THE DIGITAL PUBLISHING WORKSHOP @ COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
PUBLISHING EDUCATION FOR ETHICAL & SCALABLE PROGRAM BUILDING

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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

- ~10 years, first started by the Center for Digital Research and Scholarship (CDRS)

- CDRS provided various levels of service offerings, focused on technical support, supported by a project manager within the center
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  - Out of date websites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
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.
THE DIGITAL PUBLISHING WORKSHOP

An educational program to advance our goals for Columbia University Libraries publishing:

- Embed publishing ethics in our publications and institutional community
- Produce high quality, innovative scholarship
- Promote scalability and growth
GOAL: EMBED ETHICS

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

- Library Publishing Coalition Ethical Framework for Library Publishing
  - Publishing Practices
  - Accessibility
  - Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
  - Privacy
  - Intellectual and Academic Freedom
GOAL: EMBED 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
GOAL: EMBED ETHICS

- “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
GOAL: QUALITY

- 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
GOAL: GROWTH & SCALABILITY

- Refined onboarding and assessment procedures for journals

- The Editorial Workbook and library of templates and documentation make it easier to respond to partner needs and work with a larger community

- A model for education and support for other kinds of publications
PUBLISHING AS PEDAGOGY

- Publishing, digital scholarship, and scholarly communications librarians are positioned to provide practical opportunities to learn publishing
  - Publishing as a means to and component of information literacy
  - What are the core competencies for publishing information literacy?
  - What publications and other activities can be leveraged to provide active learning opportunities?
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