



The Oberlin Group

A Consortium of Liberal Arts College Libraries

For immediate release: 10th April 2014

Lever Initiative Publishes Phase One Feasibility Study of an Oberlin Group Open Access Press

The Lever Initiative has today published the results of the first phase of its project investigating the feasibility of a new Open Access (OA) publishing venture by The Oberlin Group – an organization comprised of selective, top-ranked liberal arts colleges in the United States.

The report summarizes a number of research projects that have explored the overall landscape for OA monograph publishing and attitudes of the library and research community. The report concludes that there are four main routes (none of which are mutually exclusive) through which The Oberlin Group might support more open forms of publishing in the liberal arts. These are:

- 1) Independently establish a new OA press;
- 2) Collaborate with existing publishing ventures to launch a new OA monograph series;
- 3) Support ‘unlocking’ initiatives where library funds are used to ‘free up’ key online texts by negotiating removal of access controls by the publisher for a fee;
- 4) Focus on active advocacy to remove barriers that are slowing down uptake of existing OA monograph options.

The full report is available for download from the Lever Initiative blog: leverinitiative.wordpress.com.

“We believe liberal arts college libraries can support authors and readers better than they are supported now,” commented Bryn Geffert, a member of the Lever Initiative task force. “Freed from old assumptions and old technology centered around the production of print publications, we can enjoy a unique chance to rethink what constitutes a “publication.” The opportunities afforded by new media are all opportunities this venture can easily embrace. This report represents a first step in an ongoing program through which we aim to accelerate innovation in monograph publishing in the liberal arts and beyond.”

For more information, please visit the Lever Initiative website at: leverinitiative.wordpress.com