Opening access to scholarly books

Anne Houston and Ellen Ramsey
U.Va. Library
Knowledge Unlatched

What is it?

• A non-for profit organization bringing together libraries worldwide
• Founded in UK but advisory board has several US members
• Focuses on providing OA humanities and social sciences monographs
• [http://www.knowledgeunlatched.org/](http://www.knowledgeunlatched.org/)
Knowledge Unlatched

Business model:

"Knowledge Unlatched seeks to demonstrate that the combined global purchases of academic libraries is sufficient to cover the first copy costs of producing new books -- and thereby create a path to Open Access for this body of literature."
Knowledge Unlatched

**Business model:**

- Libraries collaborate to pay traditional publishers to make a collection of titles open access
- A library agrees to pay a certain set fee for the package
- Fee based on publishers’ combined estimated first copy costs
- If more libraries participate, the package fee is reduced for all
Knowledge Unlatched

Titles available through OAPEN Library

Welcome to OAPEN

online library and publication platform

The OAPEN Library contains freely accessible academic books, mainly in the area of Humanities and Social Sciences. OAPEN works with publishers to build a quality controlled collection of Open Access books, and provides services for publishers, libraries and research funders in the areas of dissemination, quality assurance and digital preservation.

Search the library

Featured titles

- Andrene Waase: From Pastoral Literature to Vernacular Spirituality
- University of Wales Press
- Social Theory of Fear
- Palgrave Macmillan
- The Changing Political Economy of Small West European Countries
- Amsterdam University Press
- Sich windende Wege: Ethnografie der Melo-Schnecke in Papua, Indonesien
- Universitätsverlag Göttingen
- Inter-lektualitet: Läningens semiotik og etik
- University Press of Southern Denmark

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Knowledge Unlatched--benefits

- Allows publishers to explore open access options at low risk
- Provides a viable model for OA monographs
- Allows libraries to show support for OA
- Increase global access to scholarship
Knowledge Unlatched--pilot

- 200 libraries worldwide needed to pledge $1,680 “title fee” for a pilot collection of 28 books from 13 publishers
- Collection will be available on a CC-BY-NC or CC-BY-NC-ND license via OAPEN
- Unlatched books also published in other formats for fee (print books, “premium digital versions”)
- Pledging period ends January 31, 2014
- Invoices to pledging libraries in February 2014, minus “double-dipping” purchases self-reported
Knowledge Unlatched--publishers

• Amsterdam University Press
• Bloomsbury Academic
• Brill
• Cambridge University Press
• De Gruyter
• Duke University Press
• Edinburgh University Press
• Liverpool University Press
• Manchester University Press
• Purdue University Press
• Rutgers University Press
• Temple University Press
• University of Michigan Press
Knowledge Unlatched—sample titles

Literature
• The Myth of Piers Plowman
• Verse and Transmutation

Politics
• Understanding the Global Energy Crisis
• Law, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Terrorism

History
• In Search of the Amazon
• Aging Gracefully in the Renaissance

Media & Communications
• Electronic Iran
• China’s iGeneration
Knowledge Unlatched—sustainability

- Results of pledging announced in February 2014
- Member libraries will form Library Steering Committee and Collection Committee
- Joint Library/Publisher forum on challenges of OA monograph publishing
- Scaling of self-report tools for libraries purchasing titles in various formats
- New collections, including single subject packages and single titles
- KU will apply 5% surcharge to cover their costs beginning in 2014