What if you didn't have to start from here?

Making a scholarly communication platform from scratch in a university library

Lucy Lambe
Scholarly Communications Officer
LSE Library
L.Lambe@lse.ac.uk
Outline

• Background to the project: why did we do it?
• Research process: what did we do?
• Summary of our requirements
• Challenges and barriers
• What’s next
LSE and the Library

• Over 2000 researchers
• About 1200 articles and 100 books per year
• Over 4 million printed items
• Digital library, LSE Research Online, LSE Theses Online
THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE
(University of London)
Houghton Street, Aldwych, London, W.C.2
1968
Me!

LSE Library
The business of impact: academic reward and incentive cultures continue to stifle relationships between business and management researchers and society
External forces

- HEFCE policy for REF2021
- Future changes in scholarly communication
- Wider context of UK library presses
Other libraries

- University of Huddersfield Press
- Edinburgh University Library Open Journals
- UCL Press
- Cardiff University Press
- Westminster University Press
- Goldsmiths Press
- Pacific University Press
- Clemson University Library
- Carnegie Mellon University Library
What we learned

• Most UK library presses are still finding out what works

• Manage expectations no matter what you’re offering

• It’s possible to do a lot with very little
Journals at LSE

• History of starting and sustaining journals, e.g.
  – British Journal of Sociology – Wiley
  – Cold War History – Taylor & Francis
  – Many others with external publishers
  – Papers in Social Representation – LSE website
2016, Volume 25, Issue 1

Special Issue: Ecological crisis, sustainability & social worlds: Developing a critical agenda. Further papers to be uploaded

Susana Batel and Matthew Adams

Ecological Crisis, Sustainability & Social Worlds: Developing a Critical Agenda

Etienne Bailey, Patrick Devine-Wright and Susana Batel.

Understanding Responses to a UK High-Voltage Powerline Proposal: The Role of Place And Project-Based Social Representations

Tracey Skillington.

Defending the ‘public interest’: An assessment of competing actor representations of ‘solutions’ to growing natural resource deficiencies

Paul Hanna

Social Representations or Discursive Constructions? A Commentary

PDF

PDF

PDF

PDF
Student publishing
Textbooks

Philosophico-Scientific Adventures

A free eBook by Bryan W. Roberts

Table of Contents  Begin Reading »

Philosophico-Scientific Adventures © 2017 Bryan W. Roberts, licensed under the CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 license.
Monographs

- Monograph series edited by LSE academics
- Partnerships with local printers or publishers
- Academic-led press
What do LSE researchers want? (part I)

- LSE should have a press
- Researchers want to publish their own journals
- Open to future changes – we need to be prepared
What do LSE researchers want? (part II)

- Interested in monograph publishing, but need more convincing

- Students (UG-PGR) are starting journals without the library’s help

- Identified some potential editors with ideas for open access journals
Our vision

• Provide a platform for innovative or experimental publications

• Publish high quality, peer reviewed social sciences research

• Publish on an open access basis in to ensure a global audience
### Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement description</th>
<th>Functional area</th>
<th>Notes, comments</th>
<th>MoSCoW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide email function to/from editors/reviewers/authors using templates, alerts and free text</td>
<td>Editorial interface</td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide a secure database where reviewer information can be stored and searched</td>
<td>Editorial interface</td>
<td></td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support metadata entry by authors or editors</td>
<td>Editorial interface</td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typesetting as an external service or by use of templates</td>
<td>Publishing services</td>
<td></td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production of publications in multiple formats, including HTML, PDF, XML, EPUB</td>
<td>Publishing services</td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full bibliographic metadata in standard publishing schema</td>
<td>Publishing services</td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register DOI</td>
<td>Publishing services</td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register ISSN</td>
<td>Publishing services</td>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register ISBN</td>
<td>Publishing services</td>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to check for plagiarism/similarity check</td>
<td>Publishing services</td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Solutions

- Build in-house
- Open source hosting
- Off the shelf
- How much will it cost?
Challenges

• Working with IMT

• Finding a hosted solution

• Getting time with academics
LSE Press: next steps

• Signing contracts with supplier

• Designing branding

• Working with academics on first journals

• Tell the world!
Thanks for listening!

Lucy Lambe
Scholarly Communications Officer
LSE Library
L.Lambe@lse.ac.uk
@lucylambe