

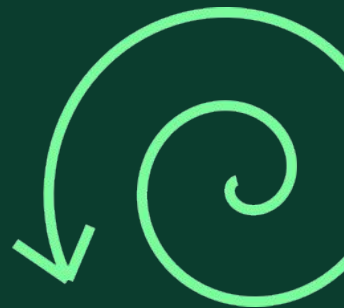
Current state of OA (book) publishing (in Europe)

Opportunities and challenges

Niels Stern, Managing Director - OAPEN Foundation

OAPEN Foundation

INSPIRING ERA EXCHANGE event, Warsaw, Poland - 28 October 2025



Agenda

- Introduction to OAPEN and DOAB
- Opportunities and challenges for **academic publishers**
- Opportunities and challenges for **libraries**
- Opportunities and challenges for **research funders**
- **Community** engagement
- Some BIG challenges

✧ Introduction to OAPEN

Quality curation & Open access

Hosting, distributing, preserving scholarly books



2010

Established by six
European university presses

tion Stage

FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE

powered by

DIGITAL
science



OAPEN Library 15-year anniversary panel at Frankfurt Book Fair 2025



40,000+

peer-reviewed open access books
from over 450 publishers



70

different languages – bibliodiversity



1.5 million

COUNTER downloads every month

Introduction to DOAB



2013

Directory of Open Access Books



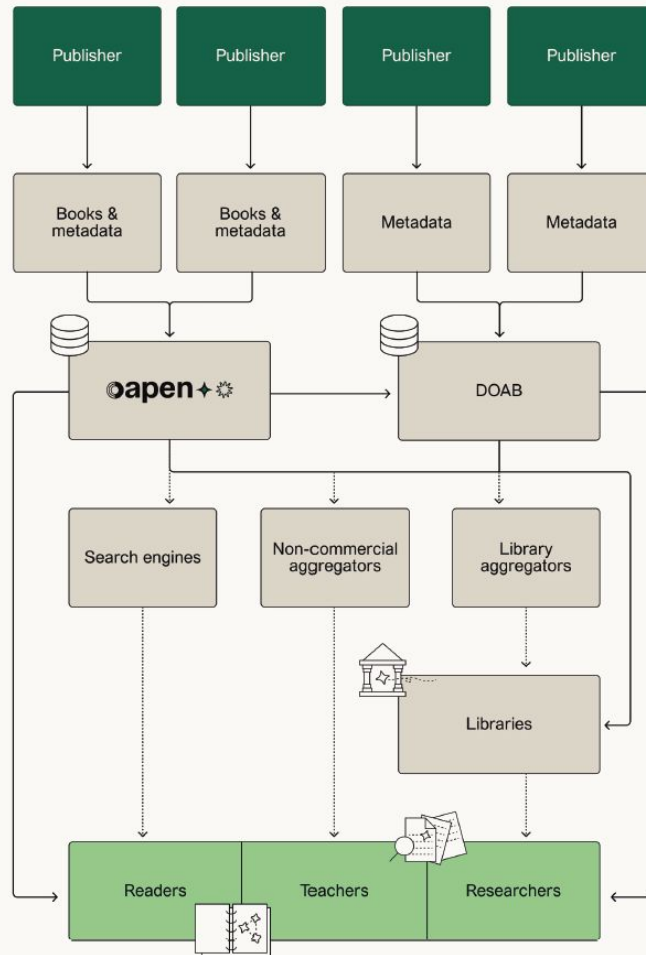
100,000

peer-reviewed titles indexed (only metadata)



800+

publishers in over 80 languages





DSPACE

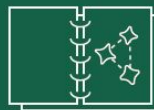


A world of scholarly books.
Open to all, built to last.

For libraries.



For publishers.



For researchers.



For funders.



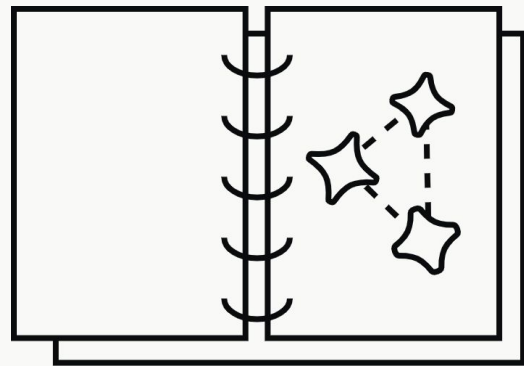
 **open**  

oopen.org



Opportunities for publishers

OAPEN offers any publisher that fulfil our admission criteria a **trusted, reliable, and efficient hosting, distribution, and preservation** environment of their peer-reviewed OA books that connects the publishers with libraries and readers across the Globe, thereby increasing their **discoverability and impact.**

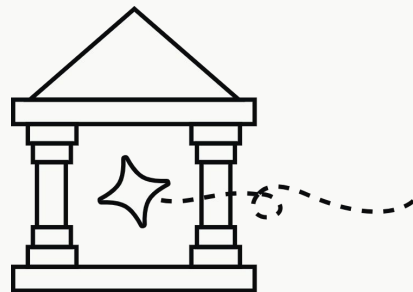


Challenges for publishers

- Funding
- Compliance
- Reporting
- Cultural change

Opportunities for libraries

OAPEN provides
seamless access to a curated and fast-growing collection
of thousands of peer reviewed OA books,
easy for libraries to integrate
into their catalogues in a structured and dynamic way.





300

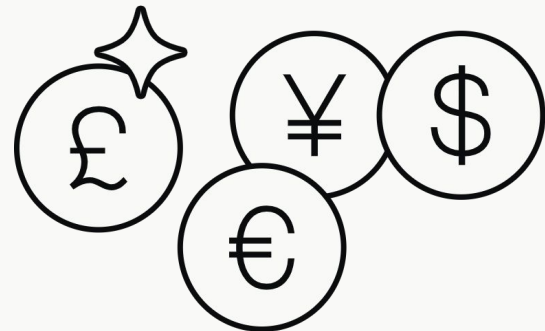
libraries supporting OAPEN & DOAB

Challenges for libraries

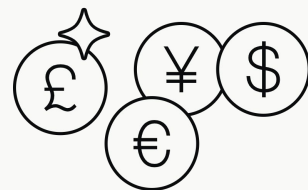
- Budget cuts
- Structural budget issues
- Complex landscape
- Lacking overview

Opportunities for research funders

OAPEN manages **OA book collections** for research funders providing **a suite of services** that supports the implementation and monitoring of their OA book policies.



Funder collections



UKRI - UK Research and Innovation

Launched in April 2018, [UK Research and Innovation \(UKRI\)](#) is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) in the United Kingdom (UK).



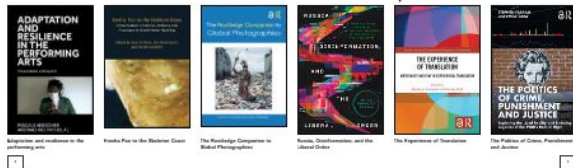
The UKRI's vision is for an outstanding research and innovation system in the UK that gives everyone the opportunity to contribute and to benefit, enriching lives locally, nationally and internationally. Their mission is to convene, catalyse and invest in close collaboration with others to build a thriving, inclusive research and innovation system that connects discovery to prosperity and public good.

On 1 January 2024, UKRI extended their open access (OA) policy to include all in-scope monographs, book chapters, and edited collections published on or after that date. They also launched a new fund dedicated to supporting open access costs for monographs, book chapters, and edited collections within the scope of their new policy. In December 2024, OAPEN and UKRI entered a partnership collaboration to make all OA books funded by UKRI available in the OAPEN Library as a funded collection through the OAPEN Funder Services from January 2025.

Read the UKRI [open access policy](#).

Access the UKRI - UK Research and Innovation collection

Browse all



Search this collection

Find open access books



EU - European Union

Open Science is at the centre of European research policy. The European Union (EU) has a strong mandate to open access to scientific information in research and innovation, which includes peer-reviewed scientific publications and scientific research data.

The Commission supports open access, specifically in its funding programmes, including support for OA monographs. The Commission partnered with OAPEN to form a dedicated collection of their funded OA books and recommend depositing them in the OAPEN Library to comply with requirements.



Funded by
the European Union

The EU Collection consists of OA books from the following grant funding programmes (previously also including ERC-funded publications):

- [7th Framework Programme \(FP7\)](#)
- [Horizon 2020 \(H2020\)](#)
- [Horizon Europe](#)
- Future [EU Research and Innovation](#) funding programmes

More information for authors is available [here](#) or if you are ready **deposit your EU-funded publication using this form**. OAPEN encourages publishers to deposit books into the OAPEN Library on behalf of authors.

Read more about the EU's [support for open access](#).

Read more about the EU's [open science policy](#).

Access the EU - European Union collection

Browse all



Search this collection

Find open access books

Challenges for funders

- Funding
- Staffing
- Quality assurance
- Monitoring (impact and compliance)
- Alignment

PALOMERA project 2023 - 2024

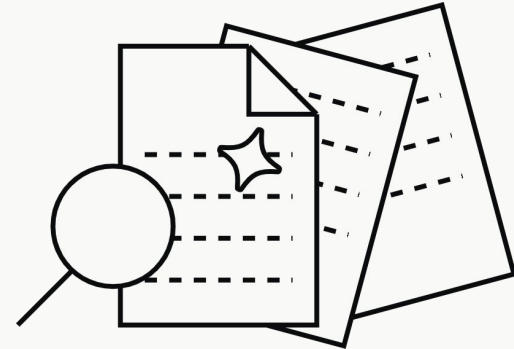


<https://operas-eu.org/projects/palomera>

Policy Forum on OA Books

Diamond OA for Books

Opportunities for researchers



Opportunities for researchers

OAPEN presents the

OA Books Toolkit



For authors

The Toolkit offers clear guidance on open access (OA) book publishing for researchers and authors, and supports policy makers in shaping effective OA policies for books.

Go to the Toolkit →

<https://oabooks-toolkit.org>

Challenges for researchers

- Reward and recognition
- Book Processing Charges (BPC)
- Time
- Quality
- Culture

Community engagement

- Founding member of OPERAS
- Member of OPERAS Executive Assembly
- OPERAS-NL national node (Netherlands)



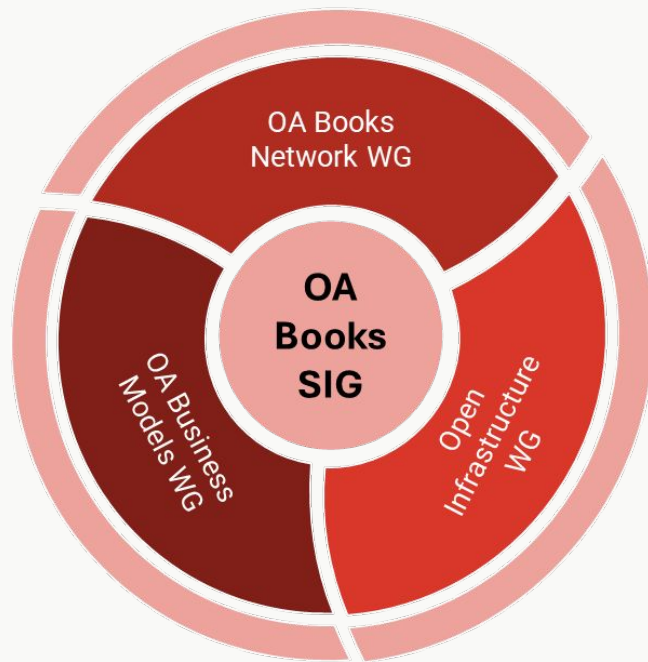
Community engagement

Coordinator of OPERAS OA Books
Special Interest Group

Co-coordinator of the OA Books Network

<https://operas-eu.org/special-interest-groups/open-access-books/>

<https://openaccessbooksnetwork.hcommons.org/>



✦ Big challenges



AI

Bad bots and
AI generated content

THE CHARLESTON CONFERENCE

2025 REGISTRATION INFO

Bot war: Will evil AI-scraping bots succeed in destroying our open digital libraries?



TECHNOLOGY AND TRENDS

📍 Grand Ballroom 2, Gaillard Center

- **Tim Lloyd**, CEO, LibLynx
- **Niels Stern**, Managing Director, OAPEN & DOAB (Directory of Open Access Books)
- **Tim McGeary**, Associate University Librarian for Digital Strategies and Technology, Duke University
- **Eric Hellman**, Acting Executive Director, Project Gutenberg

[Read More](#)

✳ AI opportunities - respectful, ethical



Political

Pressure on democracy

AUTOCRACY, INC.

THE DICTATORS WHO
WANT TO RUN THE WORLD

ANNE
APPLEBAUM

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

allen lane

Their primary goal is to stay in power

► **Strengthening Trust through Transparency, Access and Quality:**
Emerging Strategies to Tackle Disinformation

Trust and Transparency in Scholarly Book Publishing

Strategy 3

Niels Stern, OAPEN Foundation & DOAB (Directory of Open Access Books)
Wednesday 10 September 2025





Trust

Misinformation, disinformation and post-truth claims

DOAB Trusted Platform Network

- Delegation of quality control process to trusted partners
- Technical collaboration
- Globally scalable
- Trusted platforms
 - OAPEN Library
 - OpenEdition
 - Project MUSE
 - SciELO Books
 - JSTOR
 - African Platform for Open Scholarship (APOS)
 - Fulcrum
 - Thoth Open Metadata



CERN

✱ Quality of the scholarly monograph

Thank you!



Niels Stern

stern@oapen.org



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/nielsstern/>



<https://bsky.app/profile/nielsstern.bsky.social>