Decoupling the academic book?

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University Press Redux, British Library
13 Feb 2018
Open for innovation
Open access policy in the Research Excellence Framework

REF 2021
- Publication 1 Jan 2014 to 31 Dec 2020
- Long-form works excluded from minimum requirements...
- ...but, reward for going beyond minimum requirements in Research Environment assessment

REF 2027?
- Publication 1 Jan 2021 to 31 Dec 2026[?]
- Long-form works required to be open access
Costs and funding flows

“We estimate that to publish 75% of anticipated monographic submission output for the next REF would require approximately £96m investment over the census period. This is equivalent to £19.2m per year. Academic library budgets as they are currently apportioned would not support this cost. However, these sums are but a fraction of the total quality-related funding, Arts and Humanities Research Council and Economic and Social Research Council budgets. We close with a series of provocative suggestions for how the mandate could be implemented.”
Business models

• New university press

• Mission-oriented open access

• Freemium

• Aggregator/distributor

• Author pays

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/rereports/year/2015/monographs/
Decoupling the scholarly journal


http://doi.org/10.3389/fncom.2012.00019
Decoupling the scholarly journal

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“Acquisitions is the most expensive activity. Among the five core publishing activities assessed, regardless of press size, the greatest share of staff cost is spent on Acquisitions activities, with Marketing and Manuscript Editorial activities vying for second.”
Open review

http://www.openreviewtoolkit.org/

http://mcpress.media-commons.org/plannedobsolescencel/
Alternative business models?

http://dougbelshaw.com/blog/ebooks/openbeta/

https://leanpub.com/

Leanpub puts authors first.

- 90% Earn a 90% royalty, minus 50¢ per sale.
- Publish to PDF, iPad and Kindle from one manuscript. (we make PDF, EPUB and MOBI versions for you).
- Write using your favorite tools. Preview or publish new book versions with one click.
- Write on your own computer and sync using Dropbox, Github or Bitbucket.
- Publish your book early to get reader feedback, and publish new versions as often as you like.
- Choose your own minimum and suggested prices, from $0 or $0.99 to $500. ($9 to $29 is typical.)
- You keep the rights to your book, not us. You can do a deal with a publisher at any time.
- Produce a print-ready PDF or InDesign export of your finished book with one click.
Decoupling the academic book?
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• Are there opportunities to innovate through decoupling?

• What are the costs of and barriers to decoupling?

• What can policy makers do to help?
Thank you for listening

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