Journal flipping: A case study from Metropolitan Universities

Ted Polley
Jere Odell
Caitlin Pollock
Anna Proctor

University Library, Center for Digital Scholarship
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Recent events in scholarly publishing, such as the editorial board of Elsevier’s Lingua resigning en masse, shed light on the dilemma faced by many journal editors: balancing a desire to increase impact with promoting open and sustainable models for publishing. These two goals are not mutually exclusive. Recently, editors and publishers are seeing success in reconciling these goals by converting subscription-based journals to open-access, through a process commonly called journal flipping.

The IUPUI University Library has a history of supporting the publication of open-access scholarly journals through its Open Access Journals at IUPUI program (http://journals.iupui.edu/). A number of titles, most notably Advances in Social Work and Metropolitan Universities, began as subscription-based journals that were only available in print. This poster presents the process for “flipping” Metropolitan Universities, digitizing the full run of issues and making them openly available via IUPUI’s instance of Open Journal Systems.

Metropolitan Universities (MUJ) is a publication of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) at Towson University. The journal provides peer-reviewed research on topics in higher education, including distributed learning, K-16 collaborations, assessment, service learning, campus-community partnerships, and other subjects. Beginning in 1990, MUJ was published as a print journal, and in 2000 (Volume 11) IUPUI began providing editorial support. In 2015 MUJ published its 25th volume. To celebrate 25 years of successful publishing and to introduce new modes of dissemination, CUMU collaborated with University Library to develop an open access, online archive of its entire publication run. Shortly after the archive was launched, CUMU began using the system to publish new issues. This poster presents insight from “flipping” MUJ and provides an initial indication that the goals of increasing impact and supporting a sustainable publication model are being met.