

# TextGrid Summit



## The DHO, The Crisis in Scholarly Publishing, and the Idea of an Irish Digital Scholarly Imprint



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## The DHO



# The Digital Humanities Observatory



- Humanities Serving Irish Society (HSIS) funded under cycle four of the Programme of Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTLII)
- developing an all-island inter-institutional research infrastructure for the humanities
- building a platform for the coordination and dissemination of humanities research, teaching, and training at an all-island level
- coordinated by the Royal Irish Academy



# Humanities Serving Irish Society



- An Foras Feasa
  - National University of Ireland, Maynooth
  - Dublin City University
  - Dundalk Institute of Technology
  - St. Patrick's College
- The Global Ireland Institute
  - University College Dublin
  - Institute of Technology, Tallaght
  - Queen's University Belfast
- Texts, Contexts, Cultures
  - National University of Ireland, Galway
  - Trinity College Dublin
  - University College Cork
- Unaffiliated HSIS Partners
  - National College of Art and Design
  - Royal Irish Academy
  - University of Ulster



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## DHO staff

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- Susan Schreibman, Director
- Paolo Battino, Web Developer
- Shawn Day, DH Specialist
- Don Gourley, IT Manager
- K Faith Lawrence, DH Specialist
- Dot Porter, Metadata Specialist
- Bruno Voicin, Programmer



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# DHO deliverables

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- Non-technical
  - training / consultation
  - being domain-experts for partners institutions and beyond
  - create partnerships in other sectors in Ireland and internationally
- Technical:
  - Portal (public face of the DHO launched last week)
    - information / community spaces
  - Digital Research and Projects in Ireland (DRAPler)
    - project & methods database modeled on the UK's ICT Methods Database
  - Repository
    - access and preservation



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# mission statement

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*The Digital Humanities Observatory  
is an all-island digital humanities collaboratory  
working with Humanities Serving Irish Society (HSIS),  
national, European, and international partners  
to further e-scholarship.*

*The DHO is a knowledge resource providing outreach  
and education on a broad range of digital humanities topics.  
It provides data management, curation, and discovery services  
supporting the long-term access to, and greater exploitation  
of, digital resources in the creation of new models,  
methodologies, and paradigms for 21st century scholarship.*



# The Crisis in Scholarly Publishing





## the crisis

- has been around for c 10 years
- first raised by the library community over the increased cost of journal subscriptions by commercial presses
- crisis in monograph sales (particularly by university presses)
- growing awareness of the hidden costs of the cost of scholarly publishing subvented by the academic community / government / private foundations



# lackluster response

- not much has changed in the nearly 15 years of conversation
- the presence of commercial electronic resources has also put pressure on library budgets
  - LION
  - Early English Books Online (EEBO)
  - Eighteenth Century Collections Online (Gale)



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# is the digital a solution?

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- naïveté in rhetoric about the digital being a cheap solution
- issues of long-term sustainability & usability
- most of the conversations about the digital being a solution revolve around transferring traditional scholarly outputs - articles and monographs - to digital formats
- little conversation about how new forms of scholarly communication more normative to the digital can be developed and rewarded



# The Idea of an Irish Digital Scholarly Imprint



# models: scholarly communities

- TextGrid
  - makes use of the medium to accomplish goals not realisable in print form
  - utilises underlying infrastructure to make possible collaborative editing which was not possible with previous technologies
- Networked Infrastructure for Nineteenth-century Electronic Scholarship (NINES)
  - virtual research community
    - peer review
    - sharing of resources
  - promoting digital scholarship
    - training / summer schools
    - advocacy



## models: university presses

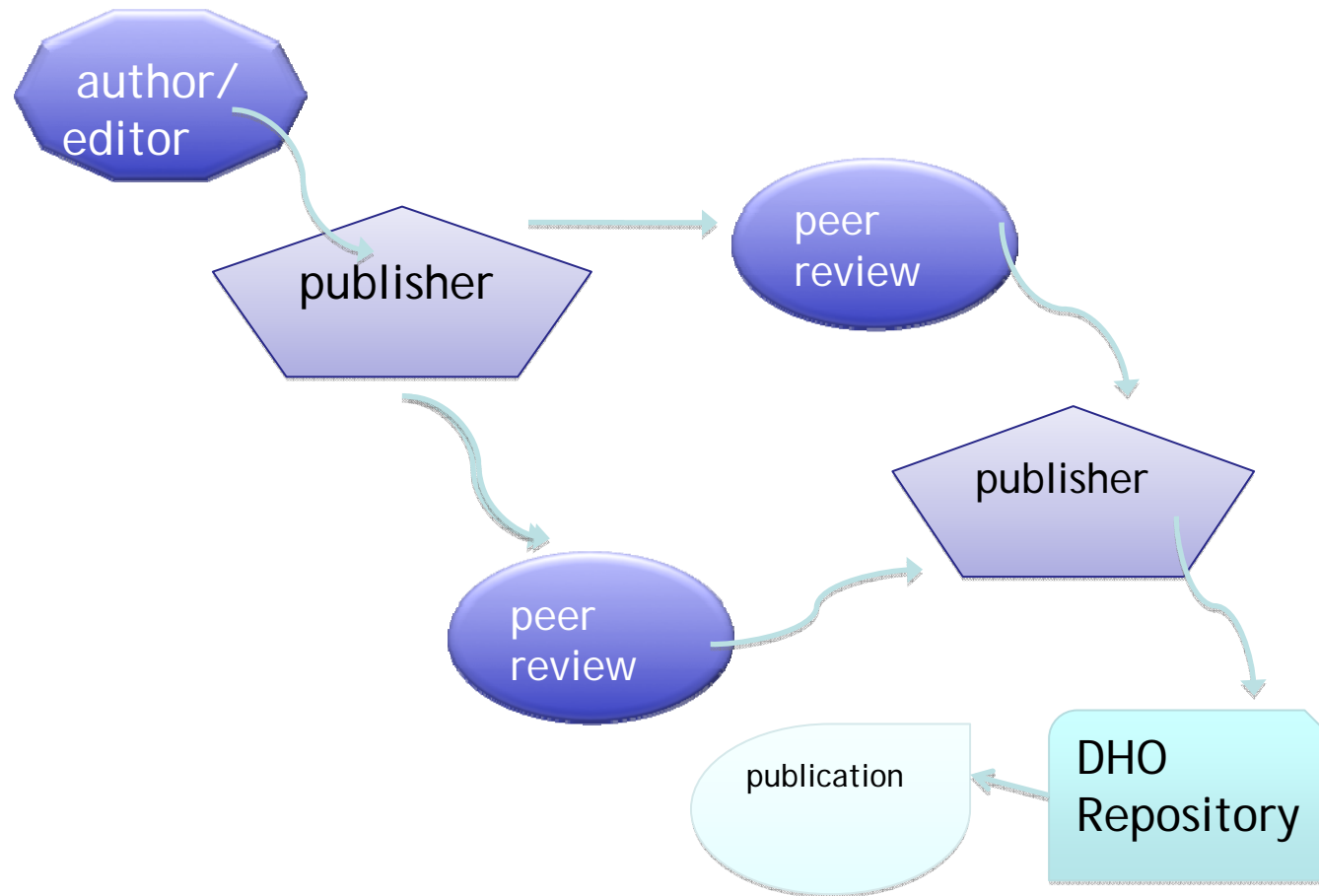
- University of Virginia Press Scholarly Imprint
  - arm of University of Virginia Press
  - publishes electronically in the same areas as the Press (American history, particularly founding fathers)
  - carefully constructed thematic research collections
  - utilises the data-set model
    - sold to libraries on a subscription
- Rice University Press
  - returned from a decade-long hiatus
  - explores new models of peer-reviewed scholarship for the 21st century.
  - publications are viewable on line, for free, and available in print form at reasonable cost



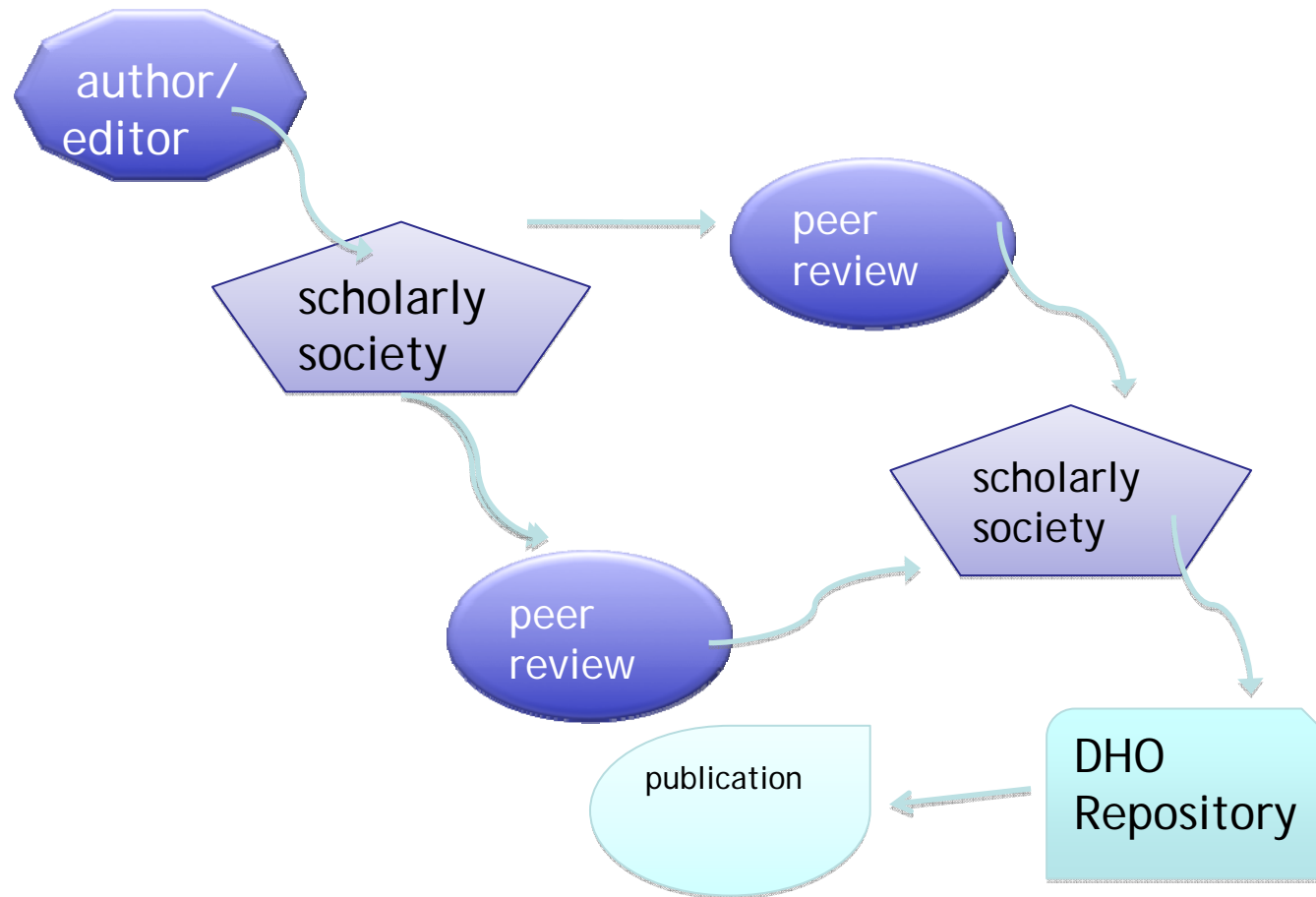
# taking the best of these models. . .

- infrastructure
  - hardware / software
  - people
    - authors, editors, proofreaders, designers
  - social structures
    - peer review
    - prestige of publishing venues
    - academic credit
      - tenure / permanency
    - book / journal reviews
    - distribution networks
  - preservation
    - libraries / book shops / archives

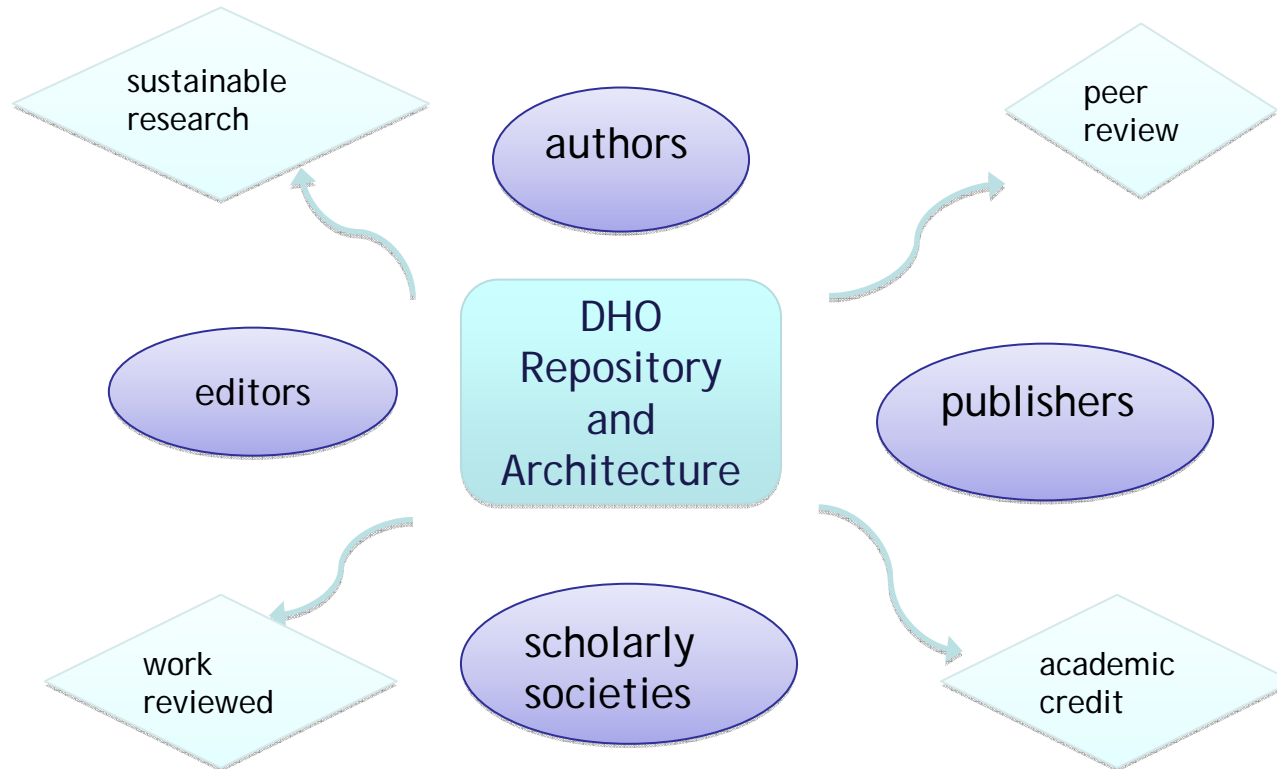








# the solution we're exploring



# TextGrid Summit



Thank you!

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