



UNIVERSITY OF  
TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

Alex Byrne

# Game as Ned Kelly

asserting the twenty-first  
century academic library's role  
in open access and data  
curation

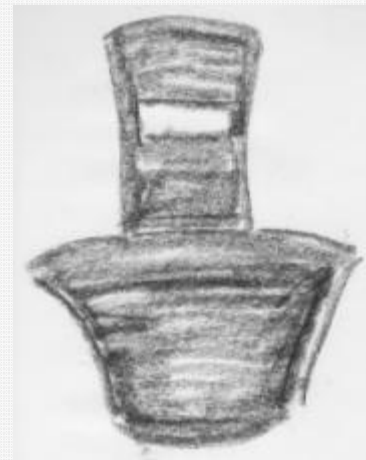
# ‘Game as Ned Kelly’

- an old Australian colloquialism meaning ‘highly courageous’ or ‘willing to tackle big odds’
  - Sydney J Baker, *The Drum: Australian character and slang*, 1959
- Hanged on 11 November 1880, Kelly has been celebrated in paint, story and film



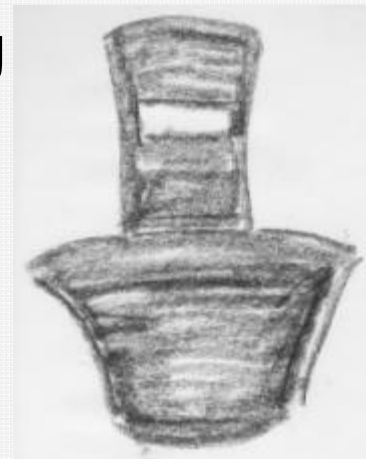
# Duality of Kelly

- A thug who terrorised the settlers of north eastern Victoria and wantonly killed police officers ... and was justly tried and hanged
- A symbolic 'freedom fighter' responding to the oppression of the poor, rural, Catholic and Irish underclass of colonial Australia.



# Duality of Open Access

- A threat to the established order of scholarly publishing which will undermine quality
- A promise of liberating scholarly communication from the fetters of the commodified, commercialised publishing model



# 'Game as Ned Kelly'

- Why would a middle sized academic library in a median Australian university commit scarce resources to such a contentious activity?
- What are the dimensions of engaging in 'eScholarship' and their implications for libraries and academe?
- And what are the likely outcomes of eScholarship initiatives?






# UTSeScholarship

- A platform for collaboration supported by the three legs of the eScholarship ‘stool’:

- OA scholarly publishing:  Press
- OA fostering of scholarly communities and dissemination of research outputs : [UTSiResearch](#)
- Research data curation with an OA disposition: [ASSDA](#) and [ATSIDA](#)



<http://epress.lib.uts.edu.au>

-  employs the software from the Public Knowledge Project to publish:
  - Peer reviewed journals (OJS)
  - Peer reviewed conference proceedings (OCS)
    - Can be used for conference management in conjunction with a bureau based conference registration system
  - Scholarly books (currently DSpace but will test Open Monograph Press)



<http://epress.lib.uts.edu.au>

Public History Review

AJ  
ICT  
African Journal of ICT

 P O R T A L  
Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies



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# Current UTSePress journals

- African Journal of Information & Communication Technology (AJICT)
- Commonwealth Journal of Local Governance
- Gateways: International Journal of Community Research and Engagement
- PORTAL Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies
- Public History Review
- Public Space: The Journal of Law and Social Justice
- Sydney Journal
- Transforming Cultures eJournal

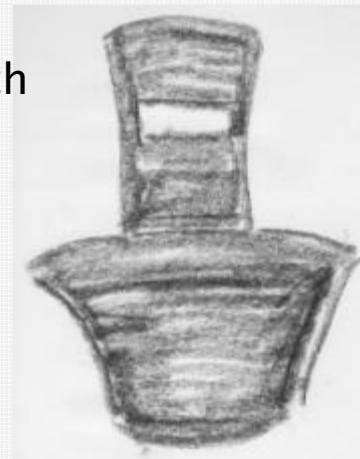
AND

- **Unscrunchd** – quality assured student work



# UTSiResearch

- OA platform using to DSpace to foster scholarly communities of practice and increase impact of research outputs through sharing copies of research publications and working papers
  - built around communities using the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification*, <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/1297.02008?OpenDocument>
- In preparation for RQF in 2007, dark archive of UTS research outputs 2001–2006 created
  - now ongoing with each year's outputs from UTS
  - current project to develop seamless interface to research management system and a semi-automated copyright clearance system
- Also includes UTS higher degree dissertations contributed to the Australasian Digital Theses Program (ADT)



# Research data curation

- Research data curation with an OA disposition:
  - Australian Social Science Data Archive (**ASSDA**)  
<http://assda.anu.edu.au/> – NSW node
  - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data Archive (**ATSIDA**) – national role



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# UTSeScholarship

- Redefining the traditional understandings of collecting, preserving and making accessible information resources of relevance to the university's researchers and scholars
- This entails more active engagement through the inquiry cycle
  - UTSeScholarship: UTSePress / UTSiResearch/ Research data curation
  - Helped establish Pool with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation in 2007 – a virtual studio to support digital creativity – <http://www.pool.org.au/>





# A threat to accepted publishing models

- The commodified, commercialised scholarly publishing model has many interested parties, including:
  - Multinational publishing houses
  - Scholarly academies
  - Editors and members of editorial advisory boards
  - Authors
  - Research assessment organisations
  - Academic libraries
- All are discomfited by OA



# Multinational publishing houses



- The commodified scholarly publishing model has been brought to a new level by Thomson Reuters and Elsevier
- They have vertically integrated by seeking to control editing, publishing and assessment of value, creating a profitably closed system
- Monographs have largely fallen by the wayside



# The closed commodified cycle (ccc) for journals



# Scholarly academies

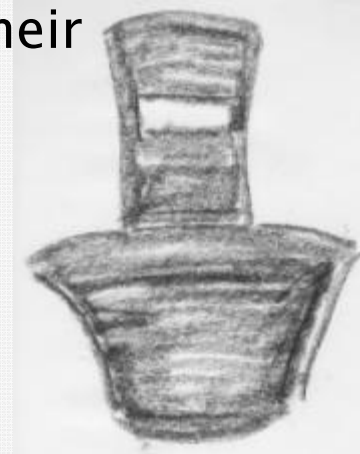
- Support the ccc model because it is seen to benefit their members by
  1. Associating their publications with a prestigious publisher
  2. Relieving them of the burden of managing an ongoing publishing program
  3. Generating income which supports additional services without higher membership dues





# Editors and members of editorial advisory boards

- Support the ccc model because
  1. It benefits their careers through association with highly regarded scholarly journals (which in turn want them because they lend prestige to the journals)
  2. It is less demanding than taking the full burden of editing a journal published directly by an association or small publishing house
  3. They often receive honoraria in recognition of their contributions



# Research assessment organisations

- Need to be able to distinguish high quality research from dross by evaluating research outputs
- Implicitly endorse the ccc model by accepting tools such as Thomson's Web of Knowledge or Elsevier's Scopus to provide proxies for the assessment of the quality of publications (and hence of the quality of research)



# Authors

- Depend on publication of their research findings in highly ranked journals to
  1. Confirm their standing
  2. Demonstrate the value of their research
  3. Hence facilitate future research funding
  4. Build their careers



# Academic libraries

- Support the ccc model financially through the subscriptions we pay

AND

- Implicitly support it because it enables us to deliver a wealth of publications more easily than previously and to meet the expectations of our clients
  - it is much easier to deal with a few major publishers and aggregators than a host of small publishers as we did previously

So, our only concern is budgetary – ISN'T IT?





# OA publishing: an opportunity for the academy

- Despite the benefits to scholarly academies, editors and editorial advisory board members, and authors and the convenience for research assessment organisations and libraries, the ccc model has effectively transferred control of the accreditation of research outputs to the big publishers
- OA publishing offers a way for the academy to regain that control



# Changing modes of scholarly discourse

- The use of web technologies is changing the way researchers and scholars interact, conduct research and report research findings
- More dynamic modes of scholarly communication are required which will support expression via multimedia, use of executable files and a dynamic praxis in which the outcome is the discourse not a static 'output'

**BUT**

- The need to capture, preserve and make available the records of research and scholarship remains



# Regaining control of scholarly publishing



- The interests of all parties need to be addressed:

- High quality publishing
- Well supported editors
- Well recognised authors
- Assessed by appropriate and effective indicators to inform funding agencies

AND

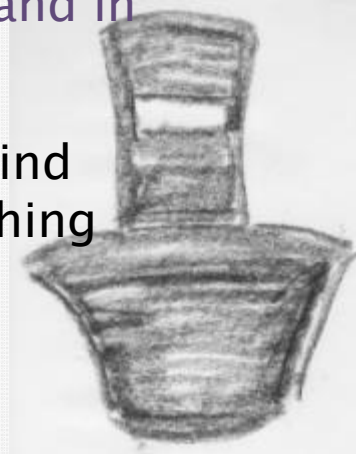
- At an acceptable cost





# UTSePress as an example

- High quality publishing
- Well supported editors
- Well recognised authors
- Assessed by appropriate and effective indicators
- At an acceptable cost
- All journals peer reviewed
  - may include some non peer reviewed content which is clearly indicated
- Editors supported by UTSeScholarship department in the University Library and journal managers and editors forum
- Less prestige for authors than longer established journals but growing
- Titles harvested by Google Scholar and in ARC and other lists as they mature
- Editorial and peer review costs in-kind by academy as in ccc model, publishing costs borne by Library in lieu of subscription costs (free to others)





# Towards business models for OA journal publishing

- There are essentially four business models to cover the cost of infrastructure, management, dissemination of OA journals:
  1. Institutional provision (as for UTSePress)
  2. Voluntary subscriptions/donations from supporters/readers (usually to partially support)
  3. Author pays (possibly reimbursed from grant funding agency – raises some ethical issues)
  4. Fee based initially then OA after embargo period (not pure OA)
- Sustainability demands reliable income stream to meet real costs



# Monographic publishing

- UTSePress experience limited but includes:
  - *A World Proof Life: Eleanor Dark, a writer in her times, 1901–1985* (Marivic Wyndham, 2007) – born digital & simultaneously published in print via POD (courtesy Sydney University Press)
  - *Bourke Our Yarns* (Ed Gillian Cowlshaw and Bobby Mackay, 2007) – born digital
  - *Libraries and Indigenous Knowledge: A National Forum for Libraries, Archives and Information Services* (Ed Martin Nakata and Marcia Langton, 2007) – republished digitally & then republished in print by AARL
  - *Australian Indigenous Digital Collections: First generation issues* (Martin Nakata et al, 2008) – a report, born digital
  - Other reports in *UTS Shopfront Monograph Series*
  - And student work in the *UTS Shopfront Student Monograph Series*



# Opportunities in OA monographic publishing

- Cheap world-wide dissemination overcomes current dearth of monographic publishing:
  - Few scholarly monographs published because sales are so limited
  - Very few dissertations are published as monographs although increasing numbers are being made available digitally via ADT and similar programs
- Ability to include maps, charts, audio, video, executable files and other content difficult or impossible to include in traditional monographs supports new forms of scholarship and scholarly discourse
- OA online publishing can surmount these challenges to offer a renaissance in publishing scholarly monographs (as at ANU E Press and Sydney University Press)





# Challenges in OA monographic publishing

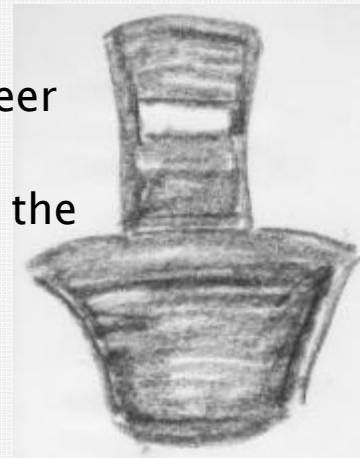
- Distinguishing scholarly monographs from non scholarly monographs, conference proceedings, reports, etc
- Ensuring quality in both scholarship, writing and presentation
  - Quality assurance via peer review more demanding
  - Need for copy editing & design
    - Both of these suggest need for different business model
- ARC requirement that monographs be ‘put on sale’
  - Implies need for ecommerce facility either in-house or via a partnership





# Conference papers

- Important form of scholarly communication especially in some fields such as IT
- UTSePress experience limited but includes:
  - *Auswireless 2006 Conference Papers*
  - *Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference of the Association of Architecture Schools of Australasia 2007*
  - *Memory-work Conference 2007*
  - And various seminar series such as *Studies in Cosmopolitan Civil Societies*
- Challenges include
  - Distinguishing scholarly contributions through robust peer review
  - Timely production – best managed from the inception of the conference



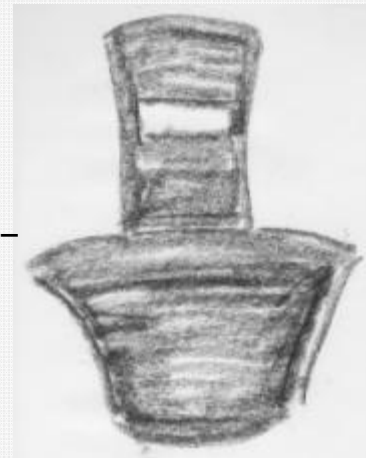
# The uses of a repository

- Evidentiary support for research assessment
  - Holding the research outputs of the institution, not necessarily
- Increasing research impact
  - By facilitating access to research outputs for researchers, research and other students, and the general public
- Supporting communities of scholarly and professional practice
  - Can include reports, discussion papers, drafts, works-in-process
  - Can host dynamic and multimedia formats
  - Needs to be linked to communicative and interactive media including blogs, wikis, etc



# Research data curation

- A key responsibility that returns us to our roots as the archives of scholarship not just repositories of research publications...
- ... and makes us a key enabler of eResearch
- Has potential to link research publications to the underlying data (eg as in astronomy)
- Needs to operate on a disciplinary not institutional basis
- UTS participating in two interlinked initiatives:
  - Australian Social Science Data Archive (**ASSDA**)  
<http://assda.anu.edu.au/> – NSW node
  - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data Archive (**ATSIDA**) – national role



# Fulfilling the responsibilities of academic libraries

- These three legs help fulfil our responsibilities to make scholarly information available, support research and promote scholarship
- But they only work in collaborative partnerships
- We also sponsor or support events, such as:
  - *The Scholarly and Public Quality of Research: Why Open Access Matters* – UTS Library in conjunction with the Academic Board, 8 December 2008
  - *Digital Futures Australasia* – UTS Library with King's College London, 2–6 February 2009
- For UTS, the partnerships include:
  - ANU
  - APSR
  - CLOCKSS & Portico
  - Commonwealth Centre for Local Government
  - Dspace Foundation
  - King's College London
  - Loyola University (Chicago)
  - PKP
  - State Library of NSW
  - University of Sydney
    - and many others





# An agenda for 21st century academic libraries

- *Research discovery and curation*
  - including literature and data discovery systems and curation of research data – vital in the age of eScience & eResearch
- *Learning discovery and skills*
  - eLearning and the development of human capital – to enable the realisation of the human potential for creativity
- *Capacity building*
  - to continually ‘reinvent’ the academic library adaptively while remaining true to its central roles
- *Shaping the information society*
  - contributing to balance in intellectual property regulation, ethical practice and intellectual freedom – essential foundations for freedom and integrity in scholarship



# Towards business models for OA

- OA scholarly journal publishing
    - institutional support for infrastructure and management, academy providing and assuring quality of content
  - OA book publishing
    - institutional support for infrastructure and management, academy providing and assuring quality of content, grant funding for editing and design
  - OA fostering of scholarly communities and dissemination of research outputs
    - a core function for libraries which should be funded by their universities
  - Research data curation
    - a national and disciplinary responsibility which needs ongoing systemic funding
- All enabled through partnerships

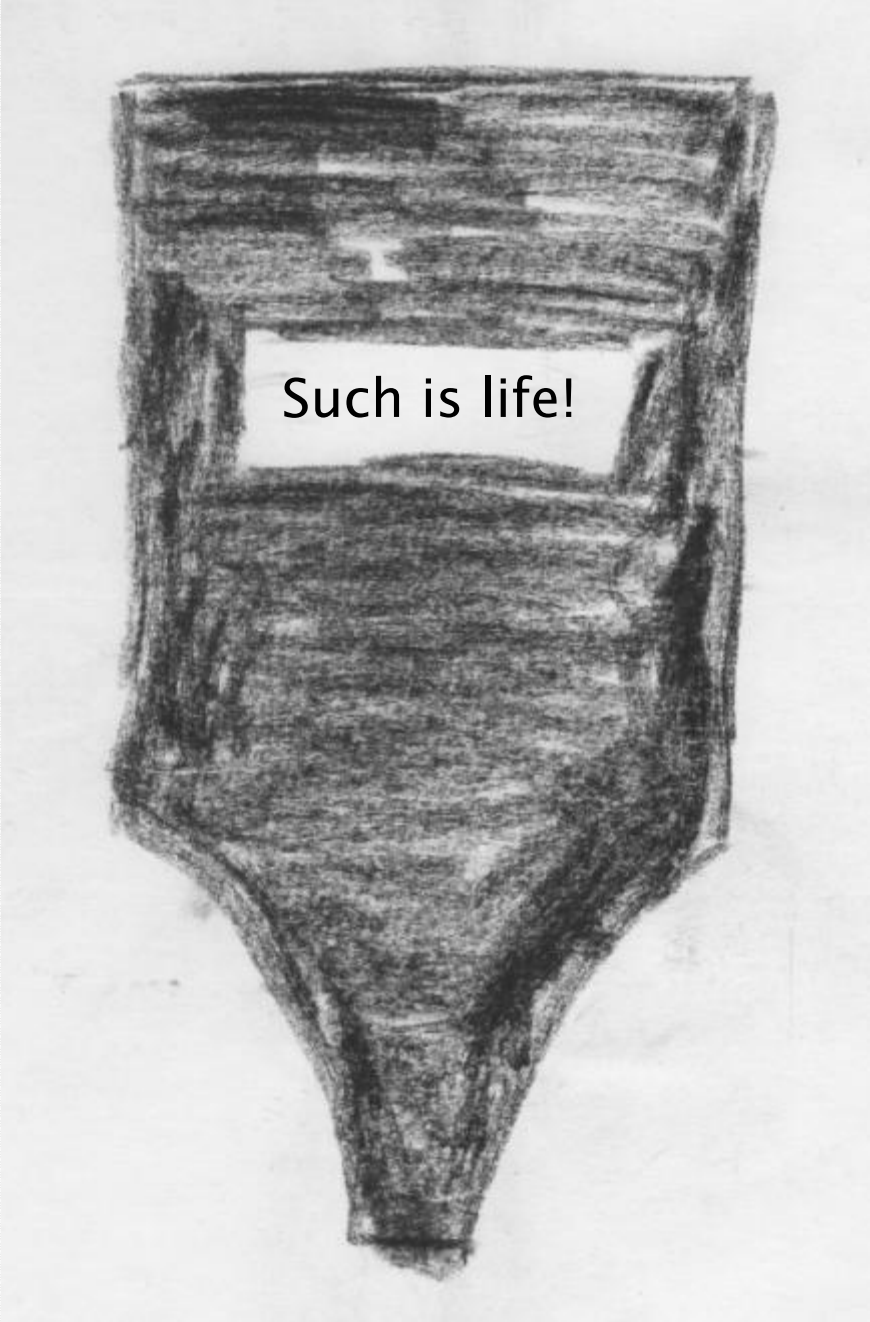


# 'Game as Ned Kelly'

- Why would a middle sized academic library in a median Australian university commit scarce resources to such a contentious activity?
  - To fulfil our responsibilities, engage with eResearch and build our reputation
- What are the dimensions of engaging in 'eScholarship' and their implications for libraries and academe?
  - Daunting
- And what are the likely outcomes of eScholarship initiatives?
  - A renaissance in scholarly communication







Such is life!

