

## Against the Grain

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# Supporting a Paperless Future

Carol Richman

SAGE Publications, [carol.richman@sagepub.com](mailto:carol.richman@sagepub.com)

Jayne Marks

SAGE Publications, [jayne.marks@sagepub.co.uk](mailto:jayne.marks@sagepub.co.uk)

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# Supporting a Paperless Future

by **Carol Richman** (Director of Licensing, SAGE Publications) <carol.richman@sagepub.com>

and **Jayne Marks** (Vice President and Editorial Director, Journals, SAGE Publications) <jayne.marks@sagepub.co.uk>

One thing that librarians and publishers agree on is the need to move from print to online only for many journal packages. For the majority of academic research journals, the most likely way that readers find an article is by searching **Google** or **PubMed**, and then access is via the library's online collection. If **Stanford** can build their latest engineering library without books or journals on shelves, then we need to move to online only. Apart from the practical aspects, it is also cheaper — no shelf space, postage, cataloguing, claims chasing, etc. — and greener — much less need for paper, printing, distribution, all involving energy and resources.

So what is holding us all back? Librarians worry about what might happen if a publisher ceases to publish a title that they have bought. In the print world, the copy is always on the shelf; in the online world, the copy can be theoretically turned off at the flick of a switch. This has been the major driver of the need for long-term preservation of content by reputable third party agents. **SAGE** has developed a preservation strategy because we believe that it is important to protect the ongoing availability of our content, and we were committed to insuring the continuity of the record of scientific progress and the history of science and culture.

**SAGE's** preservation strategy was developed by researching and considering the needs of the library market, the various preservation programs, and present and future technology. While we have developed an internal archive, our staff felt it necessary to provide long-term preservation via secure external partnerships. We knew that these programs would have to

be invested in the library community and in future technologies. Several years ago, we reviewed the then-current programs and carefully considered each program's merits, strategies, technology, geographic area, and expertise. In the end we decided to partner with three groups — **Portico**, **CLOCKSS**, and the **Dutch National Library (KB)**. There is cost associated with secure preservation of content and, therefore, we weighed each program carefully to ensure that we could commit to a long-term budget strategy.

**Carol Richman**, Director of Licensing at **SAGE**, took on the responsibility of sitting on the **CLOCKSS** board during its pilot project. This group was made up of librarians and publishers and met every two weeks to ensure that the pilot was running smoothly and that the expectations of both groups were met. We also felt strongly that in this preservation world, there should be independent and government supported programs for our content; so we partnered with **Portico** and the **KB**. We consider all three programs to be trustworthy, and we are committed to participation in these programs

However, **SAGE** also believes that it is not good enough to just sign up to these services; we have to follow them through to prove they work. So when a small journal, *Graft*, was closed, this constituted a "trigger event" and we made the decision to release this to the various preservation services. **Portico** took the lead and released the archived content first, taking on responsibility for the DOIs. Only one owner can be attached to each DOI, so **SAGE** assigned ownership to **Portico** who had to re-

deposit. **CLOCKSS** also released their content shortly afterwards and we are still waiting for the **Dutch KB** to release their version.

Being the first to test these systems, we did hit a few technical snags. For example, multiple resolution of DOIs has not been possible despite our desire to make all preservation services equal. Any content that did not originally have DOIs, proved a problem: who was then responsible for depositing and "owning" them? **CrossRef** has set up a working group to develop solutions to some of these issues now that we have concrete examples to review.

Market reaction has been interesting. Predictably perhaps, some feedback has been negative and there have been some complaints that we have closed a journal. However, the overwhelming majority of feedback from librarians has been positive, citing a number of positive outcomes: it has proved that the preservation system works; content now remains accessible in perpetuity; DOIs still remain active, reducing confusion among users; and librarians now have a concrete example to help them convince library committees that it is worth investing time and money in supporting preservation initiatives.

**SAGE** has now acted to help preserve a journal that ceased publication without an online presence. *Autobiography* was available in print and when it ceased publication, we have digitized the content and recently released that to the same services. We hope that libraries will now believe that digital content will not be lost in the future.

**SAGE's** preservation strategy and commitment continues to focus on its customers and partners. Preservation is critical to library and society partnerships, and to our overall business strategy. 🌱



## Libraries as Publishers; Publishers as Libraries — Where Do We Go From Here?

by **Tony Horava** (Collection Coordinator, University of Ottawa, Canada) <thorava@uottawa.ca>



**Column Editor's Note:** *One of the most marked characteristics of our times is the convergence of roles in the scholarly communications landscape. The rapid evolution of new digital technologies has led to the opening of new doors for various players. The roles of librarian, publisher, vendor are being radically recast in ways that could not have been imagined a decade ago when the Web was becoming a dominant force in our society and our work environments. In particular the "participation culture" of Web 2.0 has encouraged everyone to engage in our culture in a seamless and holistic manner, as creator, consumer, and participant. By turns it is a dizzying, bewildering, or fascinating time, depending on the day and the issue at hand. The advent of librarians as publishers, and publishers as librarians, is an important phenomenon that bears witness to the reinvention of roles. This article will explore some of the issues involved in this transformation, from the perspective of values and how they influence our actions and expectations. NB – The role of the vendor is a separate and complex matter that will not be addressed in this article. — TH*

### Convergence in the Library

The blurring of roles is in full flight these days. Libraries are enthusiastically taking on the role of publisher in numerous ways — through the development of institutional repositories for the publishing and preservation of the institution's research output; through the incubation and fostering of journal publishing such as open access journals; through the mass digitization programs and the niche digitization efforts that are occurring widely today; and through collaboration in various publishing projects in the home institution, whether it be

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