis-a-vis faculty research. Finally, the open access landscape gets an influx of open-access peer-reviewed journals that would not otherwise have had a home.

For the University of Melbourne research sector we would be providing an efficient, low-cost, durable system for the production, preservation and dissemination of scholarly peer-reviewed journals that will improve the impact of, and worldwide access to, their research outputs

### **2. Advantage to researchers**

The growth of e- publications within universities will

- 1 Reassert scholarly publishing by the organizations.
- 2 Improve publishing opportunities for researchers.
- 3 Express new focal areas for research through ejournals and e-monographs
- 4 Enable immediacy of access to research
- 5 Improve access to publicly funded research
- 6 Reduce costs
- 7 Tailor publishing service to specific user-communities needs
- 8 Gain production efficiencies, timeliness and broader readership by using digital publishing technologies.
- 9 Support academics in publishing and launching epublications
- 10 Provide publishing alternatives.

### **3. Other Advantages of this new method of epublishing:**

1. Overseas experience shows that there is substantial demand for hosting services, and the Library needs to be increasingly positioned to provide at least basic hosting services.
2. Assists in overcoming significant increases in book prices, and the high costs of serials expenditure (See Appendix 1 )
3. Gives epublications due weight in hiring, promotion and tenure
4. Reduction of journals software design and development costs
5. Provides free tools to manage publication workflows

6. Opens new roles to libraries (see Appendix 2)

#### **4. How**

This has coincided with some open source publishing software such as Open Conference systems (OCS) and Open Monograph Press (OMP) and Open Journal Systems (OJS), which is a powerful web-based ejournal production environment developed by the Public Knowledge Project in Canada (PKP, 2007), along with DPubs from Cornell and Penn State University, which is facilitating service development. (Appendix 3) The software provides a suite of web-based tools which help manage the full life cycle of electronic publishing, from submission of articles through review, editing, mark-up and publication. It has a variety of tools to help with management, including “branding” to reflect institutional and other affiliations, as well as searching tools, language options and subscription alternatives. This brings efficiencies, after an initial learning curve, in publishing.

#### **5. Trial with School of Historical Studies.**

As the ESRC has expertise in this area, it is participating in a trial with the School of Historical Studies to investigate issues related to publishing conference proceedings with open source software, Open Journal System (OJS). It is proposed that it be published under a new University Publishing name, Melbourne eScholarship Press.

The ESRC are working closely with the School’s Publications Committee who will oversee and guarantee the scholarly standard of the output through the peer review process. The papers in the conference proceedings will be eligible for DEEWR recognition as peer reviewed papers. See also the submission from the School of Historical Studies.

#### **6. Why?**

Growth of Open Access movement promises free, immediate, permanent online access to the full text of research articles for anyone. The growing importance of institutional repositories as an environment for the institution’s scholarly knowledge saw the beginning of the university library involvement as part of the e-publishing movement, and this is an extension of that service. Many overseas research libraries are rapidly developing ejournal publishing research services. (Appendix 4) It is also part of the VCs strategic plan that the University become more involved in Open Access publishing.

#### **7. Use of Institutional Repository**

Through IR software, the university can provide a home for a wide variety of valuable journals that do not fit traditional business models for publishing. This new model of publication - peer-reviewed online journals on open-access university repositories - brings significant benefits to all stakeholders. We believe that the institutional repository can become a centerpiece for university publishing, one that allows universities to play a new role in the emerging landscape of open access publishing.

#### **8. Some points of agreement with the key findings of an ARL study on *New options for University Publishing (April 2008)* include:**

- Publishing services are rapidly becoming a norm for research libraries, particularly journal publishing services.
- Service development is being driven by campus demand, largely from authors and editors.

- Libraries are addressing gaps in traditional publishing systems, not replicating traditional publishing.
- Substantial investment in open source applications such as Open Journal Systems, Open Conference Systems, D-Pubs, and DSpace is facilitating service development.
- The numbers of titles research libraries are publishing represent a very thin slice of the scholarly publishing pie; yet, collectively, research libraries are beginning to produce a substantial body of content.
- The use of various forms of revenue generation is common for publishing services, but core support comes from library resources and, in some cases, new campus funding.

(Research Library Publishing Services: New Options for University Publishing: Report on Emerging Library Role (April 2008)

### **Bibliography**

Hahn, Karla L. (March 2008) Research Library Publishing Services: New Options for University Publishing: Rpt on emerging Library Role

<http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/research-library-publishing-services.pdf>

Open Journal Systems

<http://pkp.sfu.ca/?q=ojs>

Open Journal Systems Documentation and Publications

[http://pkp.sfu.ca/ojs\\_documentation](http://pkp.sfu.ca/ojs_documentation)

Stranack, Kevin, The Public Knowledge Project: Open Journal Systems, Open Conference Systems, and More

<http://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/2319>

## Appendix: 1

### Increases in Book and serials expenditure

Assists in overcoming significant increases in book prices, and the high costs of serials expenditure to 273 % by eg Biomed titles increased in the median journal price between 2000 – 2006 by 42% (Oxford journals) and 104% (Sage) (Sands, S and Creaser, C. Trends in scholarly journal prices 2000 – 2006. Loughborough, LISU, 2007. )

High costs = reduced access to research est 2.5 million articles annually in 24,000 peer-reviewed research journals (Harnad 2006) Association of Research Libraries reports that between 1986 and 2004: - serials unit costs rose 188% - expenditure rose to 273% - but serials purchased increased only 42% - monographs suffered net loss with unit cost up 77%

(<http://www.arl.org/stats/arlstat/graphs/2004/monser04.pdf>)

## Appendix 2

### Australian University Libraries with OJS publications.

#### LaTrobe

<http://www.lib.latrobe.edu.au/ojs/index.php/tlg>

#### Swinburne

[E-Journal of Applied Psychology](#)

#### UTS Press UTS University

<http://epress.lib.uts.edu.au/ojs/>

[African Journal of Information & Communication Technology](#)

[Public History Review](#)

[Transforming Cultures eJournal](#)

[Unscrunched](#)

[Public Space: The Journal of Law and Social Justice](#)

University of Sydney and Griffiths University Library are also working on OJS

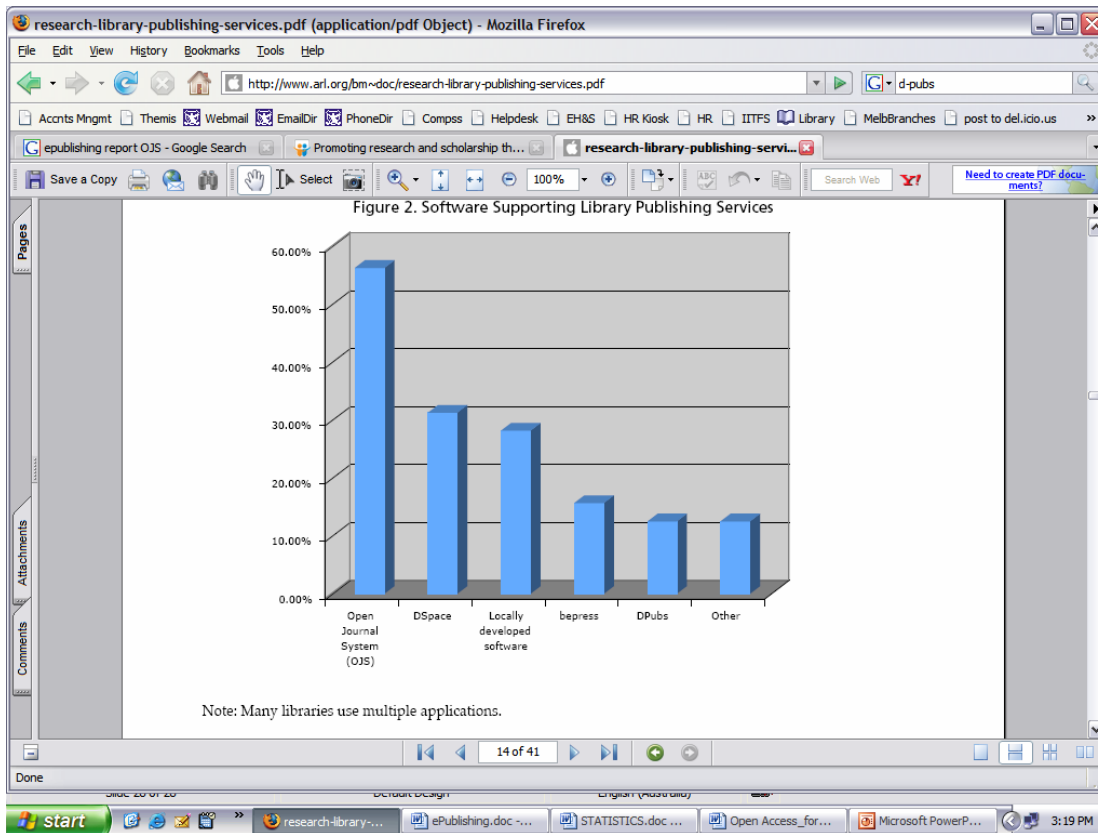
## Appendix 3

### Open Access Journals Statistics

- 1 2005 = 1988 journals
- 2 2006 = 2514 journals
- 3 2007 = 3031 journals
- 4 Increase by approx. 500 titles per year
- 5 26% growth last year

1489 Journals all over the world using the Open Journal System software

Table showing which software is the most popular for use. OJS is the most popular.



## Appendix 4

### Epublishing in research libraries.

The survey verified that research libraries are rapidly developing publishing services. By late 2007, 44% of the 80 responding ARL member libraries reported they were delivering publishing services and another 21% were in the process of planning publishing service development. Only 36% of responding institutions were not active in this arena.

These libraries are publishing many kinds of works, but the main focus is journals; 88% of publishing libraries reported publishing journals compared to 79% who publish conference papers and proceedings, and 71% who publish monographs. Established journal titles dominate this emerging publishing sector and are the main drivers of service development, although new titles are also being produced. Although the numbers of titles reported represent a very thin slice of the scholarly publishing pie, the survey respondents work with 265 titles: 131 are established titles, 81 are new titles, and 53 were under development at the time of the survey. On average, these libraries work with 7 or 8 titles with 6 currently available. . . .

(Research Library Publishing Services: New Options for University Publishing: Rpt on emerging Library Role (April 2008)