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Library Publishing Is Special: Selection and Eligibility in Library Publishing

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Selection and Eligibility in Library Publishing

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Library publishing is ... special.
Traditional publishing is based on ownership, commerce, paid exchanges, and scholarship as a commodity.
... all copyright in and to the Contribution, and all rights therein, including but not limited to the right to publish, republish, transmit, sell, distribute and otherwise use the Contribution in whole or in part in electronic and print editions of the Journal and in derivative works throughout the world, in all languages and in all media of expression now known or later developed....
Libraries are based on a service model of sharing resources & free exchange

I believe library publishing should be based on those values.

Selection and Eligibility in Library Publishing
We should not adopt the values of the system that has been exploiting us.

Library publishing should not duplicate or emulate traditional publishing.
What do university presses really think of library publishing?*

- “… no perceivable quality control, no revenues”
- “Libraries are not generally equipped to publish in a market-driven economy.”
- “Libraries … are rarely suited to engage in … editing, design, and printing.”
- “If library wants to publish, [it] should do so through the press.

“most libraries have done very little research on how exactly scholars and students are using materials.”

“[In] our library’s digital publishing group there is simply no knowledge of publishing. It’s one thing to create content or even package it. That doesn’t mean you’re publishing.”

“The danger is that the library might want to take us over, since they are very aware that some presses are now reporting to libraries!”
Advice to libraries:

Do not take over the press !!!
• Condescension

• Disdain

• Outright antagonism

Why would we want to adopt those attitudes towards ourselves?
What did the libraries do that was so terrible?

1. Took in survivors from the university presses that went under.

2. Kept scholarly presses afloat for 30 years by buying monographs that nobody wanted to read or check out.
What publishers know about the future of publishing:

... and after I acquire all the other publishers they’ll have to deal with me on my terms...

Dunno. I’m just a penguin.
The future is wide open.

Nobody has the answers.
We are not gatekeepers.

Our mission is dissemination.
Libraries publishing ...

Why?

or

Why not?

Selection and Eligibility in Library Publishing
Publishers publishing ...

1. high rejection rates
2. surrender of intellectual property
3. long production schedules
4. high cost of products
5. limited dissemination
We started our imprint (Zea Books) because we encountered projects that:

1. needed to be published, and
2. were being left out by “regular” publishing system.
Our Mission

Provide a publishing outlet for scholarly work that does not fit other available publication models.

• too long
• too short
• too esoteric
• too expensive
• too complicated
• too strange
Authors are ...

Scholars who are either

• affiliated with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln or

• working in research areas of significant interest at UNL

Q: What is not of significant interest at Nebraska?
A: Texas football
Zea Selection Policy

- **Does not** require formal peer review
- **Does** seek an opinion from knowledgeable expert (on campus, if possible).
Ornithology
Parasitology

The Fish Doctor

Reported Incidences of Parasitic Infections in Marine Mammals from 1892 to 1978

John R. Felix

Estudios científicos en el estado de Hidalgo y zonas aledañas

Selection and Eligibility in Library Publishing
Holocaust

La grand misère
Great Misery
Maisie Renault
translated by Jeanne Armstrong

Leon Malmed
We survived
... at last I speak
Selection and Eligibility in Library Publishing

Musical Mechanics for the Organist

Musica mechanica organoedi. 1768

Musical Mechanics

for the Organist

Part 1

by Jacob Adlung

Translated and edited by Quentin Faulkner

Michael Praetorius

Syntagma Musicum II

De Organographia

Parts III – V, with Index

Translated and edited by Quentin Faulkner
Early American Texts

_selection and Eligibility in Library Publishing_
Art History

Media Revolution
Early Prints from the Sheldon Museum of Art

Society and Style
Prints from the Sheldon Museum of Art
Look to

1. Your own needs
2. Your own resources
3. Your own opportunities
Maintain your autonomy

- **Control costs:**
  Nothing attracts supervision as fast as funding.

- **Start small and build up:**
  Much easier to build up than to scale down.
Know your author

You will not have the protective layers of interference that traditional publishers can rely on.
But this is a good thing.
Look for “shovel-ready”

Beware of “Winnie-the-Pooh” projects that get stuck half-way out.
My criteria:

Eligibility:
1. Scholarly (or of interest to scholars)
2. Ready to publish
   [3. Not suitable for univ. press]

Selection:
1. Everything
What is needed most:

A comprehensive shared delivery network—
Your publications automatically go into our catalog (and ours into yours) upon publication.
My time is up.

Thank you.
Zea Books:
http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/zea/

email:
proyster@unl.edu