

# ESTABLISHING THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DIGITAL PUBLISHING

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2005

2:30–3:30 P.M.

PLAZA BALLROOM II

---

## Discussion Leader

Ken Frazier, University of Wisconsin–Madison Libraries

## Background

Research libraries are involved in managing and disseminating digital content in various ways, including reformatting print content and making it available online, managing instructional materials, and providing the infrastructure to support the development of institutional repositories. Digital publishing may share technologies with these activities, but it must also provide functions that are specifically necessary to support academic publishing, such as:

- Manuscript-management software
- Applications for reviewing, editing, and vetting
- Tools for design, layout, and navigation of content
- Online publishing of books and current journals

While libraries may provide the applications and tools for electronic publishing, the tasks of soliciting manuscripts, reviewing, and editing are usually performed by university partners. Collaborators and partners also need consulting and referral services for:

- Business planning, cost modeling, fund-raising
- Contracting for graphic design, copyediting services
- Printing services including print-on-demand
- Intellectual-property and rights management

Research libraries have been leaders in university-based digital publishing for some time. Mature infrastructure has been established by the California Digital Library, Columbia, Cornell, Michigan, and Penn State. Many of the most successful electronic publishing programs involve partnerships of one kind or another. A recent query to ARL directors identified a surprisingly large number of ARL libraries that have launched digital publishing start-up ventures of a modest, but significant, scale; these include Arizona, Brigham Young, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, Harvard, North Carolina, Oklahoma State, Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, Wisconsin, and others.

Library electronic publishing generally focuses on developing open-access publishing models and re-engineering (sometimes automating) processes to lower costs. Libraries also are encouraging authors to maintain control of their own intellectual property, especially through depositing documents in institutional repositories. While not every research library may view digital publishing as central to its mission, it is increasingly apparent there is a growing demand for these services with no alternative to the library coming forward to organize the necessary resources.

## Discussion Topic

This session is intended to address ARL member decisions regarding support for digital publishing initiatives, strategies being used, and identification of potential best practices in technology and management.