

Lever Press

Project Briefing | CNI Fall Membership Meeting 2018

Agenda

- I. **Lever** - *How far we've come and where things stand*
Mark Edington, Director, Amherst College Press
- II. **Fulcrum** - *Building the infrastructure for Lever Press*
Charles Watkinson, Associate University Librarian for Publishing and Director of University of Michigan Press
- III. **Scholars' Perspective** - *Why would an scholar publish with Lever?*
Peggy Seiden, College Librarian, Swarthmore College
- IV. **Library Directors' Perspective** - *Why we sign on*
Marta Brunner, College Librarian, Skidmore College

Lever Press

How far we've come and where things stand

Mark's slides

Fulcrum

Building the Infrastructure for Lever Press

<https://www.fulcrum.org/leverpress>

Infrastructure and services for mission-driven publishers

Fulcrum is a community-based, open source publishing platform that helps publishers present the full richness of their authors' research outputs in a durable, discoverable, accessible and flexible form.

GET UPDATES



Flexible

By adopting an agile development approach and working in partnership with the Samvera open source community, Fulcrum is responsive to the changing needs of digital scholars.



Durable

Built on research university library infrastructure specifically designed to curate digital objects, Fulcrum is a trusted steward committed to preservation and stability.



Discoverable

Interoperable with other publishing tools and integrated into the information supply chain, Fulcrum ensures that content is discovered by readers and impact is tracked.



Accessible

Dedicated to creating inclusive services and content for all readers, Fulcrum aims to implement accessible systems and features and effect change among peers and partners by sharing and maintaining a high standard of accessibility.



<https://www.fulcrum.org>

<https://www.fulcrum.org/leverpress>

DURABLE

Lever Press Search assets University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Home / Promissory Notes: On the Literary Conditions of Debt



Promissory Notes
ON THE LITERARY CONDITIONS OF DEBT
ROBIN TRUTH GOODMAN

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There is no doubt that the beginning of the twenty-first century was marked by crises of debt. Less well known is that literature played a historical role in defining and teaching debt to the public. *Promissory Notes: On the Literary Conditions of Debt* addresses how neoliberal finance has depended upon a historical linking of geopolitical inequality and financial representation that positions the so-called "Third World" as negative value, or debt. Starting with an analysis of Anthony ... More >>

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ISBN(s) 978-1-64315-002-4 (open access)
978-1-64315-000-0 (paper)

Subject Literary Criticism

Citable Link <https://doi.org/10.3998/mpub.10209707>

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Syllabus for Studies in Critical Theory: Literature and Debt
Syllabus for Studies In Critical Theory: Literature and Debt, ENG 5049 (Spring 2017), instructed by Professor Robin Truth Goodman at Florida State University.



<https://www.fulcrum.org/blog/2018/09/24/preservation-at-fulcrum/>

ACCESSIBLE

The screenshot shows a digital document viewer interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a close button (X), a hamburger menu, a 'MEDIA' tab, a search bar containing 'https://hdl.handle.net/2027', a 'Get Citation' button, and a search icon. On the right side of the navigation bar, there are icons for search, share, and download, along with an 'ART SCORE' indicator showing '35' and a settings gear icon. The main content area is titled 'CHAPTER 2 DEBT'S GEOGRAPHIES' with a subtitle 'Inequality, or Development's Dance with Dead Capital'. The text is presented in a clean, sans-serif font with a light blue background. A large blue 'ACCESSIBLE' text is overlaid on the left side of the image. The document content includes a paragraph of text, a quote from Anthony Trollope, and a summary paragraph. A progress bar at the bottom indicates '44% • Location 75 of 173'.

Promissory Notes

MEDIA <https://hdl.handle.net/2027> Get Citation Search in this text...

ART SCORE 35

CHAPTER 2

DEBT'S GEOGRAPHIES

Inequality, or Development's Dance with Dead Capital

It had become his business to get up the subject, and then discuss with his principal, Lord Cantrip, the expediency of advising the Government to lend a company five million of money, in order that this railway might be made. It was a big subject, and the contemplation of it gratified him. It required that he should look forward to great events, and exercise the wisdom of a statesman. What was the chance of these colonies being swallowed up by those other regions,—once colonies,—of which the map that hung in the corner told so eloquent a tale? And if so, would the five million ever be repaid? And if not swallowed up, were the colonies worth so great an adventure of national money? Could they repay it? Would they do so? Should they be made to do so?

—Anthony Trollope, *Phineas Finn* (160)

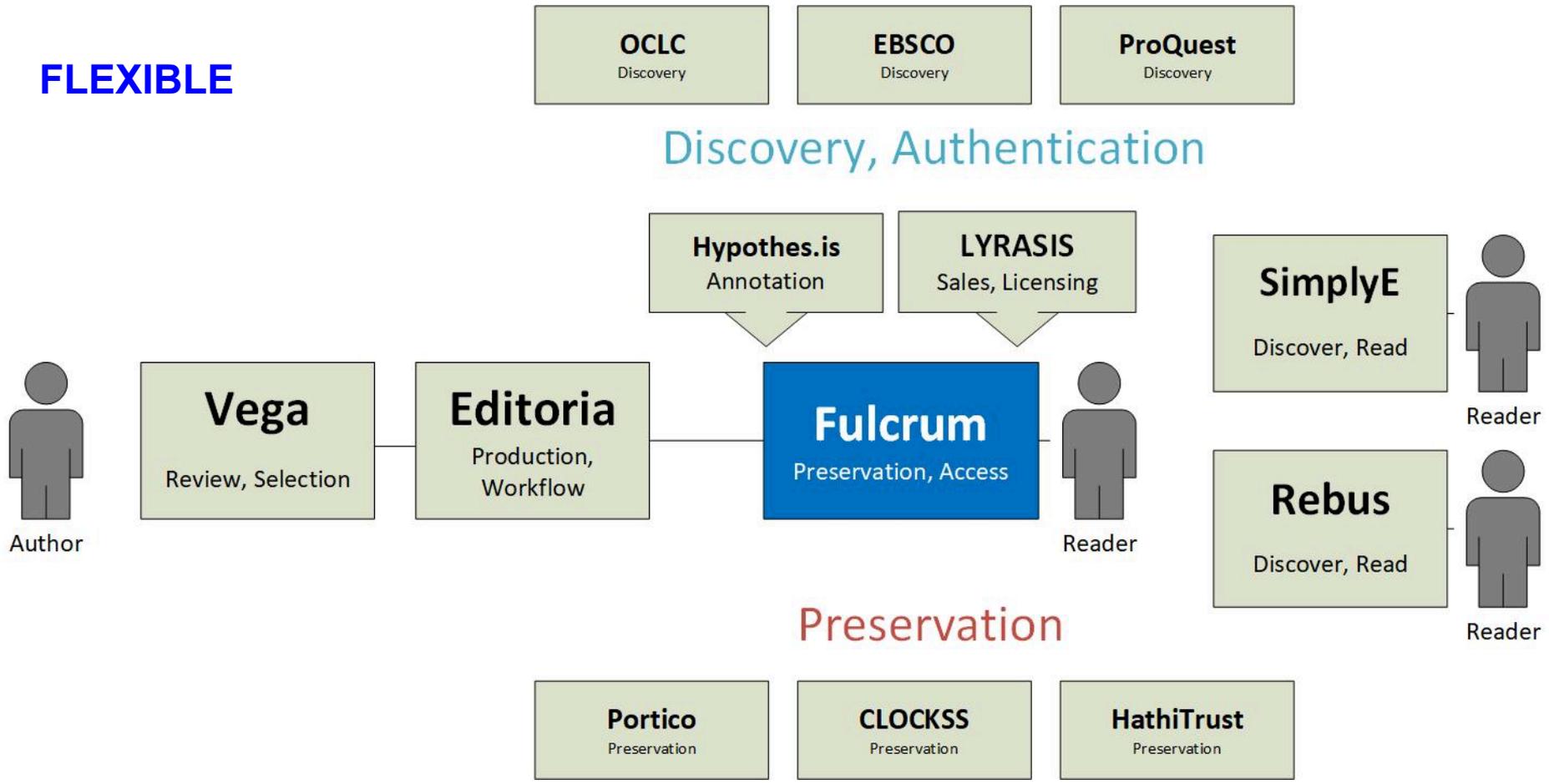
This chapter traces a “Third World” narrative of debt. The [previous chapter](#) investigated literature’s involvement in creating a belief in *something not there* that had value for the incipient world of finance; the financialization of the “Third World” also requires a set of abstractions, borrowing from literature, where the narrative object of

debt appears as “*something else*” (Clover, “Autumn” 45) and as *somewhere else*. In fact, it might be said that the “Third World” comes into appearance as such a negative category of representation—a “Third World”—through a sort of debt where the object that *is not there* gets transposed onto a space of negative difference. This chapter argues, therefore, that literature creates a “Third World” identity as fictional in modes that parallel debt as fictional value.

The choice of the term *Third World* is very deliberate here—I don’t intend it to refer to a nonaligned Cold War entity subordinated to a conflict between superpowers or a pretechnological region playing catchup in a world of technological progress, though I realize that those types of meanings have been granted to the term historically and criticized appropriately as monological, racist, primitivist, and supremacist. Rather, what I mean by “Third World” is a particular structural position within the geopolitical globe that, in a world systems sense and because of its continued disempowerment through histories of colonial and other geopolitical subordinating relationships, is vulnerable to exploitation in current schemes of economic accumulation. As such, “Third World” does not exist in any other form but by its fictional usage, and yet it allows for global power relations to be seen as having similar effects in multiple sites—effects worth thinking about in their similarities even as they interact with different local cultures. Because of its history, the “Third World” carries activist claims, sympathies, and coalitions, as well as a critique of the normative economic order. As Ella Shohat remarks, “The term ‘Third World’ contains a common project of linked resistances to neo-colonialisms. Within the North American context, more specifically, it has become a term of empowerment for inter-

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FLEXIBLE



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Discovery

ProQuest
Discovery

Discovery, Authentication

Hypothes.is
Annotation

LYRASIS
Sales, Licensing

SimplyE
Discover, Read



Reader

Vega
Review, Selection

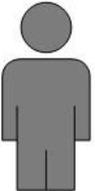
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Production, Workflow

Fulcrum
Preservation, Access



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Portico
Preservation

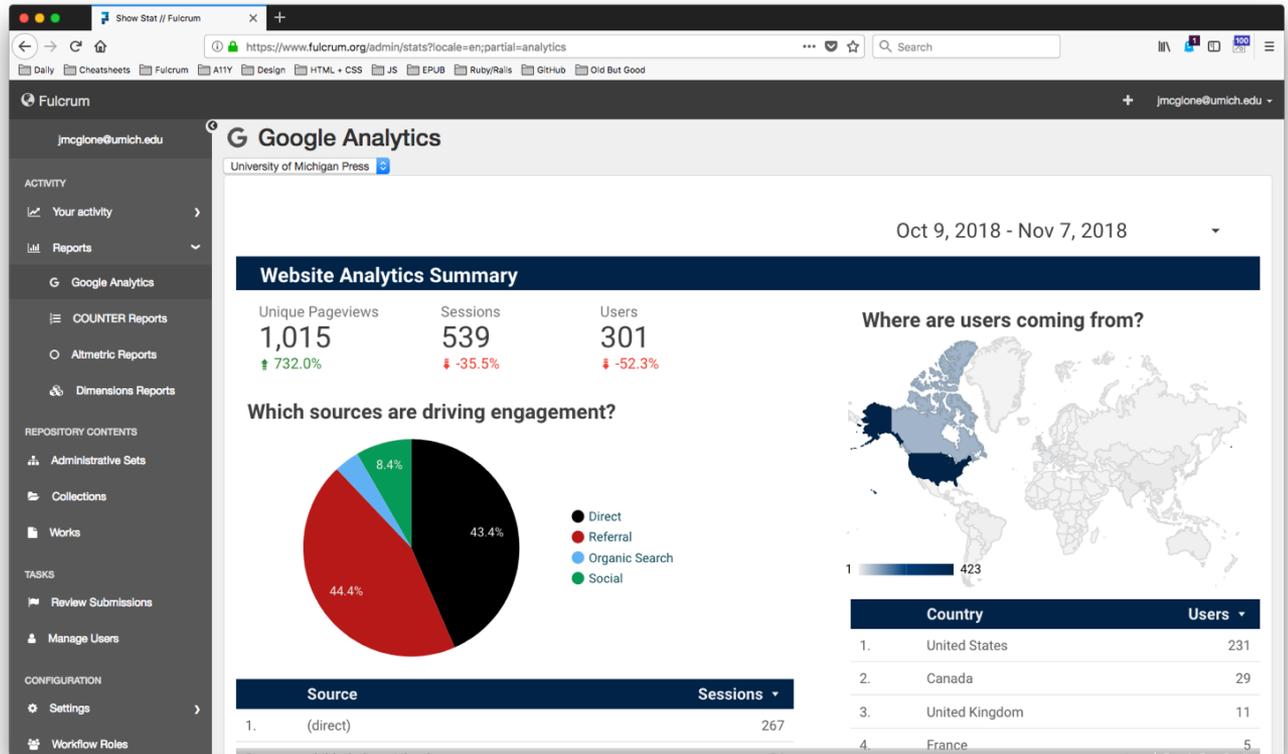
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Author

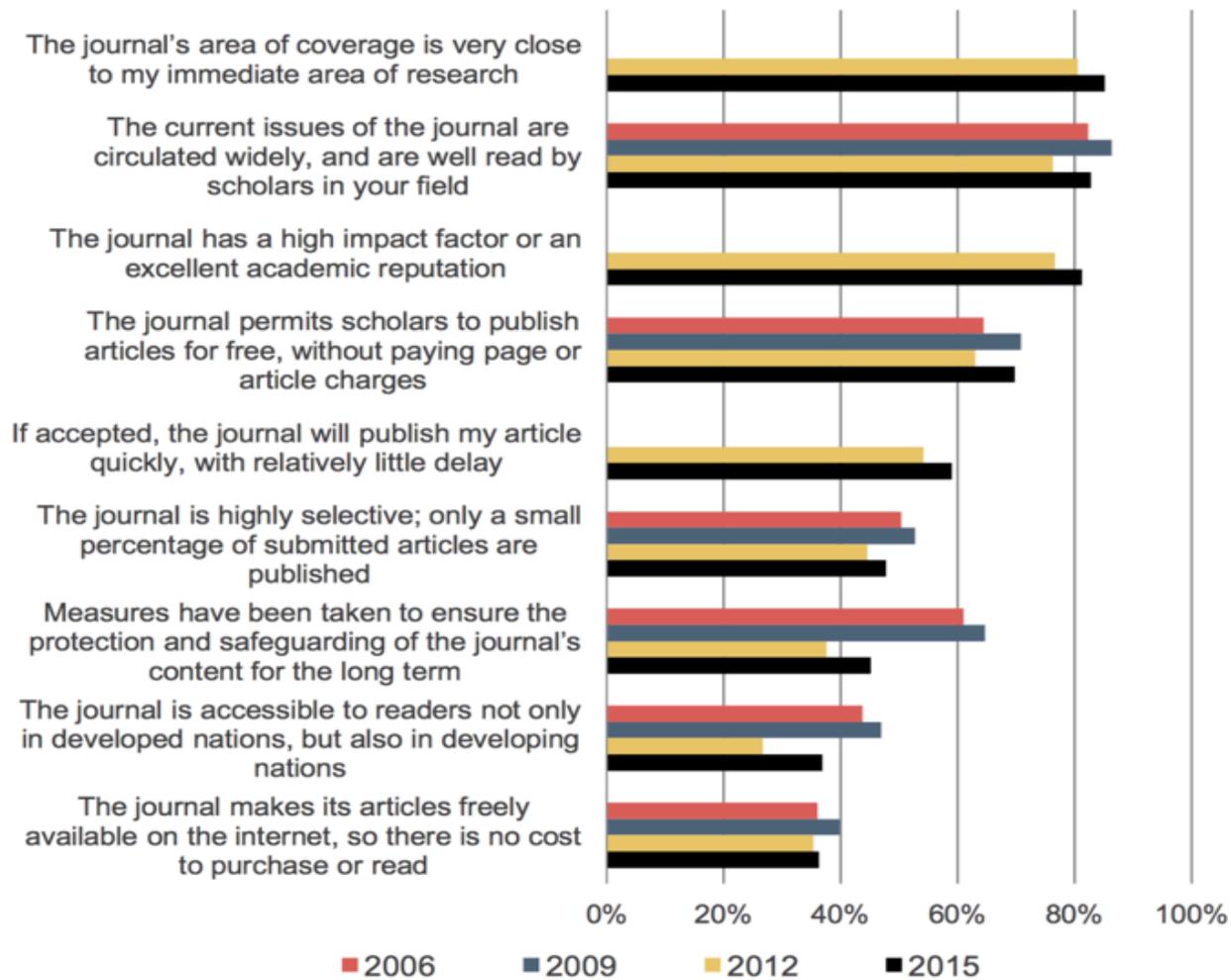
DISCOVERABLE



<http://bit.ly/monograph-data-trust>

Scholars' Perspective

Why would someone publish with Lever



What is the Appeal of Lever Press?

- Platform - Fulcrum's multimedia capabilities
- Born digital - Flexibility in length, presentation, style
- Liberal arts focus
- Undergraduate focus
 - A place for collaborative student and faculty research
- Values and seeks out interdisciplinary approaches
- Peer Reviewed
- Time to Publication

Oh Yeah And It's Open Access

Editorial Program - Finding a Home for Innovative Scholarship

- Lever Texts - frequently taught texts that challenge the traditional canon
- Archives and Special Collections - lift up the collections in liberal arts colleges
- Teaching Learning and Leading in Liberal Arts Colleges.
 - Scholarship of Teaching
 - Critical reflections on the state of liberal arts education
- New Frontiers in the Digital Liberal Arts - a laboratory for innovation
- Great Questions and Grand Challenges

Case Study I: Robin Goodman's - Promissory Notes

- Interdisciplinary approach to the topic
- To be used in a course; published with a syllabus
- Short form
- Rapid time to publication important for current issues
- Previously knew and worked with Acquisitions Editor

Case Study II Edited work on the Archives and Elizabeth Bishop

- Flexibility of the publication platform; captures the materiality of the archives
- Peer review - important particularly to contributors who were junior scholars
- Lever was friendly to innovative methodological approach and to edited works
- Lever was recommended as publisher by two people she knew
- Open Access allows the work to be read where Bishop's work has resonance like Latin America

Case Study III: Lever Text (French Literature) - A Collaborative Digital Humanities Project

- Platform
- Intended for classroom use
- Peer Review
- Could challenge the intellectual conformity that plagues US academic presses
- Institutions behind Lever lend it credibility

“Open access scholarship is great when it goes along with quality scholarship and responsible models of editorial and publishing labor.” (R. Burma)

Library Directors' Perspective

Why we sign on

“a well-informed and thoughtful process that **our faculty** will appreciate”

“supporting Open Access Scholarship is at the core of **our mission.**” “A great **exemplar**”

“a means of exploring what **collective action** looks like within our sector.”

“Because liberal arts college libraries need to be **partners** in creating **solutions** to solve academic publishing problems.”

“an opportunity to . . . **prove** that alternate economic models are **feasible**”

“It's hard to know which initiatives to support with limited dollars available, but this one spoke directly to the interests and needs of **small colleges**, with a lot of thought behind the **business model.**”

“Particularly appealing was the press’ devotion to **monographs**, both traditional and experimental, and its development from within fellow **liberal arts institutions.**”

“Support was established prior to my assuming responsibility for the Library, but I've continued it as part of being a ‘**good higher education library citizen**’ and expecting great things as a result.”

“We (including our Dean of Faculty) were excited at the idea of an open access initiative **spearheaded by LACs.**”

“The **current system** of academic publishing is **bankrupting libraries** while failing to get scholarship into the hands of those who need it.”

Reasons library directors support Lever

problem → solution

collective action

collective action

small liberal arts college context

monographs

learning experience

break from status quo

collaboration, strength in numbers

control, shared responsibility

mission alignment

traditional and experimental

proof of concept, running a press

Challenges



What are we paying for?



Photo: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/zoemnet/7929093836>

Feeling inspired?

<https://www.leverpress.org/join/>

Thanks!

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