8. Students as authors of e-textbooks

Introduction: links and references

Finding Reasons to Publish Student Writers
Although 20 years old the sentiment of this 1998 publication in the Language Arts Journal of Michigan are still relevant. Rather than reasons not to publish the Author, Scott Sheldo, looks at the reasons to publish student work.

8.1 Why publish students’ work: links and references

https://publish.illinois.edu/ugresearch/2014/10/14/the-benefits-of-publishing-as-an-undergraduate/
This University of Illinois blog post gives 6 benefits of publishing as an Undergraduate.

https://elearningindustry.com/top-10-reasons-publish-online-learners-work
This eLearning Industry blog post features the top 10 reasons why it is beneficial to publish online learners’ work.

http://dx.doi.org/10.3138/jsp.47.2.147
This paper ‘Publishing undergraduate research: linking teaching and research through a dedicated peer reviewed open access journal’ is written by staff at the University of Huddersfield about students publishing their work in ‘Fields: the journal of Huddersfield student research’.

http://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.380
This paper, from the University of Manchester, gives another view of library-based publishing to support student research journals.

https://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/blog/2012/jun/14/features-of-a-quality-ebook
This article from the Guardian online focusses on the perception of e-textbooks versus hard copy in relation to prestige. To combat this perception e-textbooks must be of a high quality without compromising the on digital process and its benefits. Some useful ways of achieving this are highlighted ranging from ‘choice of topic’ to ‘updateability and interactivity’.

Sustainable Book Publishing as a Service at the University of Michigan
This journal article, published in the Journal of Electronic Publishing looks at sustainable publishing in the University of Michigan and the issues faced by institutions when they move from publishing journals to publishing books. It discusses issues of quality, copyediting and workflow and looks at how the university has created their own in-house publishers to meet the wider and evolving needs of the institution, its staff and its students.

Public Libraries as Publishers: Critical Opportunity
In this 2017 article Kathryn M. Conrad highlights the benefits that public libraries can gain from becoming publishers. These are not unique to public libraries and the underlying theme of engagement is equally relevant in academic institutions.

University Publishing in a Digital Age
This 2007 article looks at the evolving landscape of digital publishing and the opportunities it affords universities. It states that “a renewed commitment to publishing in its broadest sense can enable universities to more fully realize the potential global impact of their academic programs, enhance the reputations of their
specific institutions, maintain a strong voice in determining what constitutes important scholarship and which scholars deserve recognition, and in some cases, reduce costs."

This Edutopia article by Jim Moulton looks at self-publishing and what it offers the student. It is slightly dated now but the sentiment remains.

This article on the ‘porous university’ looks at the nature of openness within higher education. It looks beyond openness as releasing content towards openness in its widest context.

8.3 Ethical issues: links and references

UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO)
This is an independent charity that provides advice and support to researchers, producing a Code of Practice guide that is used in over 50 UK universities: UKRIO Code of Practice (2009) and Recommended Checklist for researchers: UKRIO Publications

UK Research and Innovation, Research Integrity
UKRI is the non-departmental public body which includes the seven UK research councils. It publishes the RCUK Policy and Guidelines on Governance of Good Research Conduct

National Centre for Research methods
A body founded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and administered by the Universities of Southampton, Manchester and Edinburgh to offer training, support and access to resources in research methodology

8.4 Support Needed: links and references

This guide is aimed primarily at HSS early career scholars and explains how to turn a dissertation into a book.

This book is a practical guide in how to modify and edit your dissertation for publication.

This web article discusses the pros and cons of publishing student dissertations as books, particularly how this affects the students’ future career.

8.6 Contractual Issues: links and references

Jisc on copyright
The Jisc Quick Guide Intellectual property rights in a digital world explains the law around IPR and explains licences and ownership and what these mean for students.

Business models
This is a 2011 report about economic models for scholarly publishing that discusses the characteristics and challenges of the various business models, including those for e-publishing.
Institution as e-textbook publisher toolkit

This article is part of the Institution as e-textbook publisher toolkit: https://www.jisc.ac.uk/guides/institution-as-e-textbook-publisher-toolkit

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