Academic Book Publishers (ABP): a global and multilingual register

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We represent the European Network for Research Evaluation in the Social Sciences and Humanities (ENRESSH),[1] a network funded by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).[2] We are research evaluation scholars from 37 countries who meet regularly with the aim to develop appropriate and transparent methods of evaluation for the social sciences and humanities (SSH).

Our network not only recognizes and supports the important role of scholarly book publishing in the SSH. We also provide empirical evidence of the fact that scholarly book publishing is not diminishing in the SSH but continues to play this central role (e.g.: Engels et al. (2018); Kulczycki et al. (2018); Giménez-Toledo et al. (2016); Giménez-Toledo et al. (2017); Giménez-Toledo et al. (2019)).

To defend and improve the quality standards of scholarly book publishing, and make these standards reflected in proper research evaluation procedures, we are creating an interactive and dynamic register of scholarly book publishers who support the research quality standards of the SSH in their peer review and publishing practices.

This idea can only be realized by collaborating with scholarly publishers and editors who already represent the best standards. The publishers and editors can be both nationally and internationally oriented, and they can be specialized as well as general. In collaboration, we need to decide the types of information that will be updated in the register, such as aims and disciplinary profiles, procedures for peer review, Open Access solutions, and statistics based on bibliographic information and the profiles of authors.

Our idea is that the information in the register will come from several independent sources: from the publishers, from national bibliographic databases and legal deposit libraries where publications from research institutions are recorded, and from the scholarly community itself by feedback either given directly from the authors or through Current Research Information Systems. ENRESSH already works concretely with such data sources and information systems across Europe (Sīle et al, 2018). We are also directly involved in creating and monitoring registers of acknowledged scholarly book publishers, e.g. in Denmark,[3] Flanders,[4] Finland,[5] Norway,[6] Poland,[7] and Spain.[8]

Scholarly publishers and editors engaged in keeping and developing good standards of scholarly publishing will see their efforts reflected in the register and be more visible in the academic

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[1] https://enressh.eu/
[2] https://www.cost.eu/
[3] https://ufm.dk/forskning-og-innovation/statistik-og-analyser/den-bibliometriske-forskningsindikator/BFI-lister
[4] https://www.ecoom.be/en/vabb
[5] http://www.julkaisufoorumi.fi/en/publication-forum
[6] https://dbh.nsd.uib.no/publiseringskanaler/Forside.action?request_locale=en
[7] http://konstytucjadlanauki.gov.pl/pierwsza-wersja-nowego-wykazu-wydawnictw-juz-jest-wiekszosc-pozycji-to-wydawnictwa-polskie
[8] http://ilia.cchs.csic.es/SPI/expanded_index_en.html

communities across countries. The active engagement of the academic communities and their authors in validating the information will strengthen the reputation and visibility.

We want to cover scholarly book publishers and editors operating partly or mainly in the traditional book market as well as those providing books with Open Access. The register will be important for information about national and international Open Access policies and their implementation in scholarly book publishing, as well as for connecting these policies with all scholarly publishers and editors - large and small, national as well as international. There is need for a reliable information source that is comparable to what DOAJ[9] and Sherpa/Romeo[10] provide in journal publishing. Also, a supplement is needed to the metadata for book titles in DOAB.[11]

Our plan is to have meetings throughout 2019 with organizations representing scholarly publishers and editors, learned societies, organizations involved in Open Access development, and organizations representing research funding and research performing institutions. The aim of these meetings is to discuss the ideas presented in this document, and to modify and strengthen the document as we learn more from the dialogues. **We are also interested in feedback by email from the readers of this article.** Here are three questions that we are particularly interested in responses to:

1. Is there a need for this initiatives, or do you see other solutions or initiatives that are already responding to the same needs?
2. If you think it is worthwhile to proceed with the initiative, what do you think should be the next steps?
3. Do you see any major success factors or obstacles?

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[9] https://doaj.org/
[10] http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/index.php
[11] https://www.doabooks.org/