

2014

Publisher Profile -- Knowledge Unlatched

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the market. By finding sustainable business models for OA, readers will find the content.

ATG: *We understand that later this year Knowledge Unlatched will move into the second phase, scaling up and involving more libraries and publishers and increased selection. Can you elaborate? Will the project expand and include science publishers and books?*

FP: We are only just now formulating the plans for how we can work with more publishers and deliver more books. A report on what we've learnt through the pilot will be ready in May by which time we'll have established a Library Steering Committee and will be working on setting up the Library Collections Committee. I began this project with Humanities and Social Sciences because their monographs were in the most trouble. But there would be no reason not to include Science books. Ultimately KU is a channel and by working together publishers and librarians will decide what to use it for.

ATG: *We've also been told that there is even a phase three in the offing. What will that involve?*

FP: I've always seen KU in three phases. Just like any other initiative we have to find our route to sustainability. The first was the Pilot — now competed. The second is scaling up. This not only means having more books, it means having the right systems in place —

against the grain publisher profile

Knowledge Unlatched

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OFFICERS: Dr. Frances Pinter, Executive Director; Dr. Lucy Montgomery, Deputy Director; Leon Loberman, Operations and Technology; and Judy Luther, North America Consultant.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS: Affiliated to Library Publishing Coalition.

KEY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES: We are setting up a library consortium to enable open access publishing.

CORE MARKETS/CLIENTELE: Publishers and Librarians.

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES: 4 (some part-time). 🌱

most likely through a variety of partnerships. There doesn't seem to be much point in reinventing the wheel when others have very nice ones running along. We'll be introducing a small handling charge and membership fees so that we'll be independent of grants. Phase three is when we have enough volume to fund the KU infrastructure through the mark up of the Title Fees. We've said that this would be in the region of 5%.

ATG: *It must be exciting to be spearheading such an innovative project but it also demands a lot of energy. What do you do in*

your down time to relax and refresh? Do you have favorite activities or interests outside of publishing and libraries?

FP: I love my work, so there is not much downtime. But I do enjoy the usual things — reading novels, going to concerts, taking a walk in the park with my husband.

ATG: *Frances, thank you. We're very grateful for your willingness to tell us about Knowledge Unlatched and appreciate your open and thoughtful answers.*

FP: Thank you for the opportunity. 🌱

International Dateline — A Good Bookman

by **Rita Ricketts** (Blackwell's Historian and Bodleian Visiting Scholar, Author *Adventurers All, Tales of Blackwellians, of Books, Bookmen and Reading and Writing Folk*) <Rita.Ricketts@bodleian.ox.ac.uk>



"The librarian's, I should say, is the happiest lot, though some may think it lacks the excitement, which risk and enterprise provide. If he is a College or University Librarian, he is perhaps happiest of all, should the bent of his mind be studious." — Basil Blackwell

The good bookman, **Sir Basil**, wrote this in 1945, so we have to forgive his gender specificity. He believes in the spiritual value of books. He believes with **Wordsworth** that books "are a substantial world both pure and good; Round these, with tendrils strong as flesh and blood, Our pastime and our happiness will grow"; with **Carlyle** that "In books lies the *souls* of the whole past time the articulate and audible voice of the Past"; and with **Milton** that "A good book is the precious life-blood of a master-spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life." For **Sir Basil**, publisher, bookseller, and would-be author, it was "the reader who really counted." He quotes **Emerson**, who once said, "Tis the good reader that makes the good book." Who, then, was the good reader, **Sir Basil** asked himself? One who reads with zest and intelligence, enjoying by understanding, who attends to the views of critics but judges for him- or herself. One who

remembers the fable of the Emperor's clothes, is wary of false prophets, is quick to detect insincerity in an author and to reject one whose motive is unworthy. One who recommends convincingly a good book, and knows when he or she has found one and then commends it to the next generation ... telling the good news of the discovery. **Richard Ovenden** has spent his life doing just that.

But **Richard** has done much more besides. Like the **Bodleian's** founder, **Sir Thomas Bodley**, he is engaged in library building.¹ Working in the second row to support his predecessors **Reg Carr** and then **Sarah Thomas**, he has orchestrated the reconstruction of **Gilbert Scott's** so-called "New" **Bodleian**; to be renamed the **Weston Library**. Its entrance, to be named the **Blackwell Hall** in honour of **Julian Blackwell's** gift, will be open to all and will, appropriately, provide the setting for future exhibitions and events that celebrate the book. It was **Julian**

Blackwell's donation of £5m, the largest single cash donation ever made to a university library in the UK, which has been central in helping **Richard** to put his plan into action. **Julian** had been in on the scheme from the start, conspiring with **Richard** and **Reg Carr** and then **Sarah Thomas** in the bar of a local hostelry. The Hall cements the bond between the library and its world famous bookish neighbour whose current president, **Julian Blackwell**, is the great grandson of **Benjamin Harris Blackwell**, who came to Oxford in the 1830s to save souls from the demon drink and to nourish them with books. He became the first librarian of Oxford's newly founded City Library in 1854. The son of a jobbing tailor from London's East End, he was an autodidact worthy of that honorable tradition. He lies in a shady grave aside the old church of St. Cross, in Oxford, now itself a library. If tombstones had ears, he would be enlivened by the news of **Richard's** appointment.

More fortunate that the self-educated **Benjamin Harris** and his son **Benjamin Henry**, who founded the world famous **Broad Street Shop**, **Richard** won a scholarship to **Sir Roger**

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