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## Beyond The Publishing Social Contract: University Presses and the Institutional Repository

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# Beyond The Publishing Social Contract: University Presses and the Institutional Repository

DYLAN BURNS, DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP LIBRARIAN  
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY

# If you build it...

"The phrase '**if you build it, they will come**' does not yet apply to IRs. While their benefits seem to be very persuasive to institutions, IRs fail to appear compelling and useful to authors and owners of content. And, without the content, IRs will not succeed, because institutions will sustain IRs for only so long without greater evidence of success"

Nancy Fried Foster and Susan Gibbons, "Understanding Faculty to Improve Content Recruitment for Institutional Repositories" D-Lib Magazine 2005.

# If you **built** it...

“University Presses are experiencing new, acute, and in some ways, existential pressures, largely from changes occurring in the academe and the technology juggernaut. Random house can see the technology threat and they can throw some substantial resources at it. **The press at a small land-grant university doesn't have the same ability to respond**”

Peter Berkery, executive director of the Association of American University Presses  
<https://www.thenation.com/article/university-presses-under-fire/>

If you **built** it...

“If a University Press is subsidized by its parent institution, it should expect to give something tangible back.”

Charles Watkinson, Purdue University Press in Rick Anderson's "University Presses: 'Under Fire' or Just Under the Gun (like the rest of us)" Scholarly Kitchen, 2014

# "The Social Contract of Scholarly Publishing" by Dan Cohen (2010)

- ▶ Roy Rosenzweig explains "what happens now is the creation of the *social contract* between the authors and the readers. We agree to spend considerable time ridding the manuscript of minor errors, and the press time on other corrections and layout, and the readers respond to these signals...by **agreeing to give the book a serious read.**"
- ▶ Dan Cohen wonders "Can we change the views of humanities scholars so that they may accept, as some legal scholars already do, the great blog post as being as influential as the great law review article?"
- ▶ Addendum: Can the humanities scholar see the Institutional Repository as an acceptable platform?

# Priming the Pump



## FOLKLORE STUDIES

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### Alas, Poor Ghost!

*Gillian Bennett*

In the rational modern world, belief in the supernatural seemingly has been consigned to the worlds of entertainment and fantasy. Yet belief in other worldly phenomena, from poltergeists to telepathy, remains strong, as Gillian Bennett's research shows.

Especially common is belief in continuing contact with, or the continuing presence of, dead family members. Bennett interviewed women in Manchester, England, asking them questions about ghosts and other aspects of the supernatural. (Her discussion of how her research methods and interview techniques evolved is in itself valuable.) She first published the results of the study in the well-received *Traditions of Belief: Women and the Supernatural*, which has been widely used in folklore and women's studies courses. "Alas, Poor Ghost!" extensively revises and expands that work. In addition to a fuller presentation and analysis of the original field research and other added material, the author, assisted by Kate Bennett, a gerontological psychologist, presents and discusses new research with a group of women in Leicester, England.

- ▶ The Utah State University Press has been publishing since 1972, absorbed by University Presses of Colorado in 2012.
- ▶ It began being incorporated into the Institutional Repository shortly after the IR began in 2008.
- ▶ The most downloaded content is among these books because of their quality and centrality to the disciplinary strengths of our campus.

Open **Folklore**

# Fulfilling the Contract

- ▶ If we ask the state of Utah to provide funding for the University Press and the IR, they should work together to fulfill the land-grant mission
- ▶ Working with the IR to make University Press materials available is an absolute must, and will save the UP and IR from the horrors of being perceived as unworthy of reader's time.
- ▶ This is not a perfect solution, but it helps bring these two services together to better promote and serve our institution.



# ...They will come.

- ▶ Open-access versions of older University Press text should be made available online as Open Educational Resources, promote them as texts for classes on campus and beyond.\*
- ▶ Digital Copies should be available after costs recouped in the Institutional Repository\*
- ▶ New and Old University Press journal should be published through the Institutional Repository\*

\*as copyright allows.