

BC Research Libraries Group Lecture Series: Library as Publisher

Katy Nelson.

On March 18 and 19, 2010, the BCRLG presented a panel discussion entitled "The Library as Publisher". There were two presentations, the first one at the University of Victoria Libraries on March 18, 2010 and the second one on March 19, 2010 at Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, University of British Columbia.

The speakers were Maria Bonn, Associate University Librarian for Publishing at the University of Michigan University Library, where she is responsible for developing and coordinating the publishing program and services of the University Library, including the University of Michigan Press and the Scholarly Publishing Office and Catherine Mitchell, Director, eScholarship Publishing Group, California Digital Library (CDL). Catherine is responsible for overseeing the strategic planning and development of eScholarship Publishing Services at the CDL. In addition to supporting the eScholarship Repository, CDL's Publishing Services are increasingly offered through collaborative projects with the University of California Press, and are a part of UC's broader effort to ensure a sustainable scholarly publishing system in the service of research and teaching.

On March 18, 2010 at the Mearns Centre for Learning, UVic Libraries, Maria and Catherine gave a stimulating talk to the more than 30 librarians and faculty from various Vancouver Island institutions including UVic, Camosun College Library, Royal Roads University Library and Vancouver Island University Library.

Maria discussed the creation and operational challenges of the Scholarly Publishing Office (SPO) and described how the services are integrated with other campus units like the University of Michigan press. After six years in operation, SPO is the publisher of nearly twenty, mostly open-access electronic journals, a small original monograph series, born-digital special projects; and a provider of hosting services for large subscription-based resources. While primarily an electronic publisher, SPO also runs a print on demand program, with over 9000 books for sale on Amazon, as well as partners with the UM Press to create a joint imprint of open access and print books.

Last year, the University of California Press and the California Digital Library (CDL) announced University of California Publishing Services (UCPubS), a joint program intended to respond to the publishing needs within UC. UCPubS brings the complementary services of the press and the library together to offer a rich suite of open-access digital and print publishing tools to the UC system centers, institutes, and departments that produce scholarly books. Catherine reviewed the progress of this program, including the motivations behind their library-press collaboration, the specific services UCPubS provides, their outreach efforts across the campuses, the challenges they've encountered so far, and how other presses and libraries can build on this experience.

On March 19, 2010, Maria and Catherine gave a duplicate presentation at UBC which was webcast live to audiences outside of Vancouver.

Katy Nelson is a librarian at the University of Victoria.