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Kate Pitcher Profile

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Library Publishing of Open ...
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Kate Pitcher
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BORN & LIVED: Born and raised in Western New York.
EARLY LIFE: Reading was my constant companion through childhood — it always
surprises me that I never thought about being a librarian until a few years out of college
— I spent most of my childhood at my local public library, so in hindsight it seems like it
should have been a given.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: Worked at the New York Public Library
for two years, then Rochester Public Library. I have been at SUNY Geneseo in many
 Capacities since 2002: mostly involved with collection development and publishing activities
in the past three years. As of July 2014, I am the interim library director. The culture at
Milne Library is simply one-of-a-kind and innovative — I absolutely love my job.

FAMILY: Husband Jeff and three children: Griffin, Silas, and Cordelia.

IN MY SPARE TIME: Read, exercise, and garden with my kids.

FAVORITE BOOKS: Anything by Kate Atkinson, Margaret Atwood, Carol Shields, or
Jill McCorkle: Love the Outsider series by Diana Gabaldon.

PET PEEVES: Complaining about problems, but taking no action to solve or create
something better — do something.

PHILOSOPHY: The academic library is a place where knowledge is created, produced,
and disseminated — we are the curators of the scholarship lifecycle and the sharers of this
scholarship. All of our other activities are tied to this and are the reason for why we exist.

MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Working with the GIS T team on a pa-
tron-driven acquisitions system and the work I have been doing with library publishing,
working with my colleagues on Library Publishing Toolkit and Open SUNY Textbooks.

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: I would love to see Open SUNY
Textbooks expand and collaborate with other institutions. Five years from now it would be
spectacular if we had a sustainable academic publishing model, collaborative relationships
with many other libraries, and open textbook programs and hundreds of titles and SUNY
authors involved in the program.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: Library publishing developed
a lot of forward momentum in the past two years (especially with the formation of groups
like the Library Publishing Coalition and publication of best practices documents like the
Library Publishing Toolkit) and I think it has potential for transforming our relationships with
students and faculty on campus. Publishing the scholarship and pedagogical material of
our faculty and students is a natural part of the academic lifecycle and one that should be
integrated into the other services we provide such as information literacy instruction and
scholarship support services. It’s just a matter of time.

Access at campuses, and the creation of the availability of professional opportunities for professional de-
velopment.

The future of Open SUNY Textbooks is about
the future of library publishing and the development
of new roles for libraries and librarians.
Filling those roles often requires guidance and
training for librarians to develop new skills.
With this in mind, the OST team is working with
libraries across the state to create best practices
and professional development opportunities for
librarians. One of our partnerships in development
is with New York State’s NY3Rs Council,
a network of library resource councils, and they are
already offering workshops and online learning
opportunities for those in the library community
who are interested in publishing.

For more information, check out the Open
SUNY Textbooks Website: http://opensuny.org/
omp/index.php/SUNYOpenTextbooks.

Endnotes

1. U.S. Government Accountability Of-
fice. “College Textbooks: Students Have
Greater Access to Textbook Information,”

2. Florida Virtual Campus. “2012 Florida
Student Textbook Survey,” accessed July
14, 2014, http://www.openaccesstext-
books.org/%5Cpdf%5C2012_Florida_
Student_Textbook_Survey.pdf.

3. The College Board. “Trends in Col-
lege Pricing; 2013,” accessed July 14,
college-pricing.

4. U.S. Government Accountability Of-
office. “College Textbooks: Enhanced
Offerings Appear to Drive Recent Price

Against the Grain / November 2014
Access methods. Second, an important con-
consideration in planning a publishing program
is infrastructure development. Libraries, in
most cases, have already developed a robust
infrastructure for collecting, organizing, and
maintaining digital collections. The necessary
platforms already exist for producing scholar-
ships. Third, the library as publisher assists our
higher education institutions in curating and
shaping the new learning environment needed
to make transformations for the future. Instead
of reacting to change, libraries can be proactive
in planning a publishing program.

To that end, project team members are
working on next steps for the project:

• Print-on-demand: currently, OST
contracts allow authors the right to
sell print-on-demand versions of their
books through CreateSpace or other
vendors. While OST team members
can provide assistance, all royalties
are assigned to the author. A cost
recovery model is under development
in which print-on-demand options
are written into the contract and roy-
alties are shared between OST and the
author, 50/50. Currently, SUNY
Counsel is reviewing contract options
for including royalty sharing clauses.

• Distribution: currently, Open SUNY
Textbooks are distributed freely on-
line through our Open Monograph
Press (OMP) publishing platform
(http://opensuny.org). Our scalability
and sustainability plan will include
an enhanced distribution model. We
are negotiating with several vendors
to test EPUB distribution of our open
textbooks. This would allow for sales
of enhanced versions of the textbooks
while keeping the free open access
versions of the textbooks available at
the Open SUNY Textbook Website.

• Hybrid funding: other funding
models are also in development. One
idea is to propose a student fee to the
SUNY student assembly for the
creation and development of Open
SUNY Textbooks. Another idea is
to work with an outside corporation
with start-up money to support librar-
ies publishing open textbooks. The
development of such an outside entity
could offer libraries the infrastructure
for publishing textbooks, including
the platform, incentives for Open

The proposed model
includes the following:

1. The open textbook
publishing platform,
including development
and content.
2. Funding models,
including support from
other sources.
3. A sustainability
plan, including sources for
future funding, is
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4. Libraries, in
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