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Review of Open Praxis, Open Access:
Digital Scholarship in Action edited
by Darren Chase and Dana Haugh,
Chicago, IL, ALA Editions, 2020

Matthew Eric Hunter

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Open Praxis, Open Access: Digital Scholarship in Action. Edited by Darren Chase and Dana Haugh. Chicago, IL: ALA Editions, 2020. 288pp., ISBN: 978-0-8389-1867-8, \$68.99, e-book ISBN: 978-0-8389-1898-2, \$55.00.

The 16 chapters collected here by editors Darren Chase and Dana Haugh present an informative, if sometimes flawed, guide for informed practice—praxis—in support of open movements in libraries. The book’s chapters are divided into five thematic sections that generally cover (1) the development of open access and its applications in scholarly communication, (2) open access publishing models and their cost recovery methods, (3) repositories, (4) the production and use of open educational resources, and (5) open data and open science. Overall, chapter authors are well-versed in their respective topics and represent a wide array of institution types and sizes. An index of terms is included at the end of the book to aid reference.

The first, and longest, section provides a handful of overviews of openness and OA development, as well as the one primarily policy-focused discussion of open scholarship’s impact outside the academy. It also contains a poignant but methodologically flawed critique of open publishing’s intersectional representation that will be discussed below. The brief parts two and three include noteworthy chapters complicating library budgets’ use as subsidy for article processing charges and an overview of corporate 3D data repositories’ interaction with library services. Part four presents instructive case studies supporting OER endeavors from four unique contexts that are welcome additions to the literature. Lastly, part five outlines the related open data and open science movements, and includes discussions of the nuanced legal, ethical, and infrastructural considerations for responsibly sharing data openly that differ from OA scholarship.

While overall beneficial, the book suffers from a few weaknesses. Firstly, the re-defining of core concepts of the various opens throughout many of the chapters borders on repetitive when the book is taken as a whole. This is underscored by the lack of any contextualizing editorial introduction (save chapter 1’s generalized overview of the concept of openness) that could have otherwise more explicitly

connected themes and definitions across the book's chapters. Secondly is the inclusion of chapter 4's unfortunately flawed critique of open access's failure in addressing intersectional representation in scholarly publications. In fairness, the author demonstrates a grasp of intersectional feminist theory and uses it to make an otherwise welcome critique of OA publishing's reproduction of institutional power matrices and provides a valuable call-to-action for further study on issues of representation, visibility, and equitable information access in OA. However, their argument is undermined by a fundamental mischaracterization of the Green Open Access pathway which reproduces and furthers harmful misconceptions about the purpose and quality of self-archived scholarship housed in institutional repositories. This is exacerbated by the author's self-admitted "off-the-cuff (and not entirely scholarly)" (p. 63) content analysis that is still forwarded as evidence for OA's overall failure to address intersectional representation. The latter presents a statistically insignificant variance as suitable evidence to reductively decry that "open access, publishing, and content are not intersectional or equitable at all" (p. 64), which trivializes the good work OA advocates have achieved towards equity over the last two decades and calls into question the rigor of this work's review process. It likewise results in an overall hamstrung critique of the OA movement's intersectional representation in scholarly publishing that is otherwise welcome and vital.

Unfortunately, there is another rather larger drawback to this book which affects its overall timeliness, and which I attribute mostly to the length of press schedules rather than to any fault of the authors or editors. Though many chapters include reference to the global impact of landmark European moments in the open access movement like the 2002 Budapest OA Initiative, 2003 Berlin Declaration and the OER-focused 2012 Paris Declaration, the absence of any mention of 2018's potentially equally-seismic Plan S is notable. This absence is understandable due to the publication timeline for the book (which seems to have been submitted no later than mid-2018, while Plan S was officially launched in September of that year), but severely unfortunate as it means that many of the book's well-researched and well-argued discussions about OA publishing funding models, governmental advocacy, and policy are

now already outdated so soon after publication. Future editions of the book would be well-served by addressing any developments in open scholarship engendered by Plan S.

Besides these flaws, the remainder of this book serves as a good introduction to the rapidly-developing world of open for new and established library practitioners alike. This volume will be most beneficial for early-career scholarly communication, repository or data management, and/or OER (and adjacent) professionals who are building support for open initiatives. It will also be informative to rising information/library school students and those interested in academic librarianship in general. More senior readers may still be well-served by several of the chapters' useful case studies and shared policies, procedures, and survey data.

Matthew E. Hunter

Digital Scholarship Librarian, Florida State University

Tallahassee, FL