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Setting the Stage for Affordability Initiatives at Syracuse University Libraries

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Setting the Stage for Affordability Initiatives at Syracuse University Libraries

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Land Acknowledgement



We acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation, firekeepers of the Haudenosaunee, the Indigenous people on whose ancestral lands Syracuse University now stands.

<https://www.waer.org/podcast/the-land-youre-on>

Agenda

- About us
- Drivers of affordability interest
- Ebook strategies
- Structural changes
- Challenges

About Us

Syracuse University

- Private research university
- R1 (Research Intensive) Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Ed (up from R2 in 2015)
- 14,754 undergraduates
- 7,944 graduate students



Syracuse University Libraries



- Over 4.8 million volumes in the collection
- Over 850,000 visits to the buildings
- 157 full-time library staff
- 60 librarians
- Includes Syracuse University Press, University Archives, and Law Library

Drivers of Affordability Interest

Student Association

- Feb. 2024 – passed resolution on Improving Syllabi Access and Classroom Affordability.
- Recommended guidelines to encourage instructors to preferentially use open access or low-cost resources.
- Recommended increased transparency regarding how course materials are chosen.
- Recommended implementing/encouraging deadlines for instructors to provide syllabi to students.
- Recommended content and fee disclosures for courses be shared prior to registration.

<https://news.syr.edu/the-peel/2024/02/20/student-association-empowering-students-and-putting-the-university-on-a-path-to-progress/>

College of Professional Studies

- College focused part-time students enrolled in degree, non-credit, and executive education programs.
- Mostly online, with some hybrid options.
- Strong focus adapting to the needs of military-connected students wherever they are in the world.
- Committed to offering courses with no additional costs beyond tuition – including textbooks.

Ebook Strategies

E-Preferred Policy

- When possible, unlimited user ebooks are purchased for the collection.
- Strategy began pre-COVID, benefited us during campus shut down and as online programs at Syracuse have grown.
- Print books are purchased when an ebook is not available, in very select subject areas, or at user request, but not “just in case.”

Large Ebook Packages

- Database Menu points to 74 platforms of ebooks.
- Most include access to full collection of books, with unlimited access exceptions are noted.
- Selecting practices have been adjusted to account for these large packages being purchased annually.

List of Packages/Programs

Avoid double-ordering of ebooks. Familiarize yourself with the packages in your areas.

GOBI is not the only way we get newly published ebooks! We also get packages direct from publishers and our holdings do not always show up in GOBI. Our approval profiles have already been adjusted to take these into account.

Almost all platforms have unlimited users with no limits on downloading. Exceptions apply. See details further down this page.

Subjects	Vendor or Platform	Content	total titles with access	Include frontlist?	Program type	Show as held in GOBI?	Indexed in Summon?	Fund info
all	Taylor & Francis (Routledge/ CRC Press)	all titles for all imprint years, excluding reference	140,000	Yes	EBA	Yes	Yes	EBOOKS August
all	Springer/ Palgrave	full archive through 2024, excluding reference. (includes Morgan and Claypool Synthesis archive 1-13)	200,000	Yes	Perpetual	No	Yes	EBOOKS December
all	JSTOR	participating publishers, imprint years 2018 & before	60,000	No (see next line)	EBA	No	Yes	EBOOKS July

Ebook Approval Plans

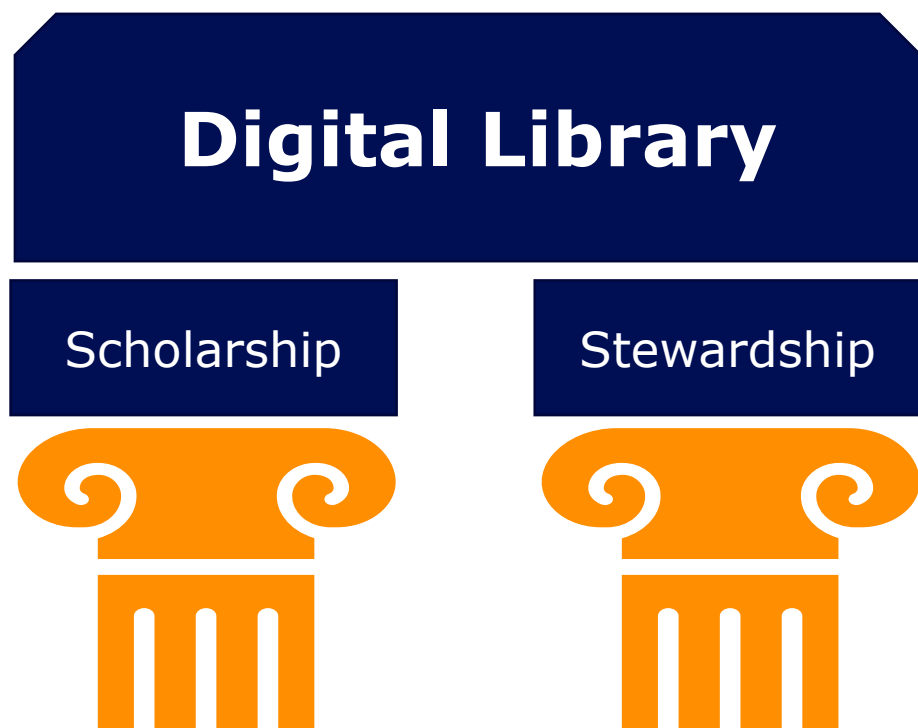
- The entire Q-Z plan and most of the A-P plan via Gobi is ebook preferred, exceptions include art and architecture.
- The Gobi plan includes the following order of preference for ebook platforms:
 1. Native publisher platform (Oxford, Cambridge, Bloomsbury, Taylor & Francis, etc)
 2. Aggregators with unlimited user DRM-free titles: JSTOR preferred, followed by DeGruyter and Project Muse
 3. Aggregators with unlimited users: EBSCO Unlimited User preferred, followed by ProQuest Unlimited User,
 4. Aggregators with *limited* users: EBSCO preferred, followed by ProQuest.

Limited User Title Practices

- If a title is only available as a limited-user license, the Libraries will still purchase it.
- We provide a limited number of licenses, 9 users, or up to \$1,500, whichever costs less, and communicate that to faculty who are using the title in their class.
- When titles on EBSCO move from limited user to unlimited user, we automatically upgrade the license.
- Turnaway notices are generated and shared with selectors to add more licenses when appropriate (up to the limit).

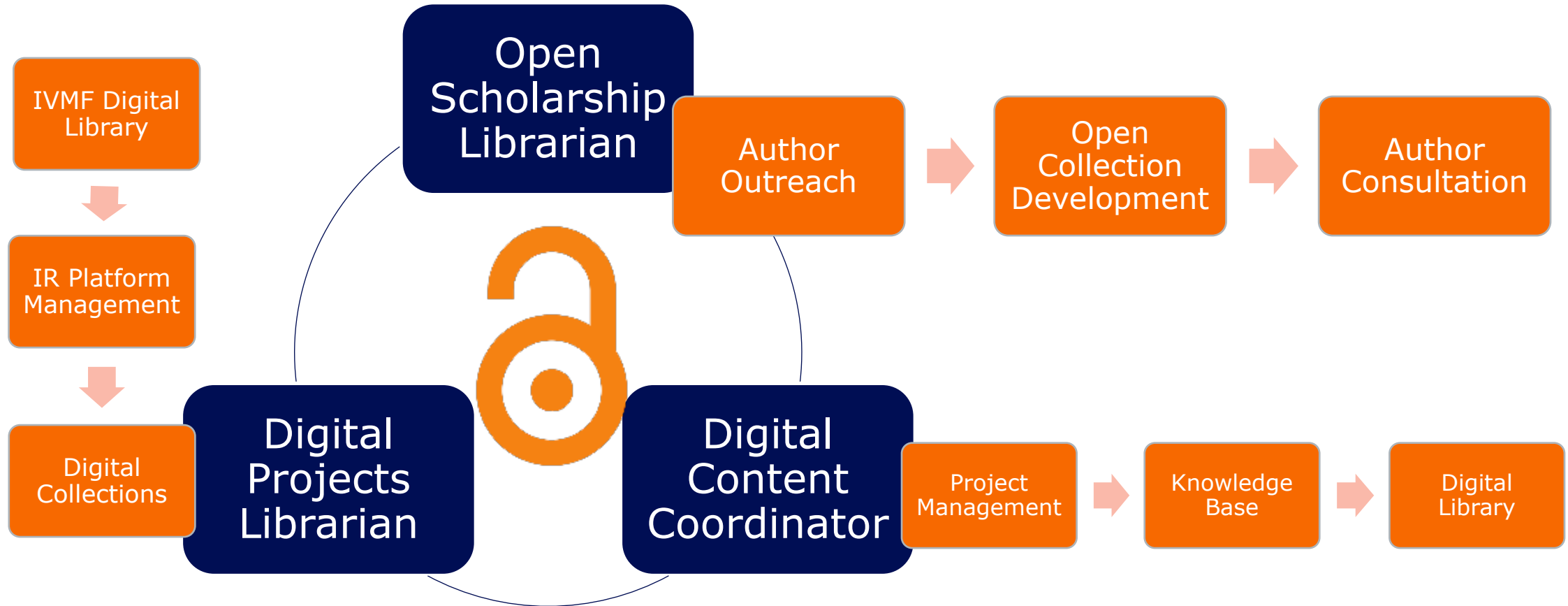
Structural Changes

Digital Library Reorganization



- Digital Scholarship
 - Supporting innovation, use and reuse of and around digital objects and by-products
- Digital Stewardship
 - Coordinating and managing activities and infrastructure related to the production, description, maintenance, preservation, and delivery of unique resources

IR Staff Modularity



Syracuse University Press

- SU Press is part of the Libraries
- It is becoming a more active partner
- Press is gaining open publishing experience via participation JSTOR's Path to Open pilot
 - <https://about.jstor.org/path-to-open/>
 - Centers on creating sustainable OA publishing infrastructure/coalition for small to mid-size university presses
- Lessons learned from Press
 - Monograph publishing requires a variety of skills, requisite infrastructures, is labor intensive, takes time, and does not scale easily.

Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges and Opportunities

- Discovery – getting metadata for OA books and OERs into relevant discovery ecosystems
- Scalability – ensuring enough free textbook options exist to impact higher education both broadly and locally
- Differing approaches - Open monographs (community driven) versus OER (diamond publishing)
- Solutions - consortium work – no individual library will solve this

Questions

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