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To Zotero or Not to Zotero: Importing Faculty Scholarship in an Institutional Repository

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Overview

Charles C. Sherrod Library used Zotero (open-source reference management system) to input faculty works published from 2012 to 2017 (regardless of available full-text objects) in the institutional repository, Digital Commons@East Tennessee State University (<https://dc.etsu.edu>).

Workflow

1 Receive CVs from faculty who requested their works in the institutional repository.

2 Search online for publications. For each publication, click on the Zotero Connector icon in the browser for the record to be saved in the desktop version of Zotero.

3 Edit data in Zotero to match local standards. For example, add affiliated institutions to the author fields and HTML tags to the abstract field.

4 Activate the **SHERPA/RoMEO to Zotero Import Tool** to add copyright permissions to Zotero records.

SHERPA/RoMEO to Zotero Import Tool: Sherrod Library integrated Zotero and SHERPA/RoMEO (database of journal publishers' policies on copyright and self-archiving). For more information, visit <https://github.com/sherrodlibrary/zotero-sherparomeo>

5 Export the publications' data from Zotero to a CSV file and transfer the data to a Digital Commons' batch upload Excel spreadsheet.

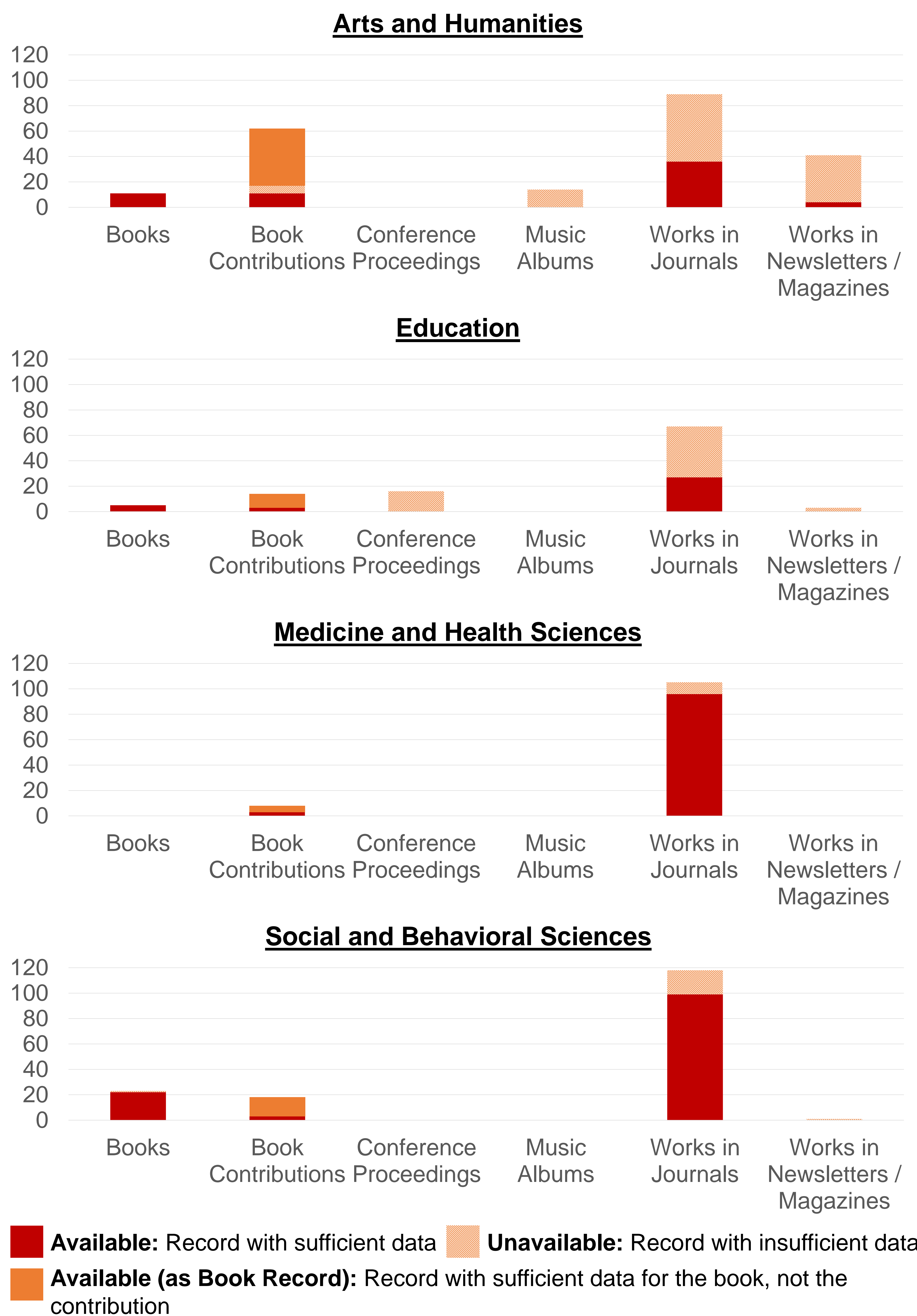
6 Enter data in local fields in the Digital Commons spreadsheet. Then, upload spreadsheet to Digital Commons.

7 Find and upload open access versions of the publications using **Unpaywall** (browser add-on that detects open-access articles) based on the permissions listed in SHERPA/RoMEO.

Unpaywall is a browser add-on that detects open-access articles.

Evaluation

After one calendar year, Sherrod Library examined the availability of records in Zotero for 595 faculty works of different disciplines and material types listed in the received CVs between 2012-2017. Sufficiency of data was based on whether the record had a significant amount of relevant fields completed for the project.



Verdict

Based on the evaluation, Sherrod Library decided to:

- Continue the use of Zotero for STEM books, book contributions, and works in journals
- Discontinue the use of Zotero for conference proceedings, music albums, and works in newsletters/magazines
- Discontinue the use of Zotero for works within the arts/humanities and education disciplines

Significance

The evaluation indicates that Zotero may not be useful for compiling scholarly publications in the arts/humanities and education fields.

It also signifies areas of improvement for academic content providers' practices of open bibliographic metadata:

- Non-traditional publications (creative works and newsletter/magazine articles) lagged behind traditional publications (books, book contributions, and journal articles).
- Publications in the arts/humanities and education disciplines lagged behind those in the STEM disciplines.
- Individual works (specifically conference proceedings) uploaded with other works as a single document caused difficulty in gathering data.