

Libraries and Sustainability: Partnering to Expand Access and Spark Innovation Through Ebooks

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INTRODUCTION

How can we make information equitable and accessible to all? Especially as students sometimes have to choose between purchasing textbooks and basic needs. Across the country, libraries support open access publishing and the use of Creative Commons to remove content from paywalls. Many libraries at land-grant institutions have developed their own publishing programs to

support open scholarship, leveraging the depth of their expertise in research dissemination. This poster highlights three examples of sustainability-themed ebooks published in partnership with the University of Minnesota Libraries and the Institute on the Environment or Extension.



01 PROCESS

Depending on the timeline for the project there are three options for writers to publish their works as ebooks at the University of Minnesota.

The first would be to use the University of Minnesota Publishing Services program, which provides the most support. Faculty, staff, departments, students and nonprofit scholarly societies with editorial members at the University can use our services to provide digital publishing support.

If a publication is not accepted or a UMN member does not want to go through the process they can publish an open access book with UMN PressBooks.

Lastly, anyone in Minnesota can publish through a partnership with Minitex and academic and public libraries across the state with MLPP.

All three are hosting on PressBooks and allow content to be kept private, shared with authors, or made publicly available. Since this is a public good, there is no way to charge for access to any of the ebooks in these options.

The ebooks can be read on multiple platforms, which is a benefit over other proprietary platforms, such as iBooks. Download formats include PDF, EPUB, MOBI, and HTML.

OPTION 1:

Proposals are due three times a year to the University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing Services. Publishing evaluate proposals and accepted proposals are provided support throughout the entire process from copyrighting to formatting.

OPTION 2:

Anyone at UMN can self publish with PressBooks. Minimal support from University Libraries. Great for course projects, interactive reports, and student writing. UMN imprint.

OPTION 3:

Minnesota Library Publishing Project (MLPP) is a pilot project that provides online publishing tools and training information to support independent authors and small publishers across the state.

Publishing Options

03 LIBRARY SUPPORT

For items produced with UMN's Publishing Services we offer two levels of support.

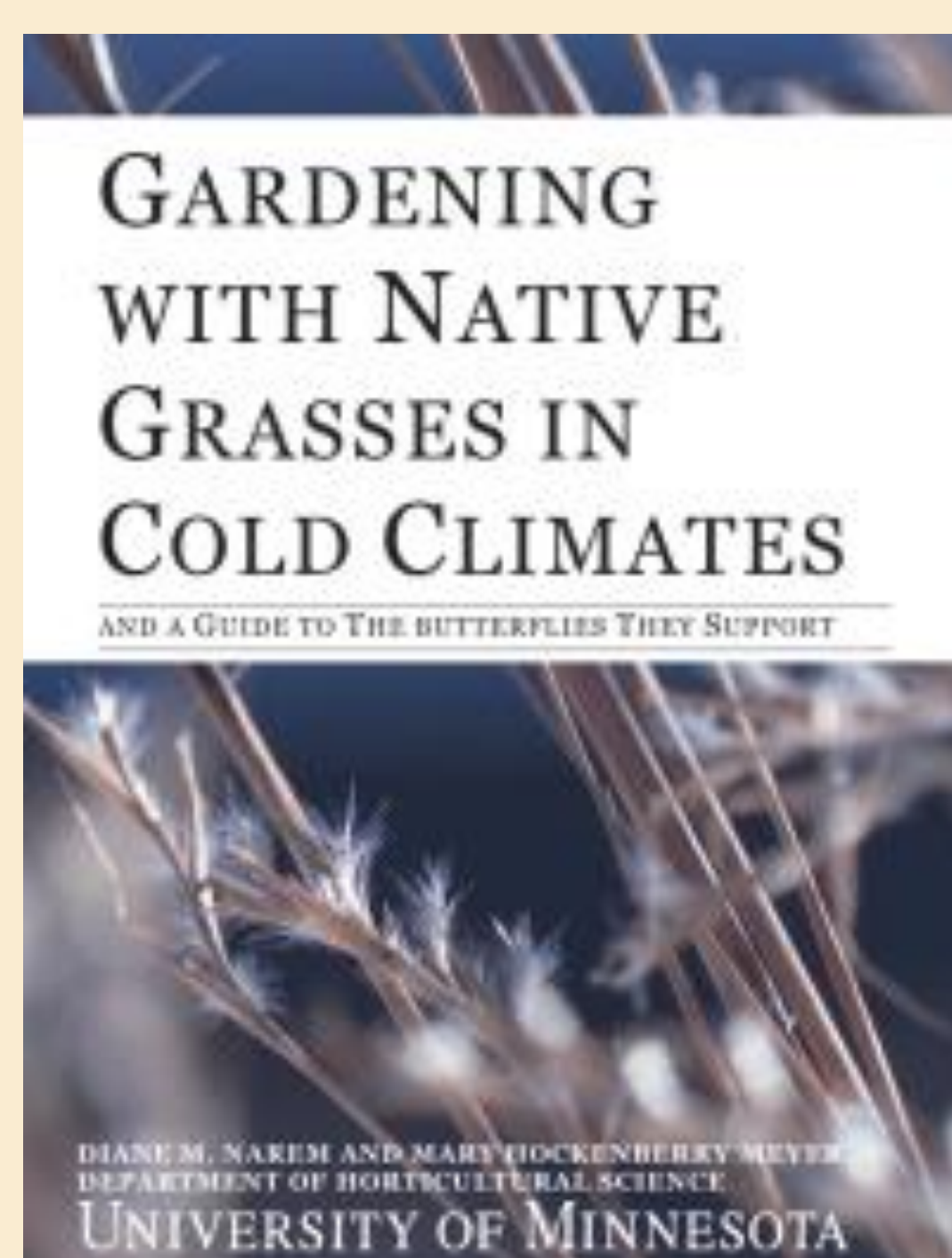
Basic services included with all our publications:

- Web hosting
- Peer review and content management systems
- Planning and support for intellectual property rights
- Backfile upload
- Creation and management of standard identifiers (e.g., ISSN, DOIs, etc.)
- Usage statistics report for editor(s)
- Digital preservation
- Search engine optimization
- Author/editor support

Advanced services available at additional costs:

- Graphic Design Services
- Print-on-demand
- Custom Software Development
- Layout & Typesetting of individual works
- JATS XML (for PubMed)
- Development of Figures/Charts/Graphs
- Plagiarism Detection
- Indexing
- Copyediting
- Proofreading
- Print proofs

02 SAMPLE BOOKS



Gardening with Native Grasses in Cold Climates, is written for inexperienced as well as seasoned gardeners, landscape designers, garden center employees, and anyone interested in native grasses that grow well in cold climates. New information on the benefits of native grasses including their importance as host plants for native Lepidoptera is included. Combinations of specific grasses used by larvae and perennials that the adult butterflies feed on is new and timely information.

Available at:
<https://open.lib.umn.edu/nativegrasses/>



Developing Change Agents examines the role of academia in creating the next generation of sustainability leaders. Delving into strategies to transform higher education, this volume empowers universities to develop change agents who can scale solutions to meet the wicked environmental, social, and political challenges of the present and future. Developing Change Agents advances a revolutionary perspective on the way academia functions from the administrative hierarchies to faculty, and the classroom and to deep engagement in the communities where the solutions must be co-created.

Available at:
<https://open.lib.umn.edu/changeagents/>



It is very exciting to announce that the Educators' e-book is coming out soon!

This book highlights the current effort from the Institute on the Environment (IonE) Educators to collectively write an E-book about sustainability, equity, sustainable fashion, place-based narratives, creative industries, and much more!

Pre-order the book:
<https://z.umn.edu/75ex>

05 CONCLUSION

Through partnering with libraries, departments, faculty, and students are able to publish their works in a timely and impactful manner. Liaison librarians can leverage their departmental relationships to look for opportunities for faculty and students to publish using such platforms as PressBooks. Open access publishing enables easier access to research-based recommendations, current teaching examples, and creative works. This furthers the land-grant mission of the University by translating science into works for all citizens in Minnesota and beyond.

References

Flatiron ebook
Jensen, K. and Nackerud, S. (2018). The Evolution of Affordable Content Efforts in the Higher Education Environment: Programs, Case Studies, and Examples. Retrieved 21 September 2021, from <https://open.lib.umn.edu/affordablecontent/>
Minnesota Libraries Publishing Project <https://open.lib.umn.edu/>