A Survey Report on Academic Publisher 2025 G

Daiki Torii
Doshisha University
Faculty of Sociology / Department of Sociology
Fujimoto Laboratory

The subject of this survey, Academic Publisher G (hereafter "G Company"), is an academic publishing house that covers a wide range of disciplines, including law, economics, business administration, political science, sociology, and psychology. In this study, interviews were conducted based on the following three questions: (1) editors' working styles, (2) the environment surrounding the introduction of AI, and (3) the future of the academic publishing industry and AI.

First, regarding editors' working styles, editors at G Company generally handle a wide variety of tasks related to book publishing—such as planning and proofreading—on their own. While editorial responsibilities are divided by academic field, there is little further specialization, and editors can be said to perform highly multitasking-oriented work. That said, part of the proofreading work is sometimes outsourced to external proofreaders or non-regular proofreading staff. Another major characteristic is the large fluctuation in workload depending on the season; the amount of work is not consistent throughout the year. In particular, workloads increase at the end of the year due to fiscal closing, as well as after summer and spring vacations, when many university faculty members submit manuscripts.

Regarding the introduction of AI, G Company is currently in an experimental phase. An AI team consisting of a dozen or so employees who regularly use AI or are knowledgeable about digital and internet technologies is testing AI by subscribing to paid plans of AI applications provided by companies. At this stage, they are mainly considering how AI should be introduced into editorial and proofreading functions in the future. One of the reasons G Company decided to explore AI usage is the decline in book purchases. University students, who were once the main target audience, have been buying fewer books, resulting in lower sales even for the same titles compared to the past. To compensate, publishers need to produce and sell a wider variety of books. However, because the academic publishing industry is currently not very strong economically and its future growth is uncertain, it is difficult to increase hiring despite staff shortages on the ground. Under these circumstances, the company hopes that AI can support daily operations.

At present, however, AI cannot be entrusted with core editorial or proofreading tasks due to frequent issues such as generating incorrect information or misunderstanding specialized knowledge, as well as concerns about information leaks and copyright infringement. Nevertheless, Mr. g believes that AI can be effectively used for preliminary research tasks, such as developing project ideas, creating basic reference materials, surveying syllabi from universities nationwide to list examples of lectures in each discipline when requesting faculty members to write books in their areas of expertise, and examining tables of contents of similar or related books to identify and list their characteristics.

Looking to the future, Mr. g emphasizes that successful collaboration with AI requires ongoing trial and error within the company. Rather than simply benefiting passively from AI technology, he believes it should be actively used while considering how it can be applied to their specific business needs. He also points to concrete possibilities for collaboration between AI and academic publishers, such as digitizing past books and information using AI, and training AI on G Company's accumulated, well-documented, and reliable data built up over many years.

Finally, in a context where AI and e-books are becoming more prominent and non-publishing entities can more easily enter the publishing industry, Mr. g was asked about the skills that will be increasingly required of publishers. He responded that abilities in proofreading, editing, and planning will become even more important than before. When using AI for proofreading, problems can arise during the verification of citations and references, making human review still essential. Moreover, one of G Company's greatest strengths lies in its diverse networks with academic societies and university faculty members. Being able to edit works and explore project themes based on these relationships is a key source of the company's value. For these reasons, Mr. g believes that proofreading, editing, and planning are areas that AI is still far from being able to fully handle.

＊The image generated by AI.