Open journal systems and undergraduate research; facilitating a research culture & digital literacy

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Preparing our students for work and for life
Student Minds

EDAW is supported by Student Minds, the UK’s student mental health charity.

Key Ideas

Research Outputs

Journal articles


Additional resources

Repository Services & Open Access engagement
Open Journal Systems (OJS)

PKP is a multi-university initiative developing (free) open source software and conducting research to improve the quality and reach of scholarly publishing.
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Why create a journal?

• **High standard of work (Academic staff motivation)**

• **Open Access**
  – Dissemination research outputs to a wider audience
  – Research Excellence Framework engagement

• **Student employability**
  – Experience of academic publication & standards
  – Making CVs stand out
Why create a journal?

• Experience of writing for publication to encourage research/masters/further study?

• Peer reviewed – Appreciation of the publication process; quality of information sources

• Connecting theory to real life

• Alumni relationship
Institutional Strategic drivers

• **Excellent education experience (TEF)**
  – Quality of teaching and assessment
  – New experience for the students

• **Research & academic enterprise (REF)**
  – Fostering a research culture across the Uni at all levels

• **Community of great people**
  – Student produced & peer reviewed

• **Sustainable resources**
  – Contributing to wider resources
  – Free
Additional strategic drivers

• Graduate attributes & **digital literacy**

• Conversations around open access, research, cost of information, quality of information, ethical use, copyright and creative commons licencing

• Putting digital literacy into practice with tangible rewards
Feedback

“It was one of the most enjoyable assignments throughout the course, as we had a lot of freedom to write on a subject and theory of preference……..

I think the most valuable aspect of this assignment was learning the ability to synthesise theory with observation.

Experience of being an editor:

I recall a democratic process of deciding the order of the critical reflection journal……. This was good experience; working as a team to produce a document that would hopefully prove as conducive examples for future students, and good representations of the standard of teaching at leeds metropolitan (beckett) university”. (Jamie)
“Creating work for a journal that is going to be read beyond that of the marking purposes, opens up a whole new dynamic to your module and to your degree……Having a journal written and created by student's combats the age old perspective from academics that there is nothing we can learn from students. Working on this journal therefore felt empowering, many of us got to talk more freely and express what we had learnt in a less rigid way. We felt we were being listened to, further than that we felt that our work was of genuine interest and therefore discussed topics that we were passionate and interested about” (Amy).
Feedback

Due to our work being published, I’ve been able to link to it on my LinkedIn and share it with people. I’ve been able to show our work to people otherwise not interested in Sociology, and due to my work being linked to an every day issue (eating disorders), it allows people to relate much more.

The fact that our work was published has made me proud of what I achieved and is a permanent reminder of university as a whole. People who I've met since university have been able to view what we did and the work we wrote without me even knowing them during.

It's a reminder that subjects like Sociology, which I went into thinking would be unrelatable to real life and would mainly be old theories, is always possible to be linked to real, modern life.

It was fun and great experience working together to get it published. It was a great way to see university out! (Jack)
Practicalities

• Small team/ time restrictions
  – Journal Manager
  – Journal Editor
  – Section Editor
  – Reviewer

• Training videos

• Marketing – social media, direct contact, academic staff and alumni, open days.

• Inform British Council for Undergraduate Research

• Copyright
Critical Reflections; top 10 article downloads 2013-2016

1. Who Kares About Kim Kardashian?!
2. Is Surveillance Really That Bad
3. At What Cost? Consumerism vs Sustainability
4. Buying Love Online: The Commodification of Intimacy in a Technological World
5. The Trade-off between Information and Surveillance in a Globalized Working Environment
6. The Holidays Are Coming!: Consumerism and Post-Fordist Society
7. A Sociology of Sneaker Freakers
8. Love at First Type
9. Food, Glorious Food....Dried Pasta and Custard
10. Calling on Behalf of Charities
Personal reflection

• Hard work but worth it
• Benefits for librarians
  – Connection with subject
  – Better able to support students
  – Opportunities for digital literacy discussions/ sessions
• Altruistic satisfaction in helping students
• Shock at how popular it is!!!!!
• Who is viewing it?
Future

• Library management of OJS
  – Centralised: facilitating access to information
  – Ties in with digital literacy skills teaching
  – Gives us a hook for sessions
  – Interest from other subjects in health; Health Education England (NHS)
  – Multidisciplinary rather than subject specific journal?

• Research bodies e.g. Centre for Men’s Health & vocational courses to create an evidence based culture

• Investigate funding: research investigation & peer reviewers
  – Gather data from students via survey/ questionnaire/ focus group

• We’re all set for the next edition
Questions?