SP24.22. Launching an open-access publishing platform for applied

linguistics Overview

The current model of academic publishing is broken on at least three accounts. First, it is antiquated in that, thanks to the internet and desktop publishing software, large, for-profit publishing houses are no longer needed to typeset and disseminate academic research. Second, academic publishing is grossly inefficient. Universities like NAU, which already support and fund their faculty's research, must buy that research back from academic publishers in the form of journal subscriptions and books. A large portion of university library budgets are, in fact, devoted to subscriptions to journals filled with work by publicly funded scholars. The third and perhaps most disturbing aspect of the current model of academic publishing is the sheer injustice of it all. The vast majority of the world—and the global South in particular—has little to no access to scholarly journals, books, and other academic materials due, again, to the for-profit publishers that dominate the industry. The lack of access perpetuates the privilege of wealthy countries and universities in addition to being detrimental for the dissemination of knowledge. The current proposal seeks to launch an open-access platform for publishing research in one particular field, Applied Linguistics. In doing so, we hope to provide scholars with a professional and respected publication venue that is open and freely accessible for all and that contributes to a more equitable knowledge economy across the globe.

What the Student will DO and Learn

This internship will provide a few different types of support that are necessary to successfully launch this publication platform. Some of the types of tasks to be completed and skills to be acquired include:
- Formatting manuscripts to be converted to PDF and published on the platform's website, accessible here: https://www.appliedlinguisticspress.org/home
- Assistance with light web design (on Google Sites);
- Very light graphic design;
- Soliciting and processing proposals from potential authors;
- Copyediting

Finally, it should be noted that the intern does not need a background in publishing or in linguistics although some level of interest in either or both would be ideal.

Additional Benefits

This internship will provide an inside view into the systems and processes involved in academic publishing, from idea generation to proposal and on to execution and publication. The position will also provide the intern with first-hand knowledge and experience as a contributor to the "Open Science" / "Open Scholarship" movement taking place across and beyond academia. Finally, and most importantly, this internship will contribute to increasing the equity of scholarly activity and knowledge dissemination across the world and particularly for less privileged scholars.

Time Commitment
5 hours/week for 15 weeks