

Scholarly Publishing

its place in our knowledge system

National Scholarly Book Publishers' Forum (NSBPF) Conference

Local content, global reach:
the value of South African scholarly publishers

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The Landscape

- University presses – each operating independently – in competition
- Conventional markets for scholarly monographs cannot produce sustainable presses
- Declining library budgets – impact on monograph acquisition – ‘underperforming asset of libraries’
- e-Book sales are up – but not enough to address sustainability
- Yet, production of scholarly books covering foundational scholarship is critically important
- Unequal access to publishing and reading

Should we be considering new models?

Changes in Scholarly Book Publishing Environment

- Opportunities and risks of the digital technology moment we are in
- Global movement towards open access
- Open science
- Geopolitical pressures on scholarly work

ISC: opening the record of “science”.

Universities are knowledge intensive social institutions

- Social compacts
 - academic freedom
 - institutional autonomy
- The democratising mission of science and universities
 - the rise of anti-intellectualism
- **Affordability**
- Inequality of access to publishing and to reading

The grand challenges facing humanity

Knowledge building and grand challenges

- Scholarly work in addressing grand challenges
public funding of research
- Scholarly work/universities as bridges between societies
the impact of geopolitics (and the geopolitics of knowledge)

Remove scholarly work from behind paywalls

Build towards a global commons of scholars and scholarship

Whose knowledge?

Entering the global knowledge system on our own terms

- Address the political economy of scholarly publishing
- Open the record of our scholarly work for local and global audiences
- Build local scholarly publishing as a political project

Return scholarly publishing to the scholarly community

Some Thoughts on Scholarly Book Publishing

Sustainability Sustainability Sustainability

- National imperative
- National project
- Design an open model
- Shared services platform – including data analytics platform
- Return publishing to the scholarly community – cooperative governance models

Invest in the future of a liberated South Africa

What are the Options?

Must clearly move towards a new model of publishing

A national scholarly publishing operation with institutional imprints? Not for profit operation

OR

A number of not-for-profit operations – experiment with models

National shared services platform

Shared governance (universities, science councils, institutes)

Develop a national funding model that supports scholarly book publishing

Removes the responsibility of open access publishing from scholars – open to publish, open to read

A sustainable model of subsidy from DSI/DHET. Open science will require investment

Policy consonance – national, institutional

Construct national and institutional ecosystems

Examples

Models from Global North

Involve 'crowd sourcing' – through library subscriptions, for example
Collective funding

Not-for-profit

Some have book processing charge (BPC) model

Most have adopted a public good approach

Knowledge Unlatched

CEUP (Central European University Press)

Languages Science Press (scholar-led)

TOME (Towards an Open Monograph Ecosystem) AAU

Lever Press (Amherst and Michigan)

Luminos (BPC mostly funded by author) UC system

D2O (Direct to Open) MITP

Some final thoughts

think of scholarly publishing as a national imperative

work as a sector and aggregate resources

build partnerships

open access to reading and PUBLISHING

leverage the digital technologies where this makes sense

build policy consonance

THANK YOU