

The Democratizing Value of Open Access

Funding and Business Mechanisms for Equitable Open Access

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A Disclaimer

The statements and comments I will share today, reflect my work with Lever Press and my personal commitment to open access initiatives.

My opinions do not reflect those of the Oberlin College and Conservatory (Oberlin, Ohio USA) nor my soon-to-be new employer the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Libraries (Cambridge, Massachusetts USA).

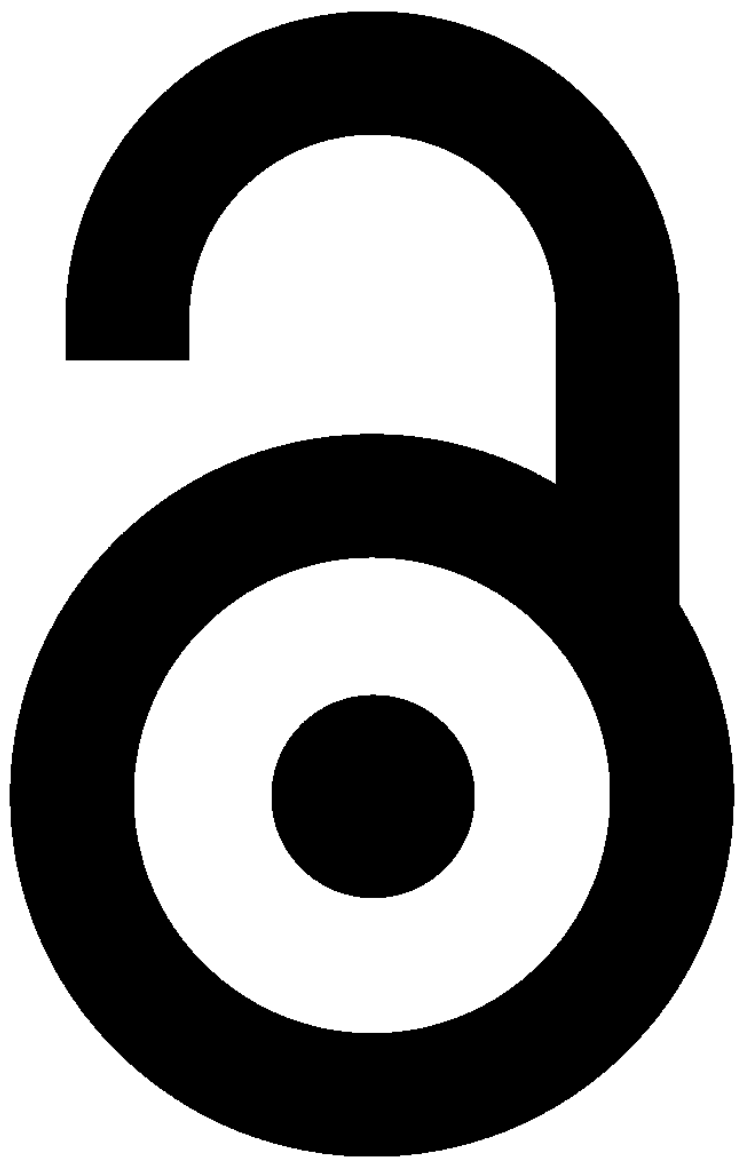


Fight for the things that
you care about, but do it
in a way that will **lead**
others to join you

– *Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

How My Professional Principles Intersect With OA

- A Commitment to OA Contributes to How Libraries Democratize Learning
- Open Access is an Essential Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) Initiative for the Information and Cultural Heritage Professions
- The Humanities/Humanists Should Contribute to the “Greater Good” by Sharing Insights and Research that is Accessible to the General Public (i.e. the “public humanities”)





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MATTER

My Activities in Advancing an Equitable OA Business Model

- The Oberlin College Libraries partnered with several consortia including the Five (Liberal Arts) Colleges of Ohio in the United States (the College of Wooster, Denison University, Ohio Wesleyan University, and Kenyon College) to create a series of faculty-led, open access digital humanities projects funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (USA)
- My Most Significant OA Work Entailed Serving on the Lever Press Oversight Committee for Three Years

Inequities & Sustainability

What Inequalities Exist Within The Open Access Community?

- The Professional Discourse Regarding Open Access Appears to Be Dominated Primarily by White Males and Large University Presses; Effectively “Pushing Out” or Marginalizing Smaller Presses, People of Color, Women, and Possibly the LGBTQ Community
- The Open Access Community Appears to Privilege Traditional Presentations/Expressions of Peer-Reviewed Research
- Documenting Other Active Movements (i.e. Black Lives Matter; Environmental/Climate) Appears Reliant on a Somewhat Loosely Connected International Archiving Network with No Support from or Intersection with the Open Access Community

Inequities & Sustainability

What Aspects of Inequality is Lever Press Addressing?

- Scholars at Smaller Institutions are Afforded the Ability to Work with a Press Committed to the Balancing “Coaching” with a Rigorous Double Peer Reviewed Process
- Lever Press Content Can be Presented in a Multimedia Format, Expanding How Scholars Can Creatively Present Their Work

Inequities & Sustainability

What is the Outlook for Sustainability?

- Lever Press (and Other Small and/or Independent Presses such as Punctum) Have Gained Their “Footing,” Having Published An Impressive Set of Titles
- Lever Press is Managed by an Editorial Board, an Oversight Committee, and supported by University of Michigan (USA) Libraries
- Lever Press’ Membership is Currently Limited to Liberal Arts Colleges; Its Criteria May Need to Be Reshaped To Include Larger Universities
- Several Large U.S.-based Foundation Have Turned Their Funding Priorities Through Social Justice Educational Initiatives and OA Has the Potential to Fit
- COVID-19 is Both a Burden and Opportunity for Lever Press, as the Anticipated Financial “Fall Out” Makes OA intriguing and necessary for some Higher Education Institutions while Difficult for Others to Financially Sustain

How Funding and Business Mechanisms Can Support Equitable and Democratizing Open Access

- Funding Mechanisms Must Determine What Specific Diversity Issue It Seeks to Address and Create a Financial Plan that Measures Progress Annually Against Clear Goals
- Compositional Diversity of Presses, Boards, and Oversight is Paramount to Cultivate and Catalyze Diverse Perspectives, Information Networks, and "Next Generation" Leadership
- Global Mobile Device Internet Usage is Close to 50 Percent, Therefore OA Efforts Must Be Scaled to Ensure Platform Neutrality



**Thank
You**

Asante

Grazie

Spasibo

Merci

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