Open Monograph Press

by Shijith Kumar

OPEN MONOGRAPH PRESS: AN OPEN SOURCE APPLICATION FOR ACADEMIC PUBLISHING

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Abstract

The scholarly publishing field is undergoing revolutionary changes with Open Access (OA) movement. Until now, the primary focus and concern was on publication of scholarly research articles and research reports. However, the publication of non-serials such as monographs, books and conference proceedings have been of great concern, especially for the University Presses in developing countries whose main focus is the publication of non-serials. Open Monograph Press is an open source tool for publishing non-serial publications developed by the Public Knowledge Project under GNU License GPL V2. This paper presents an overview of Open Monograph Press by explaining its user roles, publication workflow, features and advantages and drawbacks.

Introduction

University Presses (UP) play a major role in scholarly communication by producing and disseminating scientific publications of their host institutions. While most of the UPs in the developed world are making use of the advances in technology and publish scholarly resources in various electronic formats and on web based platforms, only a few UPs in India and other developing countries are involved in electronic publishing activities.

Das (2015)[1] pointed out that the University Presses in the western countries are focused on developing products based on the changing needs of the users and many of these publishers have migrated to publishing e-books and e-journals for getting new generation users. Also, they collaborate with major e-resource platforms like Project MUSE, EBrary.org, and Jstor.org and disseminate their resources globally. On the other hand, only a few Indian University Presses have dedicated websites. Others have web pages for their publishing wing within their parent institutions websites.

The emergence of open source scholarly publishing tools/applications enables the UPs functioning in developing countries to produce scholarly contents in e-formats in a cost effective way.

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Open Monograph Press

Open Monograph Press (OMP) is an open source software for publishing and managing scholarly monographs. The software has been designed and developed by the Public Knowledge Project, a multi-university initiative for developing open source applications for scholarly publishing, based on Simon Fraser University, Canada. Other supporting organizations include Stanford University, Canadian Foundation for Innovation and Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The version 1.0 of the software designed using the features of the Web 2 technologies was released in the year 2013. The OMP is the only known open source application that facilitates web based publication of monographs including manuscript submission, peer reviewing, editing, production and final publication of monographs. It also supports online catalogue and distribution of the publications in both open access and payment modes. So far, 13 academic institutions world over are making use of the OMP for managing their monograph publications (Public Knowledge Project, 2016)[2]. The latest stable version of the OMP software is 1.1.1-1 which can be downloaded and installed from the Public Knowledge Project website.

System Requirements

The system requirements for the installation and functioning of OMP are:
1. Web Server software such as Apache or MS IIS
2. Scripting Language, PHP
3. Database Server software such as MySQL or PostgreSQL
4. Windows or Linux based Operating System

Creation and Setting up of Publishing Press using OMP

Upon installing the software on a server, the site administrator can create a new Press using press creation wizard. Settings/ configuration has to be made for the Press website, workflow and distribution. Also, different users have to be crated and roles should be assigned.

User Roles

The software has 18 inbuilt user roles to carry out the publication activities. It also permits addition of new users. The user roles are allotted with different permission levels in five workflow stages. The 18 user roles are: Author, Press Manager, Press Editor, Copy

Editor, Layout Editor, Press Assistant, Production Editor, Series Editor, Designer, Funding Coordinator, Indexer, Marketing and Sales Coordinator, Proof Reader, Volume Editor, Chapter Author, Translator, Internal Reviewer and External Reviewer.

Publication Workflow and Catalogue Management

The entire process of publication of a monograph using OMP can be divided into five stages as given below. However, the publication of a monograph will be completed only after making a catalogue entry for it.

Submission Stage: In the submission stage, an author will be able to submit the manuscript by following a 4-step process. In the first step, the author has to agree to abide by the terms of copyright statement and then specify whether the submission is a monograph or edited volume. The second step consists of uploading the manuscript and the third step entering of metadata elements such as title, subtitle, abstract and contributors of the submission. In the final fourth step, the system will confirm the submission process and with this step the author can go back and start a new submission. He can also review his submission or visit the dashboard. The press manager will receive an e-mail notification regarding the submission and he can assign the manuscript to a press editor or a series editor to manage the peer review and editorial processes.

Internal Review Stage: At this stage, the press editor/ series editor has to select a suitable reviewer from the already enrolled reviewers in the Reviewer's database of the Press and send a request to the reviewer providing the abstract of the submission. The reviewer will be provided access to the Press and permit to download the full text of the manuscript if the request is accepted. Otherwise, the request will be send to another reviewer in the database. When the review is back, the editor will take any one of the following decisions based on the reviewer's remark: Request the author to revise the manuscript; Request the author to re-submit the manuscript for review; Accept the submission; Decline the submission.

External Review Stage: In the external review stage, the editor will assign the manuscript to an external reviewer by following the same procedures of the internal review stage.

Editorial Stage: The Editorial Stage begins with the acceptance of the manuscript for publication by the editor. In its first step, the editor will assign the manuscript to the copy editor for copy editing. Once the copy editing is completed, the file will be asked to audit by

the author or another editor. Based on this, the copy editor will carry out the final copy editing.

Production Stage: The final copy edited file will be taken for production. This stage will be managed either by a production editor or by the press editor himself. The first step in the Production Stage is the creation of publication formats in which the manuscript has to be published such as Print, PDF and ePub. Once the formats are decided, the layout editor will prepare galleys for the formats with the assistance of designer. The galleys will be proof read by the author and a proof reader, and based on the feedback the layout editor will prepare the final galleys and with this, the manuscript will be ready for publication.

Catalogue Management: One of the major attractions of the OMP is its Online Catalogue. In addition to the facility for searching the publications of the Press, the catalogue is having provisions for purchasing or free downloading of the resources. The press editor or the production editor can manage the catalogue entry of each publication using the catalogue Management tool which consists of 'Monograph' and 'Catalog' tabs and tabs for each of the publication format of the material. The 'Monograph' tab is used for modifying the metadata already entered during the submission stage by the author, if required. The 'Catalog' tab is used for modifying the catalogue details of the publication such as cover image, audience information and the publication formats. Each of the publication format tab is used to configure that format itself.

Advantages and Features

The OMP, which is free and open source based have a number of advantages and features, a few of them are given below.

1. The software incorporates an in-built publication workflow from manuscript submission to final publication of the material.
2. The software permits the author to track the status of submitted manuscript.
3. It supports two-stage peer-review process- internal and external.
4. It incorporates an inbuilt e-mail communication system for interaction among the different user roles of the press.
5. The software makes use of ONIX, an XML based international standard for book production.
6. The software supports multiple electronic formats.

7. It is an ideal publishing system for Print-on-demand model publication of scholarly monographs.
8. It facilitates the creation of document libraries for manuscript submission, contracts,, permissions etc.
9. The software facilitates displaying of featured books and recent additions
10. It is a highly flexible e-publishing tool.
11. It helps in reducing clerical and related works, reducing the cost and improving the quality of scholarly publications.
12. The software helps in enhancing the efficiency of editorial process.
13. It serves as an all-in-one platform for book publication.
14. It facilitates global visibility and wider distribution of scholarly content.
15. The software helps in encouraging the scholars to become more involved in scholarly publication
16. The software facilitates a completely automated scholarly publishing system
17. It helps in preserving and maintaining the entire collection of institute publications in digital format
18. The fast lane publication option in the software makes possible speedy publication skipping the peer reviewing and editorial processes.

Drawbacks

The major drawbacks of the current version of the software are the following.

1. It does not support browse by Author, Title, Subject etc. options
2. There are different levels of approval in the publication workflow which will confuse the users.
3. A contributor having no an e-mail id cannot be added.
4. The author cannot edit the metadata once it is submitted.
5. It does not support display of forthcoming titles.

Concluding Remarks

Scholarly publishing is going through significant changes with advent of I.T. enabled technologies. The latest development in the field is the emergence of open source software applications for managing non-serial publications online. The Public Knowledge Project, the non-profit organization based on Simon Fraser University, Canada is a pioneer in developing

open source e-publishing applications and Open Monograph Press is its latest e-publishing tool. The OMP with its various functionalities and features coupled with flexibility can bring in tremendous changes in the way the University Presses are functioning.

Acknowledgement

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