THE ACADEMIC BOOK OF THE FUTURE

So far, the Project Team has:
- attended over 30 events
- given over 20 talks
- helped facilitate over 60 events and mini-projects
- published 25 blog posts, with an article and collection of essays published this month

Project activity has extended across several countries, including UK, Japan, USA, Canada, Australia, Spain, Italy, Germany, Sudan, The Netherlands, and India.

Examples and Highlights:
- University of Nottingham – SOFT Project Spriting to the Open FuTure
- University of Lincoln – jimPossible Constellations: Publishing in the digital age
- Katharine Reeve, Bath Spa Uni – Editors in Academic Publishing
- International Arthurian Society – Iconic Books
- Anthony Watkins – The Academic Book in North America
- Scottish Graduate School for the Arts and Humanities – Training Camp – Peer Review
- New University Presses – Conference, March 2015
- The Future of Academic Bookselling – Conference, April 2015

Project Team’s Recommendations

- Physical book is still needed alongside ebooks
- Need for technology to create a better reading experience for academic texts
- Some key themes emerging from #AcBookWeek:
  - Where will the impetus for change come from?
  - Confusion about OA models
  - What will value be defined as in an OA world?
  - Concerns about “digital death” through lack of adequate preservation
  - ECRs questioning shapes of outputs, like the PhD
  - Need for technology to create a better reading experience for academic texts

Looking at Unit of Assessment 30: History
- 1657 Books in the following output types
  - Authored Books (1320)
  - Edited Books (290)
  - Scholarly Editions (47)
- 295 unique Publishers found
- 10 most used Pub. (930 books or 56%)
- 258 Publishers (87%) had 5 or fewer books submitted
- 171 Publishers (57%) had one book submitted – mostly non-UK
- 761 books submitted (46%) were from a University Press (Outside the top 5 these were mostly non-UK publishers)

Brief reflections & directions from Michael Jubb’s research for the Project:
- Neither publishers nor librarians nor aggregators/intermediaries are satisfied with current sales models
- There is considerable concern both from publishers and libraries about the complexities of the supply chain to end-users
- Books remain a critical part of the scholarly infrastructure in analogue form; not yet clear how to present the broad range of scholarly resources in the humanities in an effective and user-friendly way, integrating ‘books’ into the wider range of resources and tools
- No crisis in Scholarly Publishing!

Publisher: >10 books submitted
213 Oxford University Press
162 Cambridge University Press
143 Palgrave Macmillan
98 Manchester University Press
74 Ashgate
70 Routledge
52 Boydell & Brewer
51 Yale University Press
40 Brill Academic Publishers
27 Continuum International Pub.
27 Edinburgh University Press
21 I B Tauris
21 Pickering & Chatto
20 Harvard University Press
19 Bloomsbury Publishing
16 Penguin
14 Allen Lane
14 British Academy/OUP
14 Liverpool University Press
14 University of Wales Press
12 University of Chicago Press
12 Reaktion Books

In the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed.” - Charles Darwin

Dawin’s “On the Origin of Species” has been voted the most influential academic book ever written. The books of the shortlist contained the top 20 academic books that have changed the world, as voted for by leading academic booksellers, librarians and publishers, has been revealed.