What Do Editors Want?: Assessing a Growing Library Publishing Program and Finding Creative Solutions to Unmet Needs

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What do Editors Want?
Assessing a Growing Library Publishing Program and Finding Creative Solutions to Unmet Needs

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Our Project
Assess the Libraries’ publishing program.
• Conducted group interviews with editors and assistants of URI’s scholarly journals
• Gathered feedback on successes and challenges; “editor wish list”
• Identified creative solutions editors have used outside of library resources

Editors’ Ongoing Challenges
• Copy editing is burdensome
• Templating and layout is onerous (done outside of the platform)
• Lack of time and energy to keep things going, too much work and too few people
• Lack of indexing (e.g. in Scopus)
• Creating DOI’s and complying with Crossref’s requirements can be difficult, even though DOIs are valued

Background
• Five active journals
• One librarian and one staff (small piece of our jobs)
• Libraries maintain contract with BePress, coordinate journal setup, assist with migrating content, apply for DOAJ listing, apply for ISSN, maintain Crossref contract and train editors in DOIs, respond quickly to questions and issues

Editors’ Most Valued Services
• Personalized library support during setup and “point of crisis”
• BePress tech support
• BePress platform: journal metrics, shareable dashboard, flexibility, ease of use
• Connecting with other scholars and communities on a global scale

Editors’ Wish List
• Assistants to work on copy editing, designing templates, other tasks to free editors to work on the content
• Getting students involved in journal production and marketing
• Guidance on promoting the journal and getting indexed by major scholarly indexes
• More communication among editors of different journals

Creative Solutions
What resources have editors found outside of the library publishing program to support their journals?
• Funding: small grants, startup money, funding from partner institution, editors paying out of pocket
• Labor: volunteers from scholarly community or parent organizations; hiring freelancers; student workers or interns
• Tools: Constant Contact; Grammarly; Recite Works

Global downloads map from DigitalCommons@URI. URI’s OA journals led to new, tangible connections between the editorial teams and other scholars and communities in these fields.

Next Steps!
• Create “editors forum” coffee hour with journal editors to chat and ask questions
• Improve journal documentation and training
• Look into creating a pipeline for students to participate in journal production
• Better demonstrate the value of library publishing to administrators

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“This was better than therapy!”
~ editor feedback on group interview