PWW

Publishing Without Walls

Understanding the needs of scholars in a contemporary publishing environment

PWW

Project Overview

> *A digital scholarly publishing initiative from the University of Illinois*

- **Partnership between**
  - University Library
  - School of Information Sciences
  - Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities
  - Department of African American Studies

- **Funded by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**

- **$1M over four years (2015-2019)**

Objectives

- Digital publications in multiple formats
- Facilitating collaboration
- University Press cooperation
- Capacity Building
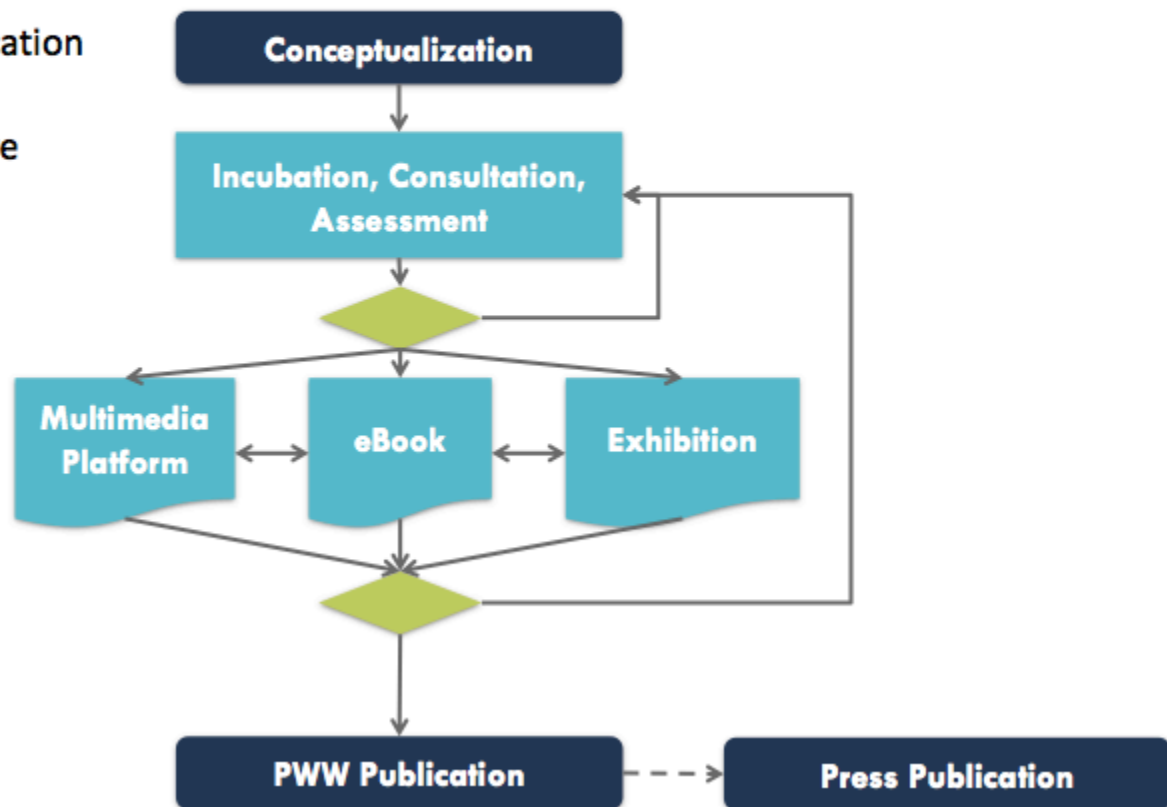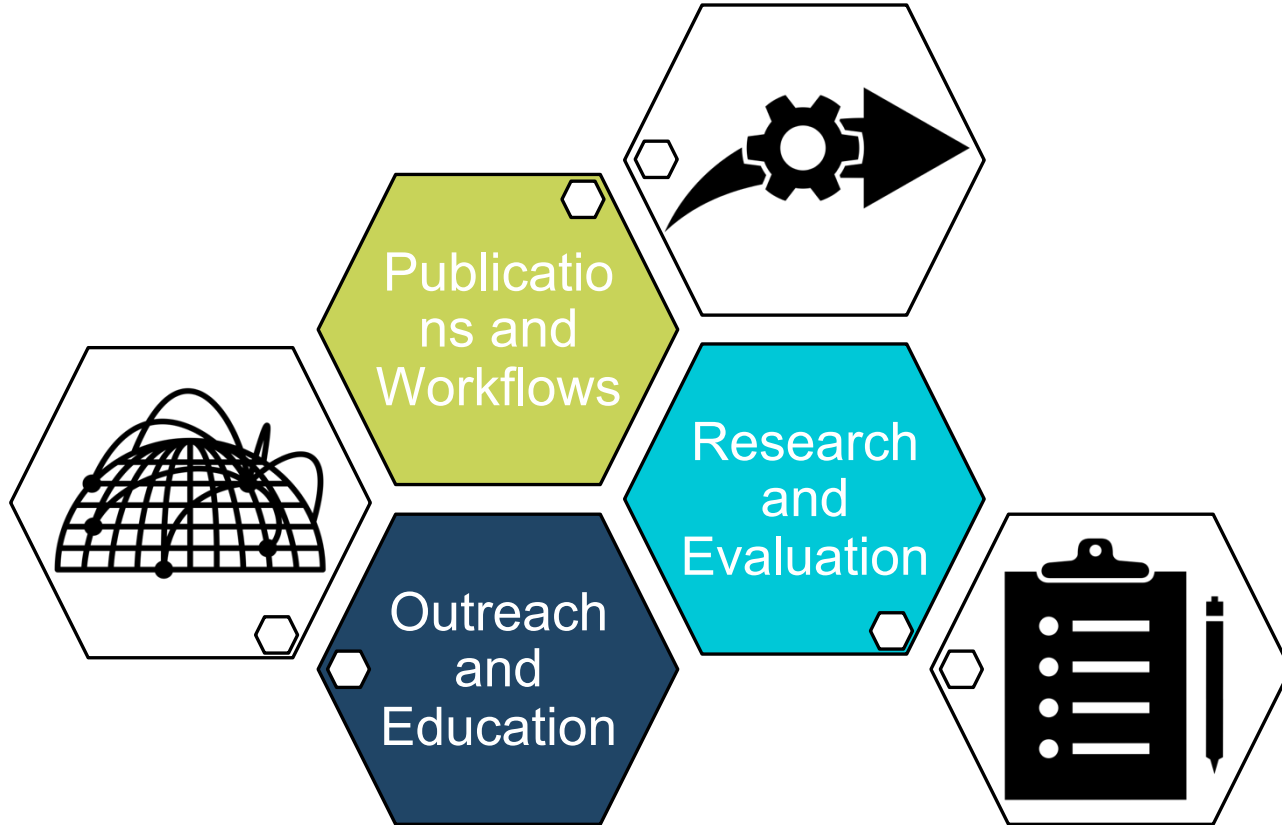- Alternative publishing models to university and commercial presses

Process

A view of the publication process from the scholar's perspective

Working Groups

Publications and Workflows

Research and Evaluation

Outreach and Education

Research as part of the foundation of the publishing house

Cliff notes for survey results

➤ Print publishing is Too Slow

➤ Digital publishing needs a lot of editorial and technical support

➤ Financial remuneration doesn't matter much. Neither do institutional colleagues

➤ Reputation and attention in the field matter a whole lot.

➤ Scholars want to know about what's going on behind the curtain.

➤ Most people think they are more accepting of change than their peers.

Let's dig a little deeper . . .

"so what's great about this digital possibility is that you can publish something that's highly visual. You can mix your textual exposition... with the visual evidence in a kind of interactive way and let people explore the evidence themselves."

"I can't imagine we can immediately build something that has all the advantages of the traditional paper plus all the things I just mentioned right off the bat. It would be better than some things, worse than others. So it would take a fair degree of experimentation to get from here to there and I think that people want things that work perfectly the first time. No new technology does that. So we need to have support and tolerance for failure and I'm afraid that universities are very afraid of failure."

Some conversation starters . . .

1. What are your scholarly goals for your project? What impact would you like it to have ,either in your discipline or in the broader public arena?

2. Do you have other professional goals to which you see this work contributing?

3. What kind of information will help you to determine whether you have accomplished these scholarly and professional goals once your results are published?

4. At this time, do you have any plans for sharing the results of your work, either in progress or in final form? If so, how do you plan on doing so? Can you talk about ideal or desired times to publication? How much of a priority do you place on speed to publication?

5. What do you see as the ideal form of publication for your findings?

6. Do you see any impediments to deploying that form? If so, what are they?

7. Are there kinds of support or services that would help you overcome those impediments?

8. Can you talk a little about your past publishing experiences? Have any been particularly successful or particularly dissatisfying? Elaborate on why. Do you have experience with any forms of digital publication?

"In its factical existence, any particular Dasein either 'has the time' or 'does not have it'. It either 'takes time' for something or 'cannot allow any time for it'. Why does Dasein 'take time', and why can it 'lose' it? Where does it take time from? How is this time related to Dasein's temporality?"

Themes emerging: Scholarly Being and Time

Everything I work on takes some **time**.

The impediment to writing really good journal articles is mostly **time** management

In the humanities area there seems to be no expectation that articles get published in a **timely** way

One of the reasons for my skepticisms with journals is that) it just takes years, literally, to get things through.

It is frustrating when you are doing traditional kind of academic publishing, the length of **time** it takes to get something in actual print form, even when you finish the manuscript it is another year.

*It's still important to go through the peer-review process and all of the things that make academic work scholarly, but there are just so many other way to engage your audiences in a much quicker period of **time**.*

Themes emerging: What digital publishing might do for me and my work

a big goal of the project is to make evidence come alive in a narrative history, to present that evidence in a way that you usually wouldn't be able to do if you were writing a traditional scholarly book or article in print.

If I'm able to execute an online publication to my satisfaction, I would imagine I would get some sort of feedback pretty quickly from the audience I'm eager to reach with my material.

It's not made of wood pulp. It's something that exists online that's hyper-text and other people can comment on that can directly link to its sources and other people can link to it, that has an attached data set of results that other people can make use of, check, revise, refine and other people can update

Themes emerging: How do we know if it's any good? How good?

It's one thing to say that you want to do this born digital book, but a whole 'nother to actually produce something that's worthy of being out there.

So I have my paper floating around in the internet sphere of academia and I have no kind of like a 6-month check up. Do People like it? Is it a thing anymore?

We used to have the real stuff and the vanity press stuff. Now we have this kind of gray zone out there.

Themes emerging: Risk, Reluctance, Resistance

I've talked to people about some of the drawbacks, potentially, of using something like Scalar and publishing in the HWW kind of channel or whatever you want to call it. I mean, publishing my work that way and I think that one of the biggest liabilities is that it doesn't have the kind of institutional weight that the kind of traditional print publication in my field has. It doesn't have the automatic audience.

I would want it to have a limited readership, so it's not just out there one the web for people to cut and paste and claim as their own.

I've received a lot of warning about how fleeting certain fields of study can be.

I feel the journal publication statement is almost like a Craigslist. I have to know the spammers as opposed to the real people and that can be intimidating.

Working to overcome reluctance and mitigate risk

- Research informs development of tools and services
- The goals of scholars inform the deployment of tools and services
- Tools and services provoke the imagination of the scholars
- The imagination of the scholars aspires to new possibilities for the communication and reach of scholarship
- Working together we realize new possibilities for the communication and reach of scholarship

PWW PUBLISHING WITHOUT WALLS

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