

Transmuting open access: towpaths for nurturing Diamond ecologies

Introduction

The decade since the *Bottlenecks in the Open Access System* special issue of JLSC in 2014 has been an expansive one for open access (OA). The creation of a scholarly publishing ecosystem that enables works to be freely accessible for readers has been successful in many ways. However, the underlying politics and economics of OA scholarly publishing often remain opaque (Lawson, Smith, and Sanders, 2015). The problems with journal OA funding discussed by Bonaccorso et al. (2014) in their contribution to that issue have also increased and become entrenched. This entrenchment has been largely via the growth and consolidation of Gold OA, ‘transformative’ agreements, and read-and-publish journal deals, which have effectively, and unnecessarily, commodified OA publications to the detriment of scholars and the libraries who support them

OA: A Decade Further Within the Scholarly Publishing Market

Processing chargesⁱ were not a component of definitions of work where the final Version of Record was published OA. The Declaration of the Budapest Open Access Initiative notes that “[a]chieving open access will require new cost recovery models and financing mechanisms, but the significantly lower overall cost of dissemination is a reason to be confident that the goal is

attainable and not merely preferable or utopian” (BOAI, 2002). However, in journal publishing, Gold OA has become synonymous with article processing charges (APCs)ⁱⁱ, where authors or their institutions pay a one-off fee to publish an article. With commercial publishers dominating scholarly publishing, processing charge-led Gold OA has subsequently exploded in volume and costs,ⁱⁱⁱ while the social inequities between authors highlighted by Bonaccorso et al. (2014) have been substantiated by subsequent research (Klebel and Ross-Hellauer, 2023).

The association between Gold OA and processing charges has been consolidated in recent years. With the APC model becoming dominant in legacy OA journals, born-OA publishers such as Frontiers Media SA and MDPI, with business models predicated on processing charges, have also been established. Both Frontiers and MDPI have rapidly grown in the last decade, but this growth has not been without its controversies (Csomós & Farkas, 2022). Yet the unintended consequences of the APC model include wider issues pertaining to global inequities that are not exclusively economic. For instance, Aiber (2024) recently presented further evidence of disproportionate geographical author and editorial affiliations at MDPI. This may imply that there are variable global pressures in the pursuit of rapid publication through Gold OA. While it is beyond the remit of this paper to further interrogate this, there is an increasing literature around the problems that this nascent pattern may imply (Wang, Xu, and Chen, 2021; Frandsen, 2022).

Such scholarly issues around Gold OA have been compounded by the reliance of commercial publishers on processing charges (alongside read-and-publish deals),^{iv} and the growth of ‘hybrid’ OA, blending closed and open content within publications. This further commercialises

OA through a close proximity – and an increasing assumption – of payments being necessary to publish discrete works as OA, ultimately diminishing the potential that OA has always offered: to introduce greater equity into scholarly publishing.

Transformative agreements, originally conceived of as temporary mechanisms to aid publishers as they ‘flipped’ their closed journals to open, have proliferated.^v They had temporary implied support from organisations including cOAlition S who set parameters and timeframes for transition (cOAlition S, n.d.a), although wider communities were not universally convinced that such mechanisms were fit for their intended purpose (Farley et al., 2021). Regardless, they have failed in this aim. A recent report by Jisc, the UK national agency that oversees such agreements in the UK, has called their efficacy into question, calculating that at the current rate of change, it would take 70 years for the ‘Big Five’ publishers to flip the titles within these agreements to OA (Brayman et al. 2024). And at the same time, some major research organisations have financially supported these agreements, and APCs, have withdrawn their support, such as the Gates Foundation ceasing funding APCs from 2025 (Gates Foundation, 2024), and cOAlition S members ending financial support for transformative agreements after 2024 (cOAlition S, n.d.b).

As processing charges have soared, and sources of funding beyond resource budgets for APCs and transitional agreements have begun to decline, library budgets have continued to face cuts (McKendrick, 2011; Tillack, 2014; Rossmann and Arlitsch, 2015; Hinchcliffe, 2022), which have compounded these financial difficulties and the resulting inequities. These, and other, developments of the past few years have emphasised that ‘freedom to read’ as *the* goal fails to consider the variables of where, and with what restrictions, research can be openly published.

However, there have been other, more positive, developments including, as the main focus of this article, the growth of OA, particularly Diamond OA, for books throughout this period and into the future.

The Crystallisation of OA Books

In 2014, many publishers were only tentatively beginning to engage with OA books,^{vi} but in recent years this has become a much larger cohort, publishing more titles.^{vii} Making books openly available to read also pertains to a different aspect of equitable access to knowledge. As Copim has argued (Adema et al., 2024), this is because it increases *parity* between disciplines, as STEM research is more likely to be published in journals, while AHSS research is still more commonly disseminated in monographs and other longform works.

Funder mandates have also begun to reflect the growth of OA books. For example UKRI, the UK national funding agency directing research and innovation funding, brought in a requirement for OA for monographs, edited collections, and chapters from 2024 (UKRI, 2023). REF, the UK's national research assessment exercise, is also in the midst of deciding whether to mandate OA for longform outputs (REF, 2024). It is therefore likely that these policy intentions, as well as the ethical drive towards OA from scholarly communities, will continue to increase the number of academic books being published OA.

Diamond OA Publishing, Books, and the Copim Project

As alluded to above, many of the issues and barriers surrounding OA publication in journals are, to some extent, financial at their root. This is no less true for OA books. However, new approaches to these problems have recently emerged, perhaps most notably from punctum books, Open Book Publishers, and service providers such as DOAB/OAPEN: collective funding models for Diamond OA and open infrastructures.^{viii} Several factors have precipitated this.

A common financial model for OA books has been book processing charges (BPCs), which are the book analogue of the APC. These often cost well over \$12,000 per title,^{ix} and thus entail all the inequities of an APC but on a larger scale. Furthermore, as books are more closely associated with AHSS subjects, the funding available to academics looking to publish is even more limited (Newfield, 2022).

Scholarly book publishing involves a closer and lengthier collaborative relationship between authors and editors than is common for journals. The book *market* has also not yet experienced the imposition of transformative or read-and-publish agreements.^x This may in part be influenced by the historical absence of mandates for longform OA, which in turn means that fewer funders provide funding for BPCs, with the aforementioned and recent exception of UKRI (UKRI, 2023).

Diamond OA differs from the common practice of Gold OA (i.e. APC or read-and-publish) in several ways; the reader does not pay to read, but nor does the author pay to publish (OA Books Toolkit 2024a), meaning that authors are not required to provide funding to make their work to wider audiences, enabling it to have greater potential reach and impact. Instead, the publishing costs are met by third parties. There are various mechanisms by which funds are

transferred from third parties to publishers. For example, some institutions support their own Diamond OA press, covering the costs of publication.^{xi} However, such examples are limited and subject to the financial health of the parent organisation. As such, publishers such as punctum books and Open Book Publishers have created partnership schemes with libraries to diversify their revenue stream with a level of predictability. Born Diamond OA publishers are also often non-profit and usually scholar-led.

Copim Open Book Futures (Copim), an internationally funded project which has been working on OA monograph infrastructure since 2019 (Copim Open Book Futures n.d.), is building on and expanding these types of schemes. In the following section, we will outline how these schemes work, and how they have been successful in facilitating Diamond OA since their inception, as well as showcasing the experiences of participating authors.

Opening the Future

The Opening the Future (OtF) mechanism is a subscription offer that leverages a publisher's backlist to fund a Diamond OA frontlist (Opening the Future, n.d.). For this reason, it is sometimes informally known as 'Backlist to the Future'. Publishers curate packages of their backlist that libraries pay a subscription fee to access, and eventually acquire; these subscription fees are then used to fund new frontlist titles to be published OA when the author does not have the funds to pay a BPC. They otherwise would have been published closed access. After three years of continuous subscription, the library retains perpetual access to the titles that they have subscribed to.

Opening the Future is currently implemented with two publishers, Liverpool University Press and Central European University Press, both since 2021. In this time, library subscriptions have facilitated the publication of 29 books across both presses that otherwise would have remained closed, with further funding accrued for many more.

This provides obvious financial benefits to the publisher, enabling them to publish titles OA without the need for a BPC; it also provides tangible benefits to the supporting libraries, who acquire the backlist titles in the packages at low cost, while also funding open frontlist titles as part of a shared global collection. OtF are listed on trusted catalogues such as Jisc and Lyrasis which enables libraries to participate easily and with confidence.

CEU Press has found this opportunity to open up more of their books to be extremely valuable, as they are a leading publisher on Eastern Europe and its historical, social, and political relationship with Russia. Due to the current Russia-Ukraine conflict, it is even more important that their publications are freely available to those hoping to understand the conflict's context, and to academics in Ukraine who are unable to access titles currently.^{xii} CEU Press' case highlights that it is not simply about the numbers of books that are opened up, or even the increased numbers of downloads and citations that OA titles garner, but the context in which unfettered access to publication and to reading is enabled is equally important.

It is currently in the process of expanding its programme to work with three more publishers to develop their own implementation of the mechanism, enabling them to begin publishing frontlist titles Diamond OA. It will be working with smaller, scholarly/institutional presses to

provide human resources and expertise on library membership schemes that might otherwise have been a barrier to participation for smaller presses.

The Open Book Collective

The Open Book Collective (OBC) is a registered charity in the UK (1206287) that builds upon and expands the library membership programme funding model (Open Book Collective, n.d.).

Libraries are thus able to offer financial support to Diamond OA publishers and open infrastructure providers to publish without a cost burden for research organisations, authors, and readers.

This offers libraries and their wider institutions multiple direct benefits. By the supporting library diversifying their investments in pursuit of satisfying the needs of their readers and authors, the OBC's transparent annual costs are helpful for budget cycles; the supporting library can participate in the governance of the OBC as a Custodian of the OBC; and, of course, there are no fees encumbered in publishing chapters, edited collections, or monographs with any OBC publisher members. The supporting library is also contributing towards the construction of a more sustainable, equitable, and bibliodiverse open publishing ecology.

Some of the smaller publishers within the OBC would not be able to administrate a membership scheme to provide such a revenue stream. Mattering Press is an example of a small, born Diamond OA publisher that can now use library membership revenue to reduce their reliance on BPCs.^{xiii} This has enabled Mattering Press to strategically plan and manage publication workflows due to a reliable stream of revenue. As a result of this, Mattering Press,

which has a strong reputation for publishing high quality Diamond OA books (EASST, 2024), has been able to remunerate labour within the publication workflow. Other OBC members, such as White Horse Press have also been able to change their business model towards becoming fully Diamond OA through the revenue stream from the OBC's membership scheme: "[t]o become fully-OA, we need to find library supporters. With OBC, these vital connections are made more efficiently, which reduces the trickiest barrier to our OA future."^{xiv}

OBC's expansion of the library membership scheme as a collective for smaller OA presses can also help libraries to support Diamond OA collaboratively. The OBC is a registered charity that will be financially self-sustaining by May 2026. Its charitable status encumbers it with significant responsibilities to the Charity Commission, which requires it to work closely with their publishers directly and with the oversight of both their Membership Committee and Board of Stewards. This enables libraries to have confidence in OBC's sustainability and in them as an intermediary to a range of high-quality OA publishers and open service providers. They are also listed in national subscription catalogues such as Jisc and IReL, each of which are established as trusted partners for their national library communities, enabling subscriptions to be simplified.

The OBC has also recently added three university presses to the collective, with further applications currently being reviewed. This shows an appetite from the wider, established publishing landscape in publishing Diamond OA books through collective funding, demonstrating that it is a sustainable model for more equitable OA publishing. This can further increase the bibliodiversity within and across Diamond OA by including a broader range of publishers that can publish different kinds of books.

Author Experiences

So far, this article has focussed on the logistics and arguments surrounding OA, and to a lesser extent on the perspectives of publishers and libraries. One perspective that is also extremely important is that of the author, and the benefits they feel from publishing their work OA, without having to finance a BPC.

Many publishers engaged in Diamond OA schemes, including OtF and OBC have interviewed their authors about their experiences of being able to publish their work OA without financial burden. For example, CEU Press interviewed Dr Tomasz Kamusella about his experience publishing his atlas of language politics without a BPC, via the *Opening the Future* mechanism, noting that it enabled the work to be used widely for teaching, and had facilitated far more direct contact from students asking him questions about his research (Central European University Press, 2024).

punctum books recently interviewed one of their authors, Prof. Matthew Cheney, who explained that his institution would not have been able to fund a BPC, as his faculty's entire annual OA fund is less than a quarter of the average BPC cost (Snyder, 2024). He also emphasised how being able to publish one of his titles OA meant that it had developed a wider reach to students and non-academic readers than was the case for his other - paywalled - titles, and discussed how publishing with punctum books had been a supportive experience, and a

pleasure. Another author testimonial by Lauren Berlant describes her view that punctum books, in making work free, avoids reproducing class inequality within the context of scholarly research dissemination (punctum books, 2020). Open Book Publishers has also shared many author testimonials (Open Book Publishers, n.d.), including that of David Yeandle who noted that they enable high-quality monographs which may not otherwise easily be published, to be published.

The University of Westminster Press (UWP), another OBC member, has also been able to publish several titles without charging a BPC, via various initiatives such as Jisc's OACF fund (Jisc, 2023). In a recent press brochure, they shared the experiences of some of these authors. Prof. Micky Lee stated that publishing in this manner enabled the wide and open sharing of research findings, and described UWP as highly supportive not only of OA publishing, but academic rigour. Prof. Gerda Wielander felt that publishing Diamond OA was a purposeful move away from hierarchical and profit-driven publishing towards something more ethical (UWP, 2023). Prof. Andrew Smith, in an interview about his experience with UWP for OAPEN (OA Books Toolkit, 2024b), felt that being enabled to publish OA by UWP's financial support had helped his book reach a wider geographic audience, and more non-academic readers.

There were strong common themes between these authors' experiences. Some would not have had the funds to publish their work OA via a BPC route, highlighting the exclusionary nature of these charges. All described how publishing OA had greatly expanded access to their works in several senses; geographically, by readership, but also by audience type, particularly focussing

on students and non-academic audiences. Fairness and equality pervaded these testimonials, as did the purposeful move away from corporate publishers who dominate academic publishing. They also acknowledged the publishing process as high quality and rigorous, in contrast to the notion that quality, and therefore prestige, are the preserve of legacy and closed access publishers.^{xv}

Copim and Wider Diamond OA Infrastructures



(Image credit: photograph by Kira Hopkins, editing by Kevin Sanders. Image issued under [CC0](#).)

In recent years, open infrastructures^{xvi} have been recognised as a vital component of OA (Steinhart et al., 2024a).^{xvii} As *Bottlenecks* alludes to, free online access to read is only one component of a *libre* publishing ecosystem.^{xviii} While enabling OA publishing is the main orientation of this piece, there are many other stages in the research and publication process that need to be part of that same open ecosystem; freely available research

data, open submission and review platforms, open metadata and metrics, to name just a few.

Diamond OA is in a phase of rapid infrastructural development and consolidation (Steinhart et al., 2024b), exemplified by, among others, the European Commission-funded DIAMAS project in Europe (DIAMAS, n.d.). While much of this, including DIAMAS, is focussed on journal publishing, there is an awareness that this infrastructuring must also incorporate and support books, particularly in the wake of increasing funder mandates.^{xix}

One of the constituent parts of the Copim Open Book Futures project, Thoth (Thoth, n.d.), works on the creation and dissemination of high-quality metadata in order to aid the discoverability of OA works, with a particular focus on supporting small and/or new OA publishers by improving metadata workflows. This aspect of their work remains free and available to all publishers in perpetuity. Thoth also provides paid options for long-term archiving and preservation of OA work to ensure that it remains accessible. It has recently built partnerships with DOAB and Crossref (Steiner et al., 2024), two other vital publishing infrastructures, and in the case of Crossref, an infrastructure that is not exclusively related to OA. This growing interdependence and collaboration can be linked to the maturation and complexity of open infrastructure projects, which will support wider OA initiatives as they develop.^{xx}

These infrastructures are becoming increasingly interconnected and interoperable to support wider aspects of research dissemination from data repositories, through peer review platforms, and on to metadata dissemination. This infrastructuring provides a robust and open pipeline for OA publishing.

Conclusions

The last decade has seen great change in OA publishing, and for OA books in particular.

Diamond OA has begun to flourish, with a number of groups developing and implementing BPC-free funding schemes. OA has observably 'grown'; publication numbers have expanded across journals and books; the number of publishers of all sizes and categories engaging with OA has radically increased; funder mandates that either require or suggest OA have bloomed and continue to propagate. Additionally, infrastructures that support OA have continued to develop, particularly in the European Research Area (ERA) which is creating extensive networks to support Diamond OA publishing such as DIAMAS.

However, the focus on the granularity of openly published articles, editions, and volumes obfuscates the critique that we offer around processing charge-led OA models. Quantitatively the volume of OA publications is a success by its own narrow remit. However, qualitatively, the picture is more complex as inequalities and tensions have mushroomed in between and around the increased volume of works published OA. In addition to the problematic publishing patterns

referenced above in the section on Gold OA, OA journals have seen APCs rise, often above inflation (Scholarly Communications Lab, 2024). The adoption of ‘transformative’ agreements has further entrenched financial inequalities where libraries cannot afford to participate in them, and they have enabled publishers offering such deals to expropriate greater private profits from public funding. At least in the UK, such agreements are facing mounting criticism; they may satiate part of the demand for OA while sustaining the prestige economy, but they contribute to the total costs for libraries growing. What has *not* grown, but rather has withered, is the pool of funding from HEIs and external organisations that support this ecosystem.

While transformative agreements theoretically intend to synthesise *part* of the library-publisher dynamic for the provision of access to paywalled content and Gold OA publishing opportunities, as the Jisc report cited above finds, they fail to meaningfully shift publications towards an OA future. It is partly this friction between the demand and requirements for OA, and the issues of financial inequity that have driven so many of the positive developments outlined above with regard to Diamond OA and open infrastructure providers. However, there are still many uncertainties and concerns over how the landscape will develop in the coming years.

We have referred at various points to the OA ‘landscape’, or to a broad set of ‘initiatives’, to numerous open infrastructures, and to different models such as Gold, Diamond, and hybrid. What we hope we have conveyed is that OA has a large and diverse purview. It was explicitly described from earliest principles as *not* a business model, and aiming to reduce financial barriers from authors, libraries, and other groups (Suber, 2024). These aims are somewhat in

tension with a commercial publishing ethos, which is underscored by International Open Access Week's theme for 2023 *and* 2024: 'Community over Commercialization' (International Open Access Week, 2024).

Commercial and legacy publishers are beginning to explore collective Diamond OA funding of the sort undertaken by OtF and the OBC.^{xxi} It remains to be seen how this will impact earlier, more scholar-oriented, iterations of these models, such as that of MIT Press, whose Direct to Open programme and the University of Michigan's Fund to Mission, which both began in 2021,^{xxii} as they begin to vie for increasingly pressured library resources in pursuit of Diamond OA. Of course, this pressure inherently stems from the nature of *competing* for funding rather than *collaborating* to share resources and overheads, which is, in part, what Copim and its partners are trying to achieve.

Copim has collectively developed robust operating practices and governance models in this space to protect organisations from commercial acquisition and to ensure that, for example, the OBC are community-led. Newer non-profit subsidiaries of legacy publishers that are emerging are welcome. However, such non-profit subsidiaries would benefit from providing full transparency around their governance to evidence their long-term, structural, and economic autonomy can help to insulate such collective funding models from commercial orientation or appropriation. This is particularly important for any such model that self-describes as "community-led".

Copim and others are working towards Diamond OA becoming a more enshrined component of research dissemination at the institutional level, as each continues to develop and articulate their own strategies. While the majority of Copim's outreach and collaboration is with libraries and publishers, the efficacy of national and funder policies in providing incentives for Diamond OA publishing is recognised. Copim and many other peers continue to offer feedback to policy developments to ensure that Diamond OA is not overshadowed by Gold OA through imprecise policy writing.

These policy developments will enable budgets, both at individual libraries, and at higher levels, to be reconfigured to support Diamond OA initiatives. There are some reasons for optimism here; the PALOMERA project cited above (Endnote 17) aims to facilitate the greater inclusion of OA books in national funder mandates within the ERA, and some individual countries, such as Ireland, are aiming to move towards OA for all national research outputs (Loughnane et al., 2024). At the institutional level, the University of Sheffield is a leader in this work (Barr, 2023) and many other Copim supporters such as the University of York (Thompson, 2024), University of Arizona (Dubinsky, 2024), and the University of Sussex are also pushing the sector in this direction. The University of Sussex recently presented their approach to carving out OA funding within their budget, in accordance with the institution's wider core values, at a Jisc webinar (Logan, 2024). This reshaping of budgets would also help to financially support the growing network of open infrastructures, which in turn make it easier for research to be disseminated and available openly.

There are also reasons to be optimistic for growth of another sort: that of Diamond OA publishing initiatives expanding into new regions where they are not yet widely present. This move is implied by the announcement of the pilot project Open Books Hong Kong, a collaboration between three university presses and their supporting libraries (Open Books Hong Kong, 2024).

As we have acknowledged, OA developments over the last decade have made more research freely available at the point of access. However, we have sought to critique this metric as a primary measure of OA's success, focussing instead on qualitative problems and some of their solutions. APCs and transformative agreements have already entrenched financial inequities, inadvertently problematised access to authorship and its incentives, and have continued to commodify OA publishing. But we have also outlined some of the qualitative solutions that are being developed to tackle these problems, particularly in the form of Diamond OA funding mechanisms as collaborative endeavours between publishers, libraries, and scholars. If the wider communities in the scholarly environment continue the open infrastructuring of our collective landscape, its nurturing through mutual support will enable Diamond OA publishing to flourish and, turn, support the health and sustainability of the open scholarly environment and its communities.

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ⁱ Throughout this article, 'processing charges' are referred to as they are a part of the nomenclature of Gold OA. However, we have a number of issues with the term, in part because there is no consistent transparency surrounding the material construction of such 'charges'.

ⁱⁱ Read-and-publish, transformative, and transitional agreements are also associated with Gold OA, and this is commented upon throughout this article. We consider any payments *required* for works to be published OA to be within the purview of Gold OA.

ⁱⁱⁱ A report on the 2012 state of the market estimated that \$182m had been spent annually, with an expected growth of 34% a year, to tail off to 20% within 5 years. Bjork and Solomon 2014 <https://wellcome.org/sites/default/files/developing-effective-market-for-open-access-article-processing-charges-mar14.pdf>. If anything, this proved to be an underestimate as Jisc estimated that the top 12 publishers, who account for 70% of the market, generated \$2bn in APCs in 2020.

^{iv} The 'Big Five' commercial academic publishers use APCs heavily and profit greatly from them. See https://doi.org/10.1162/qss_a_00272 for details.

^v Growing from the first agreement with Springer in 2016, to, as of January 2024, 75 separate agreements between university libraries and 47 different publishers. Brayman et al 2024 <https://zenodo.org/records/10787392>

^{vi} While this information is not always easy to retrieve, some publishers have highlighted it; Springer Nature began a pilot in 2011 <https://www.springernature.com/gp/open-research/journals-books/books>, Palgrave began in 2013 <https://www.palgrave.com/gp/blogs/perspectives-in-politics-international-studies/oa-books-5-years-blog>, De Gruyter in 2010 <https://www.degruyter.com/publishing/publications/openaccess/open-access-at-de-gruyter?lang=en>,

^{vii} It is difficult to measure this directly but there are clear indirect indications; for example, a search of history books on DOAB shows an increase from 95 books published in 2015, to 193 books published in 2020, and again to 251 books published in 2023. A search of medicine and nursing books shows an increase from 95 books published in 2015, to 146 books published in 2020, and again to 305 books published in 2023. Across all subjects, the number of DOAB entries in 2013 was 2469. For 2023 it was 8325, indicating a greater than 300% increase in annual output over that decade.

The pattern when looking at the DOAB data by publisher rather than by subject is similar: Many commercial publishers have had open access options since the early to mid 2010s, but the actual numbers of publications have often increased over this time. Using the DOAB data with a few publishers: Springer Nature 2013: 41 books, 2018: 201 books, 2023: 538 books. T&F 2013: 40 books, 2018: 217 books, 2023: 720 books. De Gruyter 2013: 84 books, 2018: 168 books, 2023: 208 books.

^{viii} It is important to acknowledge that these sort of funding models have been successfully implemented in the journal space since 2013 by the Open Library of Humanities, a library-funded Diamond OA journal publisher which has expanded to 30 journals since its inception, and has made waves by 'flipping' journals at highly commercial presses, by convincing their editors to leave and reform at OLH.

^{ix} The Open Book Environment is a curated and up to date collection of publisher fees.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15TtYZtYNamjo-SZ6_7h13pY64LeAwC2EIBSDFLxbmN4/edit?gid=59142032#gid=59142032

^x Although one commercial publisher has very recently proposed a funding model that essentially does exactly this; as it has not yet been implemented it is unclear how successful this will be <https://openaccessbooksnetwork.hcommons.org/2024/05/30/open-eba-open-for-feedback/>

^{xi} E.g. Radboud University Press <https://radbouduniversitypress.nl/>

^{xii} Personal communication with CEU Press.

^{xiii} Mattering Press, along with many other Diamond OA publishers, never *required* BPCs as a condition of publication. However, where an author had access to funding, many Diamond OA publishers will accept a fee from those authors, or their funders, or their affiliated institution as this provides a vital revenue stream in lieu of collective funding.

^{xiv} Working together quote attributed to James Rice: <https://openbookcollective.org/>

^{xv} This criticism can be difficult to pin down directly, but its presence can be felt strongly in 'mythbusting' exercises about OA books, for example from OAPEN: <https://oabooks-toolkit.org/about-oa/14727343-oa-mythbusting>, from the Open Access Books Network: <https://openaccessbooksnetwork.hcommons.org/oa-mythbusters/>, and from institutional guides such as at UNC: <https://guides.lib.unc.edu/c.php?g=207455&p=1368891#s-lq-box-wrapper-4873229/>

^{xvi} Defined by Invest in Open as: 'the sets of services, protocols, standards and software that the academic ecosystem needs in order to perform its functions throughout the research lifecycle' <https://investinopen.org/about/> and by SCOSS as 'the scholarly communication resources and services, including software, that we depend upon to enable the scientific and scholarly community to collect, store, organise, access, share, and assess research' <https://scoss.org/what-is-scoss/defining-open-infrastructure/>

^{xvii} In particular the 'Year of incorporation' section which shows an increase in new infrastructure initiatives in 2015 following steady growth since 2005.

^{xviii} For the distinction between *gratis* and *libre*, see here: <https://dash.harvard.edu/handle/1/4322580>

^{xix} <https://www.jisc.ac.uk/blog/infrastructure-is-key-to-supporting-the-sectors-shift-towards-open-access-for-monographs> for the UK perspective; for a wider European view, another project named PALOMERA <https://operas-eu.org/projects/palomera/> is currently underway to understand why so few funder policies encompass open access books, and to provide 'actionable recommendations to change this', which may lead to further mandates in the future.

^{xx} This growing interdependence was noted in <https://investinopen.org/state-of-open-infrastructure-2024/sooi-adoption-2024/>

^{xxi} E.g. Bloomsbury Academic in 2023 <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/discover/bloomsbury-academic/open-access/bloomsbury-open-collections/>, Taylor and Francis in 2023 <https://newsroom.taylorandfrancisgroup.com/pledge-to-open/> De Gruyter's eBound, which is a non-profit subsidiary of De Gruyter working with their UPLO network, in 2024 <https://uplopen.com/>, and which explicitly cites Opening the Future, as well as another project, TOME, as forerunners, Peter Lang in 2024 <https://www.peterlang.com/our-services/open-eba/>.

^{xxii} For more details, see <https://direct.mit.edu/books/pages/direct-to-open> and <https://www.publishing.umich.edu/features/fund-to-mission> respectively.