UKSG webinar – The University Library as Publisher, 29 October 2014

Speakers:
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Should you have a question arising from the webinar and not answered below, please e-mail Janet, Jackie or Angela who will be happy to respond.

Questions arising from the Q&A session and the registration forms:

Q1: Just a comment (although presenters might have views on this): although these presentations have focussed on OJS, universities that use EPrints for their institutional repository have another alternative. They can use their repository to drive the journal publishing process. This software to do this was first implemented by Huddersfield University but has since been adopted elsewhere.
A: Good point and we have come across the idea of overlay journals on repositories before. St Andrews did think about this before deciding on the OJS route. We were not sure if we could provide the technical developments on DSpace and web pages to provide the overlay required. We are using our repository to archive papers from some of our journals, plus we do have some short series of working papers in our repository that are produced by specific University schools and research centres and are primarily exposed through the repository (so sort of similar). See http://research-repository.st-andrews.ac.uk/handle/10023/626/browse?type=title&submit_browse=Title We do actually have a set of open access monographs in our repository and this is quite an exciting venture for us. See http://research-repository.st-andrews.ac.uk/handle/10023/846/browse?type=title&submit_browse=Title and http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/history/frenchcentre/publications.shtml (Janet)

A: One of the major benefits of OJS for some users is the functionality for tracking and managing all the editorial processes, even more than as the publishing platform. So we definitely saw it as fit for purpose in our early explorations. [Jackie]

Q2: Can you explain a bit more about the DOI process for your journals.
A: Answered in session – please review the recording.

A: If anyone has any specific questions about how we manage this at Edinburgh, please get in touch. (Angela)

Q3: Will either University share their checklists for setting up a new journal? Jackie showed a snapshot of a document used at St Andrews to record information (useful as a checklist) - could you share this?

A: Not on the slides, but available via our 'Planning a journal' web page. We also have some basic guides to start off our training (e.g. QuickSubmit process, Create Issue process), and I can share these if people are interested. [Jackie]

Yes this can be found on our planning page http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/library/services/researchsupport/journalhosting/planning/ and specifically at http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/media/library/documents/academic-liaison-material/OJS-SetupFormV2.docx (Janet)

We have a checklist of new journals and I've created some documentation that takes journal managers through each stage of the five-step set up process. I'm happy to send this to anyone who would like to see it. Alternatively, the documentation we use will shortly be available on the service webpages (coming soon). (Angela)

Q4: Jackie said that their OJS software was showing its age. Isn't it possible to update it?
A: Answered in session – please review the recording.

A: Just to confirm, upgrades are available frequently from PKP, we just haven't been able to do any updates for a while because of a lack of technical support. So it is only showing its age because of local circumstances. We have been reviewing technical solutions, and have begun testing v2.4.5 on a development server. We are currently on v2.3.8 but hope to implement the new version – and new features - soon. [Jackie]

Q5: The library as journals publisher sounds pretty complicated. Would you say that a person could just download the OJS software and start, without too much preparation? How complicated is it to get started?
A: Answered in session – please review the recording.

A: To clarify, it is reasonably straightforward for someone with suitable technical expertise to install and run the OJS software – but you do need dedicated server space and good backup procedures in place to make sure your publication will have stable and long-term access. It is not something you could just install on a desktop PC. It can be used fairly easily 'out of the box', but most people want to do some customisation so I would advise ensuring good technical support including knowledge of php. In addition, we mentioned the 'soft issues' as an important part of preparation. [Jackie]

Q6: Are you familiar with any journal publishing options other than OJS, for libraries that don't have the resources for open source?
A: Answered in session – please review the recording.

Q7: There are talks about a London-based shared hosting platform, perhaps similar to the Scottish one you mentioned is under consideration.
A: Scottish one has not had very detailed consideration and has only had some very preliminary theoretical discussions. There were some discussions at an SDLC AGM meeting in late 2011 and I think there were 2 angles. In addition to the idea of a shared technical platform with separate instances for each institution operating their own journal hosting service there was also the idea of

aggregating journal content across the institutions. So I suppose this was the idea of "Scottish" journals which could cross over institutions and could be disciplinary based and might better fit some disciplinary needs and profiles. I think the ideas appealed because of potential savings and collaboration in infrastructure, but also as a method to promote Scottish research and enhance its visibility. Plus the aggregated content need not apply to every journal and could offer a mix and match approach, possibly even a "super" journal which took highlights from other journals.

More recently in St Andrews, because we have some holes in our technical support, we have been specifically interested in other hosting solutions and so have had some discussions with SDLC at our repositories development group meetings. Will be good to know how the London discussions progress (Janet)

We are also exploring other hosting solutions including the Ubiquity Press institutional offer, as they may be able to provide a flexible solution. We are keen to retain an 'APC-free' model. These explorations are part of a wider review of the service in the context of all our OA support activities. Our first priority is to ensure the current level of hosting service is maintained and kept up to date. [Jackie]

Q8: The examples seem to be arts and humanities. Is there any experience with STM? Or is it that the hard sciences have sufficient (and entrenched) outlets?
A: Answered in session – please review the recording.

Q9: Have you undertaken to submit any of these journals to A&I services? Who would you see managing that process?
A: Answered in session – please review the recording.

Q10: It's worth noting PKP also offer a hosted version of OJS (at a reasonable cost) for anyone not wanting to self-host.
A: Answered in session – please review the recording.

Q11: When we (University of Northampton) registered with CrossREF for DOIs for our OJS collection, we understood that CrossREF required us to state how we were allowing for preservation. We then went for CLOCKSS but I wondered what you were using? (Effectively the CLOCKSS licence doubles the cost - albeit both CrossRef and CLOCKSS are reasonable.)
A: We haven't gone down the CLOCKSS route yet, but preservation at this level is on our list of things to do. We are in the initial stages of setting up legal deposit with the National Library of Scotland. Again this is on our to do list (Janet)

A: At Edinburgh we use LOCKSS. We have a LOCKSS box. (Angela)

Q12: Are the journals also in Web of Science?
A: Not ours (Janet)
A: Nor ours (Angela)

Q13: I notice that neither St. Andrews nor Edinburgh appear in the Library Publishing Directory 2015. What value do they see in a collaborative relationship with other library publishers? (Knowing that the Library Publishing Coalition has started as a North American organization, but is contemplating expanding internationally.)

A: Answered in session – please review the recording.

Q14: What are seen as the biggest barriers to the development of libraries as publishers?

A: I think, as always cost, resource and if we're talking about offering a publishing service rather than a hosting service, some kind of institutional, top down strategy that joins up existing OA services, with the hosting service and the University Press (if one exists). At the moment, our service is developing organically and we manage to provide a hosting service with existing resource. Offering an added value publishing service would require additional dedicated staff resource, training and a strategic plan. In terms of developing a service (hosting or publishing) there's also the uncertainty around demand and subsequently the amount of effort involved.

Q15: Does your university have also a real editor, i.e. University press? Or is it part of the library system?

A: We don't currently have an officially active University Press in St Andrews. Some Schools and Institutes publish under their own branding. (Janet)

A: We do have a University Press http://www.euppublishing.com/ However, the press is completely separate from the Library. (Angela)

Q16: Is it wise to use OJS and OMP software? How much capacity do you advise?

A: We use OJS in both test and live environments on LAMP (Linux, Apache, MySql and PHP) Virtual Machines that also run other PHP applications. We have had no issues with capacity on these VMs due to OJS, but we monitor them daily, like all of our servers. (Angela)

Q17: Are there any Best Practice documents etc. regarding University publishing?

A: We could only point you to the information we provide on these two pages http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/library/services/researchsupport/journalhosting/ and http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/library/services/researchsupport/journalhosting/planning/. I think you would need to review the literature and review best practices in a number of institutions to find the documents you need (Janet)

A: There's the Library Publishing toolkit (via OMP), available to download: http://www.publishingtoolkit.org./ SPARC Europe also have a list of resources: http://sparceurope.org/oa-publishing/