DIGITAL PUBLISHING WORKSHOP

LESSONS FROM TEACHING PUBLISHING
THE DIGITAL PUBLISHING WORKSHOP @ COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

MICHELLE E. WILSON
DIGITAL PUBLISHING LIBRARIAN, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
LIBRARY PUBLISHING FORUM | MAY 9, 2019

PUBLISHING AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

▸ Columbia University Libraries Digital Scholarship division supports the creation of digital humanities and digital scholarship projects big and small, digital editions and exhibitions, manages the university's institutional repository Academic Commons, and hosts scholarly blogs and journals.

▸ CUL publishes 28 "partner journals" managed by faculty, graduate, and undergraduate boards

JOURNALS PUBLISHING

▶ Journals program challenges:

   ▶ Poor quality and few articles
   ▶ Out of date websites
   ▶ No identified faculty advisors
   ▶ Not conducting peer review
   ▶ Not having authors sign contracts
   ▶ Failing to make content open access
   ▶ Attrition

JOURNALS PUBLISHING CHALLENGES

▸ Challenges to journals editors
  ▸ Editorial turnover
  ▸ Lack of basic publishing knowledge
  ▸ Need for training on tools and softwares
  ▸ Lack of access to and explanation of documentation

We could not hold editors responsible for adhering to rules that had not been clearly articulated, using documents and technologies they had not been trained to use, or upholding an ethical framework they were unaware of.

THE DIGITAL PUBLISHING WORKSHOP

▸ A group learning environment with face-to-face contact between the Digital Publishing Librarian and the entire editorial board

▸ An online resource for remote participation and a one-stop location for tools, additional readings, and a library of documentation

▸ A set of foundational teaching tools for publishing education at Columbia

THE DIGITAL PUBLISHING WORKSHOP

▸ Attendance for graduate and undergraduate students was made an eligibility requirement for partnerships and was added to the Libraries' publishing partner agreements

▸ Online, written lectures and access to tools and materials presented on-campus allowed remote students and students with work placements to participate

▸ The Editorial Workbook provided exercises and sample texts that could be used in class, by editorial boards on their own, or in later consultations

WORKSHOP DESIGN

1. Introduction to Digital Publishing
2. Identity and Community Building for Digital Publications
3. New Perspectives on Peer Review
4. Author Rights and Relationships
5. Digital Publishing Production
6. Marketing, Outreach, and Impact for Digital Publications

WORKSHOP DESIGN

▶ "New Perspectives on Peer Review"

  ▶ Case Study: Canadian Journal of History
  ▶ What's the problem with Peer Review?
  ▶ Open Peer review introduction/debate
  ▶ Excellent Peer Review in Practice
    ▶ Writing peer review guidelines and questionnaires
    ▶ Critique of guidelines
    ▶ Sample guidelines and workbook activities

DID IT WORK?

▸ 86 sign-ins over 6 sessions (76 unique values)

▸ Updated websites

▸ Onboarded new journals to Open Journals System

▸ Contracts signed and collected

▸ Approached by editors to work individually with students on projects

    ▸ Rebranding

    ▸ Marketing plans

    ▸ Open Access archives of past issues & digitization projects

LESSON 1: THINK ABOUT PUBLISHING AS PEDAGOGY

▶ Working as an editor on a journal is a valuable active learning experience that develops publishing and scholarly communication skills that students will need as active scholars

▶ Demystifies the publishing process and develops skills for students who will later become authors

LESSON 2: PUBLISHING TEACHES SCHOLARLY ETHICS

▶ Digital Publishing Production

Library Publishing Coalition
Ethical Framework for Library Publishing

☑ **Publishing Practices**
Approval of edits, translations, and proofs

☑ **Accessibility**
Creating accessible PDFs, W3 guidelines for website design, publishing formats

☑ Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
Conscious copyediting, Working with translations and transliterations

☑ Privacy
Analytics, use of third party plagiarism software

☑ Intellectual and Academic Freedom
Censorship in editing/copyediting

LESSON 2: PUBLISHING TEACHES SCHOLARLY ETHICS

▸ Group learning meant that students didn't feel confronted about their journal's practice

▸ Workshops provoke students to think about specific initiatives on their own publications

Columbia Law School Journals:
  ▸ **Columbia Law Review:** Update style guide to reduce use of biased language and implement use of Conscious Style Guides
  ▸ **Columbia Journal of Gender and Law:** Create a digital open access archive
  ▸ **Human Rights Law Review:** Open Access policy and writing an open access statement
  ▸ **Columbia Journal of Law and the Arts:** Gender parity initiative
  ▸ **Columbia Journal of Environmental Law:** Digital-only publishing, archiving and DOI minting for their content

LESSON 3: THE MODEL IS TRANSLATABLE

▸ ScholComm skills and ethics can be taught through a variety of publishing mediums

  ▸ Podcasting at Columbia will be taught through ethically aligned workshops and education will be a component of partnership eligibility

▸ Engaging with other community groups engaged in active production

LESSON 4: ONE SIZE DOESN'T FIT ALL

▸ Undergraduates and graduate students need very different levels of support for follow through

▸ Faculty need education too, but are reluctant to co-learn with students

▸ Publishing practice varies across discipline

LESSON 5: I COULD USE SOME HELP

▶ What are the core competencies for publishing information literacy?

▶ What publications and other activities can be leveraged to provide active learning opportunities?

michelle.wilson@columbia.edu

tiny.cc/digitalpublishingworkshop

@TheLibrarianM