A Library Infrastructure for the Practices of Scholarly Communication

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What is “Quality Assurance”?

- External review – systems, administration and networks
- Freedom of speech & Open Access
- Developing good practices & routines
  - Transparent
  - Traceable
  - Understandable
- Scientific integrity
- Archiving
- Possibility to submit an appeal

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In Internal Review, the editor assigns reviewers internal to the submission files and considers the resulting reviews, before selecting the appropriate action (which includes notifying the author): Request Revisions (revisions reviewed by editor alone); Resubmit for Review (revisions initiate another round of reviews); Send External Review (entails selecting files for External Review); Accept for Submission (entails selecting files for Editorial stage); or Decline Submission (archives submission).

ROUND 1 STATUS: Revisions have been requested.

NOTIFICATION: A revised file has been uploaded for your editorial consideration in Internal Review.

REVIEW FILES

These are the files that can be selected for review, when adding reviewers in REVIEWERS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Element</th>
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<tr>
<td>Test manuscript</td>
<td>Book Manuscript</td>
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REVIEWERS

Use +Add Reviewer to invite readers to review the submission files. The notebook icon indicates that a review has been submitted, which is then checked Considered after it has been consulted. When reviews are overdue, a red envelope icon appears for reminding reviewers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Considered</th>
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<tr>
<td>Leif Friberg</td>
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### Submissions in Review

#### Unassigned / In Review / In Editing / Archives

#### Assigned To: All Editors / In Section: All Sections / Stage Filter: All stages

#### Show advanced filters

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<th>Sec</th>
<th>Authors</th>
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<td>Rural-Urban Blurring and the...</td>
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<td>Green Vains: The Role of Farm...</td>
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<td>11-25 — 01-07</td>
<td>02-17 — 03-17</td>
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What’s in it for the Library?

- Act as a knowledge hub about scholarly communication
- Provide a deeper understanding of good research practices and requirements/needs
- Providing services for and about OA to an affordable price
- Building innovative and flexible infrastructures for excellence in scholarly communication
- To create more accurate predictions about scholarly communication to serve the entire uni.

Sofie Wennström, Stockholm University Library @SofieWennstrom @SthlmUniPress
Open Access to information! Empower the author.
What’s in it for the Researchers?

- Adding more meaning and context to publishing efforts and other activities at the university
  - We can show actual results
  - And analysis of these results
- Adding the possibility to make comparisons on different levels
- Better tracking of the life cycle of research efforts such as monographs
- Making informed decisions

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Challenges
- Global reach
- Trust
- Added value
- Indexing
- Making access count
- Trustworthy

Opportunities
- Local base
- Flexibility
- Created value
- Close to home
- Open Access
- Best practices
What is left to do?

- More learning objects
- Keep building the good examples
- Centre of excellence in close collaboration with researchers and teachers
- Fine-tuning the infrastructure tools and communication between the different parts of the processes
- Gather the lessons learned to make assumptions about future investments
- And more....

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Questions from the audience:

- Q: What about the money involved? You didn’t mention much about this.
  - A: The press itself does not collect revenues from sales or charge authors. The APC/BPC is charged by our provider of productions and systems services. This is kept to an absolute minimum. Print-on-Demand books are priced without any over.

- Q: Who do you cooperate with to form best practices? How to make the efforts count?
  - A: We co-operate with OAPEN, but also with the partner presses in the network to form common guidelines and documented practices.

- Q: What about building learning environments about best practices and guidelines? How do you plan to communicate the knowledge you’ve acquired?
  - A: This is definitely something we are discussing at the moment. The press has been allowed to grow organically, and the initial phase has been about creating good examples. Now we can move towards sharing the knowledge further. This is a future project, and thanks for bringing it to the table here!
Links

- Our website include more information on review process, research ethics, submission guidelines and guidelines on how to form an editorial board:
  - http://www.stockholmuniversitypress.se
- Our service provider: http://www.ubiquitypress.com
- International guidelines for publication ethics for journals: http://publicationethics.org
- The BI tool we are currently testing: http://www.birst.com
Notes for presentation:

**A Library Infrastructure for the Practices of Scholarly Communication**  
*Given at LIBER Annual Conference 2015, London, UK on June 25th*

**By**  
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**Slide 1 Introduction**  
My name is Sofie Wennström; I work with at the Dept. of Quality at Stockholm University Library with educational strategies as well as for scholarly communication, like for example the running of Stockholm University Press. I have a background in the academic publishing business, and I’m aiming for a Master’s degree in education in addition to my work at the Library. I’m going to talk today about how we work with our infrastructure for scholarly communication at the Stockholm University Library, a little bit about where we are right now and where we would like to be in the future.

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**Slide 2 Image slide visualising the entire Library strategy**  
We see the Library as a facilitator in the connection between the University and the rest of the world. Firstly, we provide information sources and tools for the students, teachers and researchers to use. Secondly, we also facilitate communication of the results of the teaching and research back to the world. We provide different forms of publishing support such as a publishing service for dissertations as well as the newly started Stockholm University Press for Open Access and peer-review publishing of books and journals.

I’m going to talk mostly about the second task, and the infrastructure of people, information and tasks on different levels that we have created to support this structure in relation to Stockholm University Press.

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**Slide 3 Image showing the University, the Press and the Library as a part of the world**  
Working at a large university (we have about 70,000 students (of which about 29,000 are full time students), circa 1,800 doctorate students, about 5,000 employees (of which 43% are academic staff such as professors, lecturers, researchers & teachers). The faculty of social sciences is our biggest faculty by number of students. About 13% of the students are in the natural sciences.

From our perspective, we are all parts of different contexts within the university. For example: researcher can be a teacher, a professor, a head of department, an editor, a reviewer and an author. Our aim is to make life as easy as possible for each person interacting with the library, and with the publishing services. However, to form a successful university press, we also need involvement from external parties in order to perform independent peer-review procedures to ensure the quality of the published material. Researchers are involved in the entire press structure, and the processes and output are all designed to be measurable and transparent.
The Stockholm University Press was founded in 2013 on an initiative from the Vice-Chancellor, and all our policies and practices are designed to follow mandates from the Horizon 2020 and the forthcoming implementation of the Swedish Research Council’s suggestion of a scholarly communication policy currently being under review by the Government. We realised that an affordable and easy-to-use publishing service was something that had been sought for by the researchers for years. We are also a true non-profit organisation, and any publishing fees added by our providers must be transparent and reasonable.

Slide 4 Image slide with an overview of the parties involved in the publishing process
The infrastructure of the press services are built around a number of people or groups of people – Authors, Editors, the Publishing Committee, other presses (through the UP network) and of course the readers and users of the published material. The SUP/Library staff are acting both as facilitators and as developers of these processes, making us both participants and co-creators of the output.

- No staff works solely with press matters, we all have other duties at the library to ensure we have a perspective (I, for example work with forming strategies for learning and instruction about all library services to both researchers and students
- Researchers at the University form Editorial Board groups who are responsible for the assessment of proposals and book manuscripts and to select and communicate with the reviewers of both these incarnations of book projects.
- The Stockholm University Press staff is assisting editorial boards with system practices, guidelines, instructions, liaising with our partner press, assisting authors during submission, answering questions, handling licencing queries and many more things.
- The Publishing Committee consists of representatives from all Faculties at Stockholm University and as well as from the Press staff. Their job is to establish ethical guidelines; contributing to the scope of the entire press bit most importantly they make the final decisions on whether or not to publish a book or a journal. They will quality check all final recommendations from editorial boards, to ensure that the process has been correctly handled with a special representative focussing on publication ethics.
- The Ubiquity Press and their network structure are mostly involved with activities after the acceptance date of projects, but will also assist with the day-to-day running of journals, peer review systems but are also involved in giving advice on the editorial processes. The network of presses serves as a point of reflection and collaboration
- The Readers/users of our services is also a part of the structure, as most of our ideas for improvements and development come from their comments and suggestions.

Creating a press is a true joint effort, and we are building structures to support this.

Slide 5 Image showing the Book processing workflow
This is the Stockholm University Press workflow for books. We start with the author and the book proposal submitted, and then provides the infrastructure for the entire process from idea to published book.
The quality assurance part is done at the library and the editorial board; our partner Ubiquity Press handles the production part.

**Slide 6 What is "Quality Assurance"?**

- We are working on giving advice about practices and routines, as well as connecting people with the proper networks in relation to the external review process.
- We would also like to make sure that our editors and editorial boards are well informed about ethical considerations relating to editorial and publishing processes. We ensure that all our staff and connections are aware of international ethical standards for example through networks like COPE (www.publicationethics.org).
- We need to develop practices and routines that facilitate for authors and editors to follow these guidelines, and our processes should be transparent, traceable and easy understandable. All our systems are built to accommodate this.
- The openness also need to be related to the importance of scientific integrity.
- It should for example be possible to submit an appeal for editorial decisions, and to conduct investigations of good practice based on our records.
- The archiving issue is therefore a part of the quality assured workflow, as all correspondence and other records related to the process need to be well documented and secured.

**Slide 7 Print screen of the OMP system**

- Managing the peer-review process of books is time-consuming and requires experience and knowledge about the entire evaluation and writing process for academic texts and data.
- SUP can provide the technical infrastructure for this through the Open Source software Open Monograph Press (OMP). The SUP staff will provide support for administration and communication between editors and reviewers.
- We have however contracted another provider to handle the technical platform, as the development, support and training of the system would be too much for the library to handle. – i.e. Ubiquity Press.

**Slide 8 Print screen of the OJS system**

- Starting, running and developing journals require a technical infrastructure to help the editors stay in contact with reviewers, authors and each other. They need an overview of the many parallel processes involved.
- The process needs to be documented and transparent to follow international ethical guidelines.

**Slide 9 What’s in it for the Library?**

Our goal is to provide a more comprehensive statistics package where we can draw conclusions about user behaviour from several angles, but also ensure that we better cover the researchers’ needs. We want to be able to stay relevant and follow the development of tools and services over time. We believe that the researchers could benefit from these tools; by making more informed decisions about their activities and to better find their role within the research community. As a university press not being funded by subscriptions or sales revenue, we can take a little bit more risks while
involved in innovation, and at the same time ensure that we keep the researchers’ needs in focus.

Slide 10 Open Access to information! Empower the author.
*Image showing a screen grab from our trial project with a business intelligence system*

We are currently evaluating a business intelligence tool called Birst in collaboration with a data analysis company. We are using library data, publication data, citation data, downloads and more to form visualizations of the researchers activities by year, over time and in relation to other institutions. We will be able to present more about this at coming conferences, but the results so far has been promising and the feedback from the researchers involved has been positive and critical in a healthy way. The idea is that all of this should be openly available and the researchers should be able to interact with the tool themselves to create custom analyses.

Slide 11 What’s in it for the Researchers?
We would like to think that our approach will not only add value by providing the data for analysis, but that these tools will also contribute to making researchers more informed to make well balanced decisions about their actions in relation to their professional development. We give them tools to see the implications of actions related to the entire scholarly communication process.

Slide 12 Challenges & Opportunities
- Building a new press takes time and persistence, and we still have a long way ahead of us. Working closely to the researchers interested in publishing gives us an opportunity to make the most of the knowledge gathered in editorial teams and in the press structure. We also work closely with UP to develop administrative platforms, such as OMP & OJS, with quality assured routines for peer-review and assessment.
- One of our main focuses has been to think about data collection strategies from day one in our projects. This means that we will be able to give feedback to authors, faculty members and readers about our continued progress. We want all our authors, editors and users to have access to data that can vouch for their involvement in our projects and the impact of their actions. All indexing and metadata efforts will support this.
- We are open to different solutions. We don’t run a “one size fits all” kind of publishing entity, which is also an opportunity we have by starting small.
- Create understanding for the global landscape with local means is sometimes a challenge. We need to make sure to give arguments to authors and editors as to why it is important for them to be able to work with us.
- Communicating the right thing at the right time to get engagement is not an easy task, and this is a little bit of a trial-and-error venture. We have to make sure to catch comments and suggestions to constantly improve our services and to adjust to the needs of the authors and editors.
- Relating to the greater publishing community in our approach is a challenge as we are starting small and it takes a long time to see impact in the form of citations and tracking down shared data. We need to focus on this in order to give
proper value back to authors and editors in the form of publication data, which is also related to the rest of the institution’s needs.

- Creating data, open distribution channels and provide proof of quality assurance is a challenge, as this need to be communicated clearly and should be easy accessible.
- Indexing and metadata need to happen in relevant channels and by using the knowledge we have in collaboration with researchers in order to give them maximum visibility. This includes a large amount of data and administration that is being built as we go along.

**Slide 13 What is left to do?**

**Slide 14 Questions from the audience, with some abbreviated answers**

**Slide 15 Links to useful resources**