Changing Publishing Practices in iSchools

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Abstract

iSchools are home to many researchers who study the practices of scholarly publishing, a significant number of whom also design, build, and evaluate innovative tools for scholarly publishing. Yet when it comes to our own work, many scholars at iSchools have been reluctant to try new modes of publishing, a trend this workshop aims to correct. Many researchers maintain an appropriate skepticism of the claims made by evangelists of the new modes of publishing; thus, this workshop starts with an understanding that current publishing paradigms are embedded in socio-material practices and institutional logics. Nevertheless, a growing number of scholars at iSchools, and iSchool-related programs are experimenting with new ways of publishing their own work. This workshop will bring together researchers of scholarly communication practice and designers of research publishing tools with those who are considering their own scholarly publishing projects. The aim is to encourage scholars considering experiments through an exploration of both the tools now available for experimentation, and expert insights into innovations in scholarly communication.

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1   Goal

The ultimate goal of this workshop is to encourage iSchools to be leaders in practicing as well as analyzing and building the future of scholarly publishing. We will work toward this goal by bringing together scholarly communication researchers and designers with those who are either already engaged in innovative publishing projects or who would like to be. We envision three ways in which this workshop will benefit participants. First, participants will walk away with: (a) ideas for new experiments in publishing their own work; (b) specific plans and resources for executing these experiments; and (c) a network of people to draw upon for support. Second, designers and builders of publishing tools will meet and learn from potential users of those tools. Finally, researchers of scholarly publishing will find opportunities for applying their expertise close to home as well as potential new sites of study. With these goals in mind, we plan to host a follow up workshop in 2015 to see what progress has been made.

2   Participants

There are three interrelated groups of people that this workshop will include: (1) researchers, or those studying scholarly publishing practice; (2) designers, or people who have conceived, designed and built tools or platforms to assist in scholarly publishing; (3) and authors, scholars who have, or are considering publishing research in non-traditional ways. Of course many participants may identify with more than one group. By including practitioners who are innovating on scholarly publishing and researchers interested in scholarly publishing, we hope to bring people with expertise in different areas into conversation with each other. Furthermore, we hope that by inviting people who have works in progress or ideas about how to

publish their research, we might give them the tools or support they need to complete their project. We do not know how many people this workshop would draw, but we would hope to have around 30 participants.

3   Format

We are soliciting applications for participation consisting of a short abstract describing the applicant's research, designs or ideas as well as a bio. From these applications we will select the participants in the workshop, attempting to be as inclusive as possible while maintaining a good balance among researchers, designers, and authors. The workshop will be divided into three sessions: presentations, "getting to know you," and design of research or publishing.

During the first session, all the workshop participants will be expected to present something: either their research about work that is already being done, examples of innovative publishing, or ideas for what they would like to do in the future. Participants who have done research on creative scholarly publishing — historical or present day — will be invited to give short presentations. Participants who have designed or built novel publishing tools will be asked to give demonstrations. Finally, participants with "work-in-progress" or "ideas" will be asked to present their idea during a "lightning round."

In the second session, participants will be paired up on "dates" during which they can follow up on the previous presentations or look for other areas of overlap. This session will coincide with lunch.

In the third session, participants form groups and spend two hours conceptualizing and presenting specific plans for experiments in publishing group members' scholarship. Each group will focus on a developing an action plan for the "authors" in the group.