



Higher Education Funding Council for England

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Monographs & Open Access

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HEFCE Monographs & Open Access Project

Why was the project set up?

- Not for REF 2020
- Longer-term perspective for online monographs
- Identify & clarify issues, move forward thinking
- AHRC & ESRC support, British Academy involved
- What do we mean by 'monograph'?

Relationship to open access and journals

- Many of same imperatives
- But significant differences
 - funding councils not requiring OA monographs next REF
 - monographs in humanities & social sciences
 - open access journals more developed business models
- Relationship monographs & journals nonetheless important

Why the ampersand?

- My response when approached to lead project
- Must start with what monograph is and what is happening to it
- Three core dimensions of work
 - what is culture of the monograph within humanities & social sciences?
 - is there a crisis of the monograph?
 - how will innovation in publishing & access models affect the monograph?
- Humanities & social science academic communities must take a lead in these debates

How are we setting about the project's work?

- Expert Reference Group to discuss and advise
- Collecting data and advice
- Focus groups
- Commissioned research
- My report to HEFCE September 2014

Some key issues we're thinking about....

- Why is monograph so much more important some humanities & social science disciplines than others?
- Is there a crisis of the monograph?
- Doctoral dissertation and first monograph
- Peer review and quality
- Where text does not reign alone...
- Third-party rights and permissions

A decade of monograph publication to 2013

- Data from the four largest monograph publishers
OUP, CUP, Palgrave Macmillan, Taylor & Francis
- Research books (not textbooks, trade books, new editions)
- Publishers growth new research books 187%, 117%, 81%, 61%
- Key growth disciplines varied by publisher specialism and policy
and by inspection not careful analysis yet
- Major growth politics, sociology, history, education, classics
- More uneven growth literature, philosophy, religion, business, law

and more key issues we're thinking about...

- Licensing
- Business models
- Technological issues
- Role of the university in shaping future of open access monographs
- International dimensions crucial

Economic analysis of business models for open-access monographs

Key questions to be answered for various models

- How are costs recovered? How defined and are full costs of publishing recovered? What about role of subsidy?
- Financial sustainability of core publishing functions eg peer review, marketing, dissemination, curation & preservation
- Balance of private return and public benefit?
- Economic forces on cost recovery mechanism and influence on ability of author to publish high-quality research?
- Do answers differ for monographs, essay collections, scholarly editions?
- Evaluation of pilots of various business models

And two concluding points of context

- Is open access the disruptive force in a stable system of research and of scholarly communication?
- Remember the objectives of this project
 - to move forward understanding and debate
 - to inform funding councils on issues and challenges
 - not to produce recommendations for implementation
 - in that sense the necessary successor to Finch Report
 - but not its equivalent



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