TWO APPROACHES TO SUPPORT FOR OPEN ACCESS

Sustaining the Knowledge Commons
sustainingknowledgecommons.org
A SSHRC Insight Development Project

Heather Morrison & Jihane Salhab
CAPAL Conference, June 2 2015, Ottawa Ontario

Université d’Ottawa | University of Ottawa
École des sciences de l’information / School of Information Studies
http://arts.uottawa.ca/sis/
ABOUT SUSTAINING THE KNOWLEDGE COMMONS

• Knowledge commons (OA, priorities public interest & scholarship per se)

• Macro transition to OA

• OA APCs

• Resource Requirements for small scholar-led publishers

• Open research approach – blog and dataverse
  • sustainingknowledgecommons.org
  • http://dataverse.scholarsportal.info/dvn/dv/oaapc/
Most (2/3) open access journals do not charge APCs. Roughly there is no changes in the % of Journals that charge APCs in DOAJ compared to 2014 census.

- Average APC $964/ Mode of APC is $0
- Wide variation in APC pricing
- 61% of publishers are commercial in nature
2015 OBSERVATIONS

- Different trends
  - BMC: prices decrease in USD and increase in both EUR and GBP
  - Libertas Academica: Average of increase is between 15 to 56%
  - Plos One: Fixed price of $1350
DOES SAME PRICE MEAN SAME COST?

1350 USD to CAD

- 2014: 1470 USD
- 2015: 1620 USD

sustainingknowledgecommons.org
A SSHRC Insight Development Project
Heather Morrison, & Jihane Salhab,

Université d’Ottawa | University of Ottawa
École des sciences de l’information / School of Information Studies http://arts.uottawa.ca/sis/
Loss of major currencies to the Dollar in 2015

- CAD: 10%
- JPY: 18%
- GBP: 5%
- EUR: 21%

Series 1
Publisher Case Study: Hindawi

A SSHRC Insight Development Project
Heather Morrison, & Jihane Salhab,

sustainingknowledgecommons.org

Université d’Ottawa | University of Ottawa
École des sciences de l’information / School of Information Studies http://arts.uottawa.ca/sis/
RESOURCES REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL SCHOLAR-LED PUBLISHERS

• Qualitative to quantitative

• Research question: what resources do small scholar-led journals need to survive and thrive in an open access future?

• Interviews & focus groups with editors of journals that are, or want to be, open access – bilingual (english / french)

• To date: 8 interviews (4 countries), 1 focus group.

More to come

sustainingknowledgecommons.org
A SSHRC Insight Development Project
Heather Morrison, & Jihane Salhab,
EARLY RESULTS

DIVERSITY

• Small journal, 2 issues / year but some articles are monograph length and work includes data deposit in repository and cross-linkages

TYPES OF CONTENT

• Academic or professional (or both)

• Academic + community (local arts scene, social activists, local or ethnic history – cultural groups)

• Conference to newsletter to articles (not peer reviewed) to peer reviewed)
EARLY RESULTS

RESOURCES: PEOPLE

• Academic / professional (service time, volunteer, course release)

• Support staff (e.g. communications with authors and/or community, social media, copyediting or proofreading) – usually part-time, often 1 day / week

• Technical support
• Canada: OJS and Érudit

• Library / university hosting and support services really appreciated when available!

• Commitment / good service essential (managing with a half-implemented pilot or test service in the long term is really hard)

• Range: homegrown html to commercial outsourcing
EQUITY FOR SCHOLAR-AS-PUBLISHER

• If your library or institution is willing to pay OA APCs, doesn’t it make sense to provide free journal hosting services?

• If you are doing this…your faculty appreciates it, very much!

• The faculty at your university are not just authors, also scholar-publishers, members of editorial boards, etc. Are you providing them with information on how to transition to OA? Some feel neglected!

sustainingknowledgecommons.org
A SSHRC Insight Development Project
Heather Morrison, & Jihane Salhab,
Early results

Subsidy model for a small journal:
One scenario

$25,000 a year subsidy for small journal (20 articles / year) can cover:

- $8,000 course release (time for senior academic to focus on scholarly quality, close to 1 day / published article)
- $9,000 for part-time professional support staff (about 1 day / week, > 1 day / published article)
- $3,000 for top quality journal hosting (PKP Enterprise, érudit)
- $5,000 for other expenses (e.g. language editing, translation, graphics)
- If you are in a large research library - $25,000 / year roughly equal to your 2013 contribution to Elsevier’s increase in profit from 38 to 39% (more tomorrow)

sustainingknowledgecommons.org
A SSHRC Insight Development Project
Heather Morrison, & Jihane Salhab,

Université d’Ottawa | University of Ottawa
École des sciences de l’information / School of Information Studies http://arts.uottawa.ca/sis/
CONCLUSIONS

• OA APC is a model that works for some journals and publishers today

• Most OA journals do not have APCs

• There are many small scholar-led journals that want to be OA that would appreciate some help in the transition

• Library / university journal hosting, technical support and OA information tailored to scholars-as-publishers are appreciated when available

sustainingknowledgecommons.org

A SSHRC Insight Development Project
Heather Morrison, & Jihane Salhab,

Université d'Ottawa | University of Ottawa
École des sciences de l’information / School of Information Studies http://arts.uottawa.ca/sis/
QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

• Heather.Morrison@uottawa.ca

• Jihane Salhab jderg011@uottawa.ca

sustainingknowledgecommons.org

sustainingknowledgecommons.org
A SSHRC Insight Development Project
Heather Morrison, & Jihane Salhab,

Université d’Ottawa | University of Ottawa
École des sciences de l’information / School of Information Studies http://arts.uottawa.ca/sis/