Knowledge Unlatched: Enabling Open Access for Scholarly Books

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This Presentation

- What is Knowledge Unlatched?

- Our Goals

- How does it work?

- 2013 Pilot and Next Steps
What is Knowledge Unlatched?

- Not-for-profit
- Helping libraries from around the world share the costs of making books open access
- CC-NC license
- Front-list titles
Our Goals

- A sustainable route to OA for HSS monographs (long-form publications)
- Spread costs of OA across many institutions globally
- Ensuring that HSS long-form publications are as accessible as OA science journals
- Help libraries to maximize the positive impacts of spending on books
How Does it Work?

—KU is helping libraries from around the world to coordinate their monograph purchases.

—Libraries can choose to *jointly* make a **Title Fee** payment to publishers by pledging to unlatch a collection via KU.

—In return, publishers make a PDF version of titles available on an OA license.

—Hosting: HathiTrust and OAPEN.
What is a Title Fee?

- The Title Fee represents the basic cost of publishing a book.
- Access to the Title Fee allows publishers to feel confident that they will break even on each title.
- Publishers are willing to lower their prices and make books available OA if they know that their core costs will be covered.
## Title Fee Examples

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title fee</th>
<th>Participating Libraries</th>
<th>Cost per Library</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>$40.00</td>
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<tr>
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Unlatching A Collection

In order to unlatch a ~30 title collection 200 libraries each pay ~$1800

But

Libraries are already buying physical books and e-book collections

We don’t want libraries to pay publishers twice for the same content!
What Affects The Price?

— The price of the collection may be less than $1800, depending on what your library normally purchases.

— If a library orders (or intends to order) an additional format of a title in the collection, they will not be charged an unlatching fee for that title.

— If another format of all of the titles offered in the collection are ordered by a library, there may be no amount due.
Benefits for KU Participating Libraries

- The ability to ensure that other format purchases contribute to making the collection open access
- High-quality MARC records
- Usage data: We are working to ensure COUNTER compliance
- The right to nominate and vote for members of a Library Steering Committee and a Collections Committee
- 2 year membership fee waiver
Stage 1: 2013 Pilot

- Publishers submitted ~100 titles
- Librarians have helped us to curate a collection of ~30 titles covering:
  - Literature
  - History & Politics
  - Media & Communications
First Stage Pilot: 2013

- Amsterdam University Press
- Bloomsbury Academic
- Brill
- Cambridge University Press
- De Gruyter
- Duke University Press
- Edinburgh University Press
- Liverpool University Press
- Manchester University Press
- Purdue University Press
- Rutgers University Press
- Temple University Press
- University of Michigan Press
Timeline for the 2013 Collection

- Single collection of ~30 titles
- Cost per library ~$1800 (depending on which titles libraries purchase in other formats)
- Library pledging window: 30 September – 31 January
- Titles become open access upon publication in early 2014
Next Steps: 2014

- Review Results
- Begin metrics study
- Develop library role in governance
- Scaling Up:
  - Repeat the cycle again with more books, more publishers (signing up now!) and more selection options
- Continue recruiting more libraries
- KU South
Making Knowledge Unlatched
Sustainable

Set-up and Pilot

Grants and library partnerships cover set-up and running costs

From 2014

KU will take up to 5% of Title Fees to cover costs, reducing as volume goes up
Who Benefits?

- Readers
- Libraries
- Authors
- Independent Researchers
- Publishers
- Everyone else too