

# Library as Publisher: A New Initiative for RUSA?

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Library Publishing Services support patron participation in publishing by assisting with one or more elements of the publishing process. They are typically non-profit in philosophy and practice.

## Education and Instruction

- Educational services or events such as:
- Idea Generation
  - Language and Literacy
  - Copyright
  - Platforms and Formats
  - Budget
  - Planning and Consulting

NYPL joined forces with Sandy Storyline to help patrons contribute to a "participatory documentary" about Hurricane Sandy and it's aftermath. Members of the public contributed audio, video, photos, and text to the project; an interactive display rotates among branch libraries. The collaboration included a writing workshop.

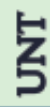


**83%** of respondents want to learn more about this type of service

## Content Design and Editorial

- Developmental services such as:
- Writing Workshops
  - Hackathons, Unconferences
  - Research Services
  - Editorial Services
  - Fact-Checking
  - Peer/Expert Review

A University of North Texas Libraries imprint provides fee-based editorial services including developmental and substantive editing, fact-checking, and design work. The Libraries host a semi-annual roundtable for discussion of scholarly editing issues. Curated online resources provide access to useful materials for content editors.



**53%** of respondents think they'll offer these services in the future

## Product Design and Production

- Production services such as:
- Cover Design
  - Print or E-Book Layout
  - Copyright Clearance Services
  - Digital Repositories
  - Print-On-Demand Technology
  - Digitization

Michigan State University community members can print library-quality paperbacks from an on-demand catalog or from their own materials. Assistance with formatting and other publishing elements is available for a fee. Online instructions include an extensive library guide called "Publishing and Book Design Basics."



**63%** of respondents think they'll offer these services in the future

## Marketing and Dissemination

- Post-publication services such as:
- Press Releases or Advertising
  - Author Fairs or Book Signings
  - Assessment Metrics
  - Metadata Development
  - Facilitating Open Access
  - Cataloging and Indexing

The British Library publishes up to 40 non-fiction books a year in subjects broadly relating to the collections of the British Library. Publications are sold around the world and contribute to the Library's international reputation, as well as garnering positive reviews and generating revenue that supports the Library's work.



**67%** of respondents think they'll offer these services in the future

## What professional tools are currently available?

Our environmental scan revealed: Most existing resources are webinar, conference proceedings and directories. They offer short-term tools rather than ongoing support.

ACRL, ARI, SPARC, and the Library Publishing Coalition support publishing services in academic libraries only. No group is committed to supporting publishing services in other library types. Few resources address sustainability, inclusion, representation, or accessibility.

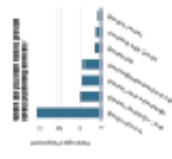
Read our full report: [bit.ly/RUSA-ELI5](http://bit.ly/RUSA-ELI5)



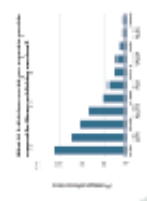
## What do librarians say?

Our survey of 270 librarians found:

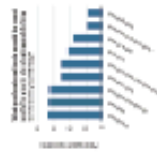
Many respondents learned about library publishing services on the job; few have formal training and nearly 20% indicated no training at all.



Respondents would find workshops, webinars, and standards/guidelines most useful for developing library publishing services.



After ACRL, respondents believe LITA and RUSA are the most likely ALA divisions to support library publishing services.



## Conclusions

There is a need for an organized community of practice for librarians supporting library publishing services beyond academia. RUSA could choose to develop publishing-related resources, learning opportunities, and communities.

## Recommendations

- Initiate a RUSA-led discussion group or interest group.
- Build an online space for library publishing resources.
- Offer workshops focused on education and instruction services.