

Erudit.org - Attaining open access in HSS in Canada through partnerships

Tanja Niemann
Érudit.org

In 2014, Érudit (erudit.org), a Canadian aggregation platform founded in 1998 and currently hosting 150 journals and 150 000 papers, mostly in the social sciences and humanities, has initiated a major shift in its business model. As libraries were increasingly struggling with budget issues, Érudit transformed its relations with libraries by offering them the opportunity to directly finance the dissemination of journals in open access instead of paying annual subscription fees. In doing so, Érudit set up a framework allowing libraries to become partners with journals, and take an active role in the transition towards open access. By initiating and leading this important endeavor, Érudit engaged in a process aimed at implementing a more sustainable and fair business model to support open access in the humanities and social sciences. This presentation will underline the principles of the partnership model developed by Érudit, its implementation, as well as the challenges Érudit is facing in the process of advancing the openness and viability of the scholarly publication system in Canada.