
Free the Books!

Pathways to Equitable and Open Scholarly Publishing

*De Gruyter webinar, Free the Books! The Path towards Open
Access Monographs – 30 March 2023*

Niels Stern, Director

OAPEN Foundation



This presentation is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

Logos and symbols used in this presentation may be subject to other licences.

OAPEN Foundation

- increase discoverability of OA books
- promote and build trust in OA book publishing
- Transparent, open, community-driven
- not-for-profit / not-for-sale



<https://oapen.org>

OAPEN Library – hosting, distributing, and preserving 27,000+ peer-reviewed OA books from 400+ publishers



<https://doabooks.org>

Directory of Open Access Books – global indexing service of over 66,000 peer-reviewed OA books from more than 600 publishers



<https://oabooks-toolkit.org>

OAPEN OA Books Toolkit – public information resource for authors

Bibliodiversity

the diversity of book publishing in terms of

- disciplines
- geographies
- languages
- publishing traditions
- quality assurance standards
- incentive structures at universities
- the publishing industry and its market mechanisms in general



My background

Bibliodiversity.

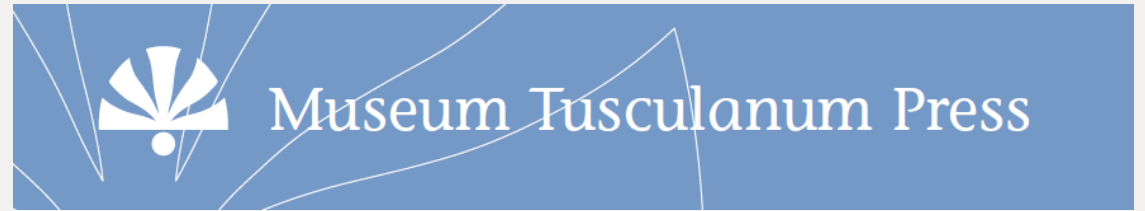
60 books p.a. / 10 journals →

23 languages / external peer review,

Broken business model →

OA publishing? → 2007 →

OAPEN project



Frankfurt Book Fair, 2005
Private photo.

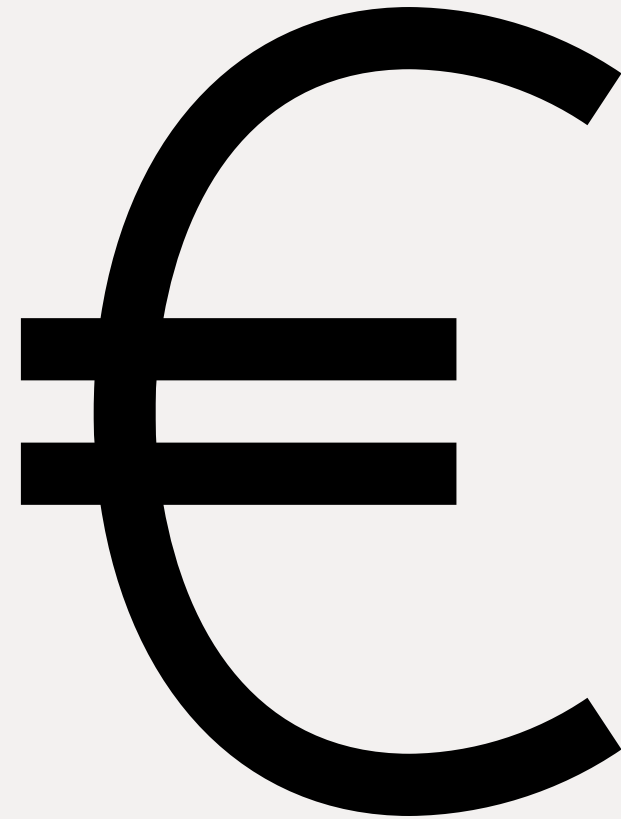
OA book advantages

- ✓ Increased readership, usage, citation
- ✓ Wider and more diverse audiences
- ✓ Real-world impact and engagement
- ✓ Quicker and more lasting impact
- ✓ Greater author control

<https://oabooks-toolkit.org/lifecycle/article/2250869-why-publish-an-open-access-book>



**”So, where’s
the money
gonna come
from?”**



“[...] we believe that the “funding problem” is not one of absolute scarcity of money, but rather the employment of inefficient models.”

Ferwerda, Eelco, Pinter, Frances, & Stern, Niels. (2017). A Landscape Study on Open Access and Monographs: Policies, Funding and Publishing in Eight European Countries. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.815932> (p.112).



The BPC model

OPERAS Open Access Business Models White Paper (2018/2021) on the BPC model:

”Pros: Aids recognition of the costs involved in quality publishing.

Cons: Lack of funding available in AHSS, different levels of financial resources at different institutions makes for an uneven and unfair situation for academics, inefficient, high administrative burden for institutions and publishers, additional burden for academics.”



Alternative models

”A variety of business models are used to support open access books, including, but not limited to, book processing charges, institutional subsidy, library membership and freemium models.”

<https://oabooks-toolkit.org/lifecycle/10944589-planning-funding/article/10432084-business-models-for-open-access-book-publishing>



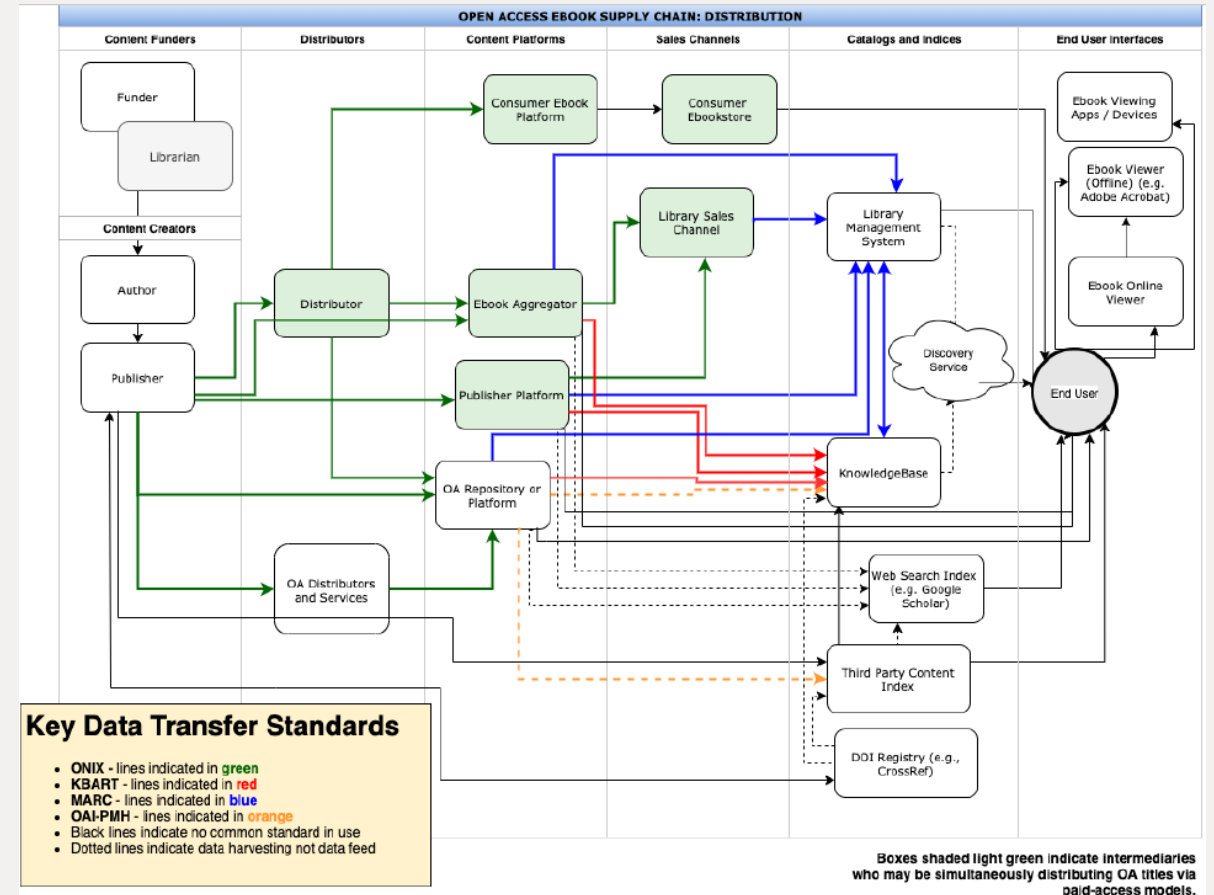
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESS



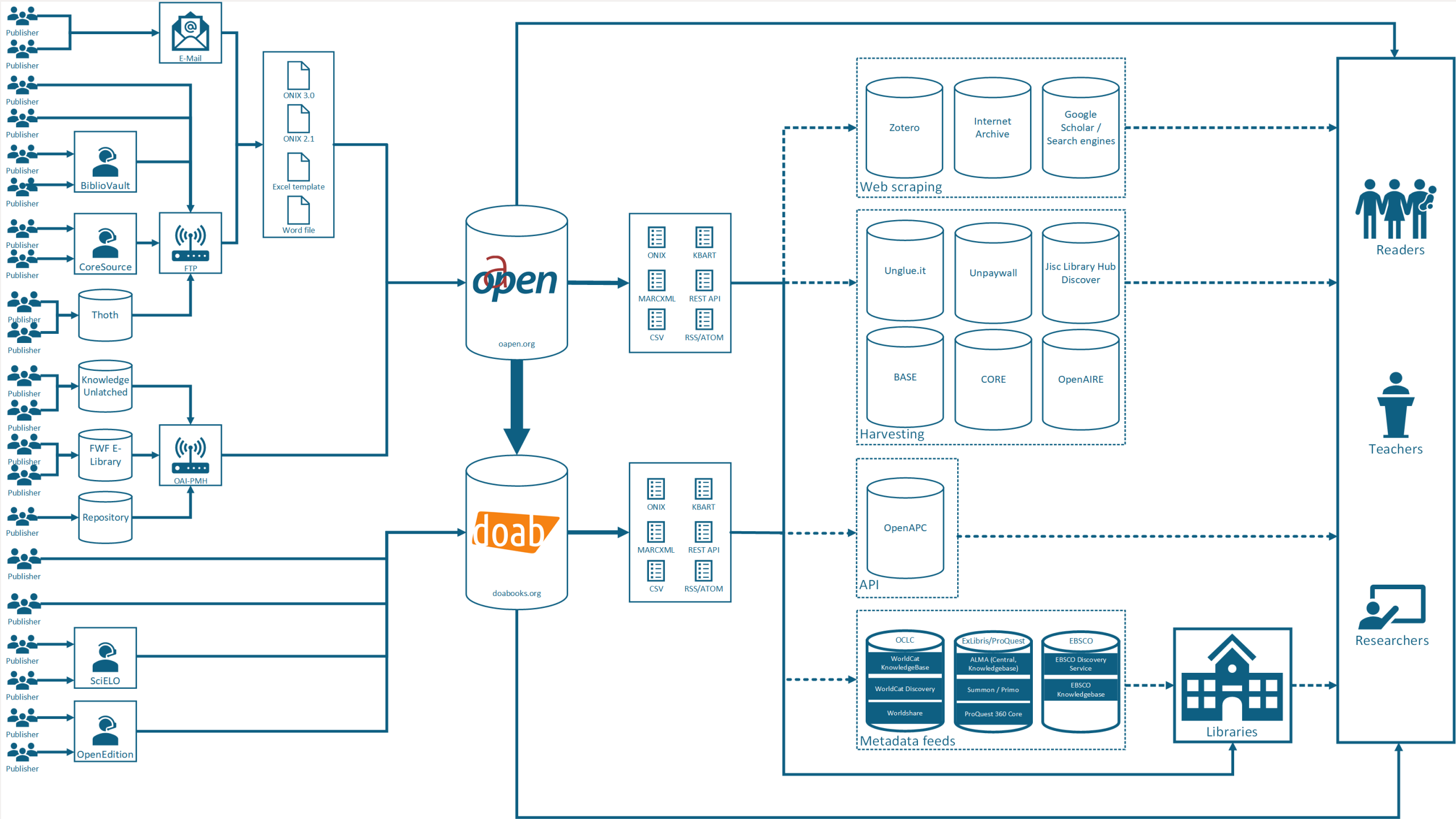
Infrastructures

The difference between OA and print distribution

Infrastructures are critical to OA book publishing



Clarke, Michael, & Ricci, Laura. (2021). Open Access eBook Supply Chain Maps for Distribution and Usage Reporting. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4681871>



Collaborative funding models

Collecting OA book publishers
and infrastructures / service
providers

One-stop-shop for libraries to
support a number of OA book
publishing initiatives

<https://openbookcollective.org>



OpenBook
Collective

**Funders &
Institutions →
drivers of
change**



PALOMERA – Policy Alignment of Open access Monographs in the European Research Area

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101094270>

Objective: *To drive the transition towards more open access to academic books through policy development*

Project activities

- ❑ Data collection (qualitative and quantitative data) → creation of a knowledge base → OA books toolkit
- ❑ Analysis and actionable recommendations → OA books toolkit
- ❑ Inclusion of and engagement with stakeholders to qualify and validate project findings (data, analyses, recommendations) → OABN
- ❑ Establish a Funder Forum



Funded by the
European Union

Funded by the European Union. Grant Agreement number: 101094270. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Bring funders and institutions together!

**to discuss challenges and
solutions**

**joint investments
to keep the OA book
ecosystem in balance**



“We are cautiously optimistic about the prospects for a significant amount of European long-form scholarship to be published as OA, despite well-known obstacles.”

Ferwerda, Eelco, Pinter, Frances, & Stern, Niels. (2017). A Landscape Study on Open Access and Monographs: Policies, Funding and Publishing in Eight European Countries. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.815932> (p.8).



Thank you – we look forward to engaging with you



Niels Stern, Director
stern@oapen.org



<https://doabooks.org>
<https://oapen.org>



@DOABooks | @OAPENbooks



At the coal face: the acquisition and payment issues



Sarah Thompson

Assistant Director, Content & Open Research, University of York Library

About the University of York

- Founded 1963
- “A University for Public Good”
- UK top 20; REF 10th; World University Rankings 139th
- 21,250 FTE students
- 30+ departments, schools and research centres in humanities, social sciences, science; 3 faculties



Our commitment to open

research

Open research statement



This statement provides University of York's commitment to the values, principles and culture of open research. It encourages and supports staff and students to explore and engage with open research practices in their work and study, to maximise the possibility of public and academic impact.



**OPEN
RESEARCH
ADVOCATES**



UNIVERSITY
of York

OPEN RESEARCH AWARDS

2022

Supported by



OPEN RESEARCH SKILLS FRAMEWORK

The Open Research Skills Framework provides an overview of **open research practices and principles** which can be applied to projects across all disciplines.



This framework was created in partnership with practitioners across the University and is intended for researchers of all levels, and across all disciplines.

The Open Research team are keen to hear if you have any questions or thoughts on the framework, and particularly interested to hear from any researchers who are considering adapting the framework to suit their discipline. [A feedback form is provided here.](#)



Do our Actions and Decisions reflect our Values?

The logo for White Rose University Press features a stylized rose emblem in gold, composed of multiple overlapping layers of petals, centered between the letters 'R' and 'O' of the word 'ROSE'.

WHITE ROSE

UNIVERSITY PRESS

Universities of Leeds, Sheffield & York

- ✓ **A fully Open Access library-led academic publisher**
- ✓ **Publishes research monographs and journals (and want to publish textbooks)**
- ✓ **Scope and strategy set by library-led Management Board**
- ✓ **Commissioning by an academic-led Editorial Board, based on peer review**
- ✓ **Offer support for OA more widely, through local sessions and advice for academics wanting to engage with OA, and initiatives such as the Jisc New University Press toolkit**



Library advice and guidance



A dark, industrial setting, likely a server room or control room, featuring a rack of electronic equipment with numerous cables and components. The lighting is dim, with some highlights on the equipment and cables.

Discovery of open content

Issues with data flow between systems

Different standards

Have libraries adapted sufficiently?

- Team structures, roles, skills, knowledge



Bibliodiversity

Photo by Ed Robertson on Unsplash



Transparency

Library Teams & Structures

To what extent do library teams focus on both open and paywalled content? How is this changing?

To what extent do library staff understand the transition (to open) that is taking place? How do you ensure they are kept informed and engaged?

How is the transition (to open) changing perceptions your user communities have about the library?

Are library staff able to talk confidently to academics about their requirements for both accessing and producing content?



Library Policies and Processes

Do your collections policies apply to open content?

Do you know what proportion of your budget is spent on open content vs paywalled content?

Do library staff spend time selecting open content and ensuring it is discoverable?



Conclusion

Books are different! Let's work together to create a publishing ecosystem where that is valued and celebrated.

s.thompson@york.ac.uk

[@sarah_thomp5263](https://twitter.com/sarah_thomp5263)



Promoting Open Access for Books

Sofie Wennström

Stockholm University Library

sofie.wennstrom@su.se

[@SofieWennstrom](#) | [@SthlmUniPress](#) | [@SthlmUniLib](#)

Free the Books! The Path towards Open Access Monographs, Webinar, March 30th 2023





Stockholm University

@Stockholm_Uni

Following



"Ultimately, it is a democracy issue that research results can be disseminated openly", says President @Stockholm_Uni Astrid Söderbergh Widding on using money saved from cancelled agreement w publisher Elsevier to publish research in Open Access journals su.se/english/librar ...



9:59 AM - 2 Jul 2018



Stockholm University

@Stockholm_Uni

Following



Open Access 2020 – a new global direction, blog post by President Astrid Söderbergh Widding su.se/english/vice-c ...
#openaccess



5:50 PM - 7 Dec 2018

7 Retweets 5 Likes





Goals Communicated from the EU

- Make all academic output findable via EOSC
- Use Creative Commons licensing to preserve author rights
- No embargo times & aim for 100% immediate OA
- Update electronic platforms and formats to allow TDM



The Swedish Transition

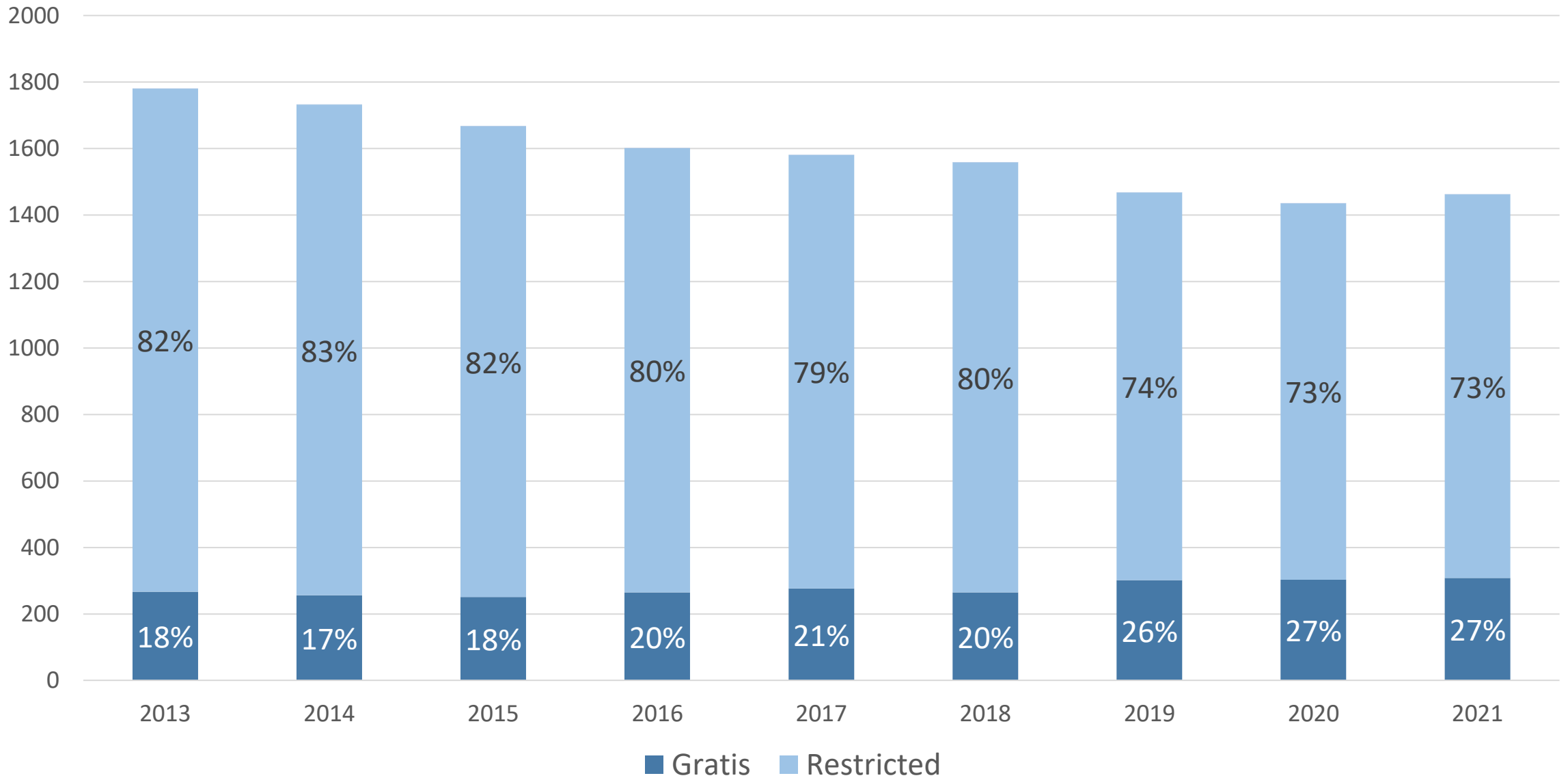
- Research bill 2020 noted that all academic work should be open by 2026.
- The National Library of Sweden is responsible for guidance about the transition
- The Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions created a national roadmap towards open science in 2021
- Reached the level of 80% OA to articles in 2022 via transformative agreements



Scholarly Open Book Publishing in Sweden

- 8–10 small publishers offer possibilities to OA publishing
- Relying on researchers to choose the open model over other alternatives
- In most cases a “BPC model”, no central funding available
- Swedish Research Council added books to their open science policy in 2022
- Not yet reliable statistics on level of OA and costs involved

Registered Scholarly Books in Sweden 2013–2021



Source: Swepub data about publications at Swedish Universities, by National Library of Sweden



Open Book Publishing at Stockholm University

- Open Science Policy launched in 2022, including all scholarly output
- Stockholm University Press – a non-profit alternative to traditional publishers
- No central funding available
- 1.9% of all publications 2013–2022 are books
- 14% of the books published in 2020 were available with open access



Challenging Market for Open Books

- Diverse market and no evident path to switch business model from pay-to-read to pay-to-publish
- Not really any equal opportunities offers for authors to choose from
- New collaborations/consortia are forming, but not fully adopted
- Institutions under pressure to use own funding for publishing



Future Outlook

- Open Science Policies will be adopted and push for open publishing of books
- Engaging researchers to publish open is key to reach the goal
- Reliable data about publications on institutional and national level is needed to support decision-making
- Collaborative funding models for books should be investigated further

Thank you! – Questions?



- <https://www.su.se/stockholm-university-library/>
- <https://www.stockholmuniversitypress.se/>
- Twitter @SofieWennstrom | @SthlmUniLib | @SthlmUniPress

Further Reading

Resources for transitioning society publications to OA <https://tspoa.org/resources/>

Laakso, M., Solomon, D., & Björk, B.-C. (2016). How subscription-based scholarly journals can convert to open access: A review of approaches. *Learned Publishing*, 29(4), 259–269.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/leap.1056>

OASPA. (July, 2019). *How should scholarly societies transition to open access? Webinar key takeaways and and answers to attendee questions.* <https://oaspa.org/how-should-scholarly-societies-transition-to-open-access-webinar-key-takeaways-and-answers-to-attendee-questions/>

Cramer, B. (2019). Working spreadsheet with information about societies publishing OA

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Lg3V_okwCTxqZ02CIZLUrKLedkQKret2T5R8R07DYGs/edit?usp=sharing

Hook, D., Hahnel, M., & Calvert, I. (2019). *The Ascent of Open Access.*

<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.7618751.v2>