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Good Partners? Can Open Access Publishers and Librarians Find Meaningful Ways to Collaborate?

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Good Partners? Can Open Access Publishers and Librarians Find Meaningful Ways to Collaborate?

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As the scholarly publishing and open access landscape continue to evolve, libraries and publishers likewise need to find different ways to collaborate and support new forms of scholarly infrastructure. Open access publishing, in particular, provides new challenges in this sphere. How is open access publishing changing the way libraries think of collections? How can open access publishers and libraries work together to create a shared scholarly infrastructure? What place do article processing charges play in this landscape?

This Lively Discussion, organized by John Dove, brought together a group of librarians and publishers who gave their views on the evolving open access publishing landscape and how open access publishers and libraries can better collaborate in this space. The panel discussion ranged from ways that open access publishers and libraries are already working together and the values on which they would like to align.

The panel consisted of two librarians and two publishers:

- Tina Baich, Associate Dean for Collections, IUPUI University Library
- Regina Gong, Open Educational Resources (OER) Project Manager & Manager of Technical Services and Systems, Lansing Community College
- Richard Grove, Commercial Manager, The Company of Biologists
- Brian Hole, Founder and CEO, Ubiquity Press
- (moderator) Sarah Wipperman, Scholarly Communications & Digital Repository Librarian, University of Pennsylvania

Alistair Freeland, COO, MDPI, was originally planned to be a panelist but was unfortunately unable to join. Richard Grove graciously took his place. Alistair did, however, provide the following statement:

MDPI is now the largest of the independent Open Access publishers in terms of number of items published per year. None of its revenue is from subscriptions and it is fully committed to contributing to a scholarly publishing landscape that is 100% OA. We welcome opportunities to collaborate with librarians as well as other OA publishers on such projects as:

- direct funding of publishing costs by funding agencies or societies avoiding charges to universities altogether
- working with libraries on defining multipublisher solutions to OA administration
- experimenting with non-APC business models (e.g., the crowdfunding of APCs in the Knowledge Unlatched 2017 Journal Package)
- transitioning more and more of MDPI's operations to its nonprofit foundation

And MDPI is eager to hear specific ideas that attendees of this Lively Discussion might suggest. Simply e-mail to MDPI via its Institutional Open Access Program address: ioap@mdpi.com.

Many thanks to the panelists and the audience whose contributions ensured that this Lively Discussion lived up to its name.