Bridging the gap

OAPEN and SPARC Europe; three initiatives to promote Open Access Monograph Publishing

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Agenda

- SPARC Europe
- Open Access Monograph Publishing: gaps
- OAPEN & SPARC Europe: bridges
About SPARC Europe (Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition)

• Formed in 2002 following the success of SPARC America (1998)
• We aim to be a voice for the European Research Library Community
• We promote and support a more open and balanced system of scholarly communications

• 2011: 90 members in 14 countries
• We primarily focus on Open Access to research literature and data

• We encourage partnerships between different stakeholders such as: libraries, publishers, funding bodies, research institutes, policy makers
One of our goals is to promote and support new publishing models

_Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ): lists over 6000 peer reviewed OA journals_

_Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA): to represent the interest of OA Publishers_


_Open Access Publishing in European Networks (OAPEN)_
SPARC Europe & OAPEN & other stakeholders: to promote Open Access Monograph Publishing

Raise awareness amongst publishers, funding bodies, authors and universities
Some barriers / gaps in (OA) book publishing

- Printing books = becoming too expensive
- Publishers decrease their marketing activities
- Libraries decrease acquisitions

>> Decrease of visibility, retrievability and usage

- Open Access is a rather unknown terrain in book publishing, for authors and publishers
- Which leads to negative perception, low awareness and quality doubts

- Technique – infrastructure = a hassle
- Funding needed
Joint Projects to create solutions

1. Raising awareness of OA for books: existing book funding programs
2. Raising awareness of OA for books: existing OA publication funds
Target existing book funding programs

- Promote frameworks for OA books as an effective form of publishing and dissemination
- Funders can include and promote OA books as an accepted publication model
Joint Projects to create solutions - 2

Target existing Open Access Publication funds

- Introduce the concept of OA book publishing into OA publication funds of funding bodies and institutions >> raise awareness

- Outline possible policies and procedures

- List existing practices > aim to researchers
Directory of Open Access Book Publishers

- To determine requirements for publishers to qualify as open access academic publishers
- To set up certification / application procedure
- Modeled after the Directory of OA Journals
“Open Access? No need. You publish in print. Even placing a PDF on your personal website is not done. Do simply don’t harm your publisher.”

Professor at faculty of Cultural Anthropology at Utrecht University (February 2010)
“Open Access does play a role in publication strategies, but for books it is not an issue yet. We are only interested in the unit prize of our book and the reputation of the publisher.”

*Director of a research institute at Faculty of Humanities at Utrecht University (February 2010)*
“I do not trust Open Access Book Publishers. Especially when they are new. Who tells me they don’t support any new project? And who guarantees they organize the review process adequately?”

Another director of another research institute at the Faculty of Humanities at Utrecht University (February 2010)
“If you don’t publish a book you are considered to be brain dead.”
The end - Thank you!