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**Back to the  
future...**



# **Back to the future – lessons learned from the Jisc Institution as OA textbook publisher project**

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# What we'll cover...

- A (very) brief history
- Insight into Using Primary Sources eTextbook
- Lessons learned from the project
- What the future might look like for institution OA publishers

# Liverpool University Press and OA

- Publishing OA since 2010
- First publisher signed up to Knowledge Unlatched
- Modern Languages Open with the University of Liverpool Library  
[[www.modernlanguagesopen.org](http://www.modernlanguagesopen.org)]
- OA e-textbooks with Jisc and the University of Liverpool Library
- Flipped journals to OA with Open Library of Humanities
- LUP Open Access Author Fund
- Digital Collaboration Hub on Manifold  
[<https://liverpooluniversitypress.manifoldapp.org/>]
- Opening the Future, a new OA monograph funding initiative with COPIM  
[<https://lup.openingthefuture.net/>]

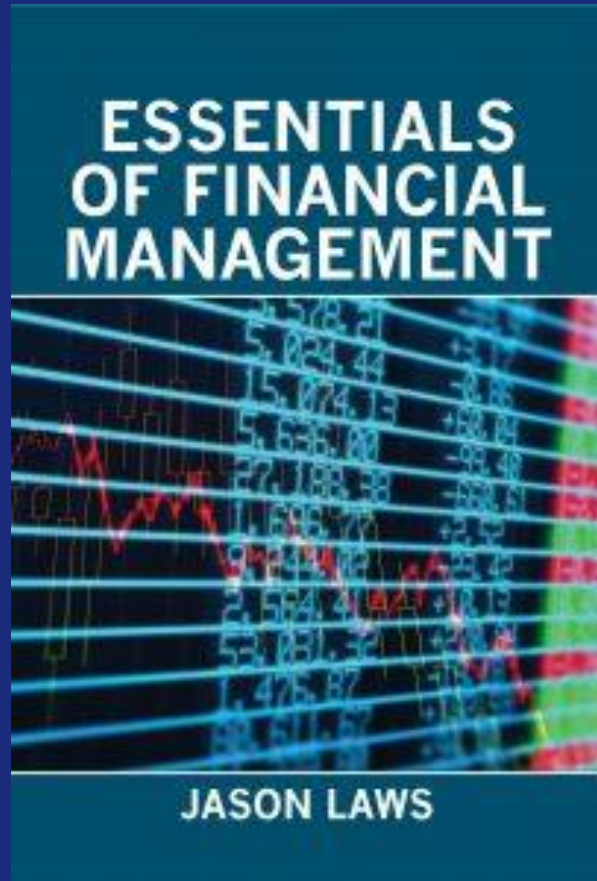
# **Jisc funded project 2014-18**

## **Institution as e-textbook publisher:**

Investigating the viability of higher education institutions publishing their own e-textbooks.

“Will the institution as e-textbook creator help students by providing a more affordable higher education, and promote a better, more sustainable information environment for libraries, students and faculty?”

# The Liverpool OA e-textbooks





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[www.jisc.ac.uk/guides/institution-as-e-textbook-publisher-toolkit](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/guides/institution-as-e-textbook-publisher-toolkit)

# Why we got involved

## University Library

- Commitment to OA
- A *funded* chance to experiment
- Building on partnership with LUP
- Enthusiastic academics

## Liverpool University Press

- Commitment to OA
- Opportunity to collaborate with the Library and academics, plus Jisc and others.
- Chance to explore and learn about OA e-textbooks.
- To develop skills and knowledge for future OA and digital publications.





# textbook

*/ˈtɛks(t)bʊk/*

*noun*

a book used as a standard work for the study of a particular subject.



# monograph

*/ˈmɒnəgrɑːf/*

*noun*

noun: **monograph**; plural noun: **monographs**

a detailed written study of a single specialized subject or an aspect of it.

"they are publishing a series of monographs on music in late medieval and Renaissance cities"



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## Targeting local needs

- *Using Primary Sources* was innovative
- Creating something new with the potential to be widely used and incorporated

## Home grown

- 75% University of Liverpool authors
- Chapters built around the academic's specialisms
- Leveraging value from our own collections





## Student feedback

"The '**Using Primary Sources**' history e-textbook produced by our lecturers, has definitely been created with students in mind....This resource has encouraged me to look again at my approach to individual research and to form my own conclusions. And it's completely free!"

## Current usage

Used across year groups within the department of history – from year 1 ‘History Matters’ skills module, to year 3 ‘Digital Histories’.

“a launching point for their own research – to see what’s possible.”

Research connected teaching

# Considerations for Platforms - Implementation

- Reviewing capabilities vs. business needs: *formats, mobile, navigation, design*
- Data Migration?, security...
- Budgeting
- 'Hosted' vs in-house? Open Source? e.g. Drupal, WordPress vs. commercial
- Integration, e.g. users, authentication, SRS/ module data... .
- Comparative practice in sector

# Considerations for Platforms - Deployment

- Usability/ Accessibility/ Compliance
- Workflow and policies
- Design and marketing
- Collaboration considerations
- Additional software requirements
- Ongoing reappraisal
- Stats/ analytics



# Lessons learned

## University of Liverpool Library

- Needs dedicated time
- Link to collection strengths
- Link directly to teaching – “home” use is most important and wider interest via OA is a bonus

## Liverpool University Press

- Time: the most crucial resource
- Ask every question
- Be flexible to ensure you can adapt to changes
- Plan carefully at the start and plan for the long-term

# Could this model address the issues raised by #eBookSOS?

- More challenges for OA textbooks than with monographs
- Needs institutional impetus and strategic alignment
- Ongoing funding must be factored in
- Needs a team approach (multi author/editor and multi-professional input)



Any questions?