



[www.openbookcollective.org](http://www.openbookcollective.org)



@OpenBookCollect

## Scaling Small: The Open Book Collective Launch and Platform

Dr. Judith Fathallah

Lancaster University & Coventry University

[j.fathallah@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:j.fathallah@lancaster.ac.uk)

# Moves Towards an international Open Access landscape (including books!)

UKRI Open Access Policy 2021

White House Mandate 2022

CoAlition S/Plan S



The Open Access (OA) landscape has been encroached upon by 'platform capitalism' (Srineck 2016), whereby for-profit companies operating in both similar and different areas expand, converge, and monopolize in order to extract, redeploy, and capitalize upon the increasing centralization of data and data-based platforms (Joy and Fathallah 2022).

# For example...

Acquisition of Knowledge Unlatched by Wiley (2021)

Bepress by Elsevier (2017)

F1000 by Taylor and Francis (2020)

Read COPIM's statement on the corporate acquisition of OA infrastructure:  
<https://copim.pubpub.org/pub/copim-statement-corporate-acquisition-oa-infra/release/1>

This entrenches:

- the dominance of wealthy academics and institutions from the Global North
- the bias to English in academic publishing
- pressures on academics in the Global South to neglect local issues for publication on issues of interest to a US and European audience (Okune 2019).

Despite a 'global preference for regional subjects' (Snijder 2022) in OAPEN book downloads



**OpenBook  
Collective**

The **Open Book Collective** is a not-for-profit collective and platform which enables libraries and institutions to discover and support a diverse, international range of small-to-medium Open Access Book publishers



Community-led Open Publication Infrastructures for Monographs



UK Research  
and Innovation



## £5.8 million project to deliver a more sustainable future for Open Access books

30 March 2023 09:01



A new project that works to increase access to valuable research is to receive more than £5.8 million in funding.

Led by Lancaster University, the Open Book Futures (OBF) project will develop and support organisations, tools and practices that enable both academics and the wider public to make more and better use of books published on an Open Access basis. Open Access books can be accessed and used online free of charge.

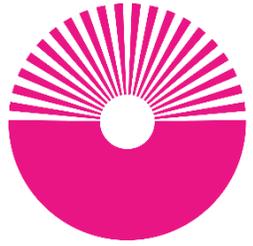
“

*It is exciting to be able to contribute to a project that promises to profoundly reshape the very mechanisms through which academic knowledge circulates, in a context in which far too much high-quality book-length scholarship remains widely inaccessible.*

”

Dr Joe Deville





# OpenBook Collective

## Aims

Generate new  
revenue  
streams for OA  
publishers &  
SPs

Support OA  
book  
publishing  
models not  
reliant on BPCs

Make it easier  
for librarians to  
support OA  
membership  
schemes

Build a new  
community of  
publishers,  
service  
providers,  
librarians

## Ethos

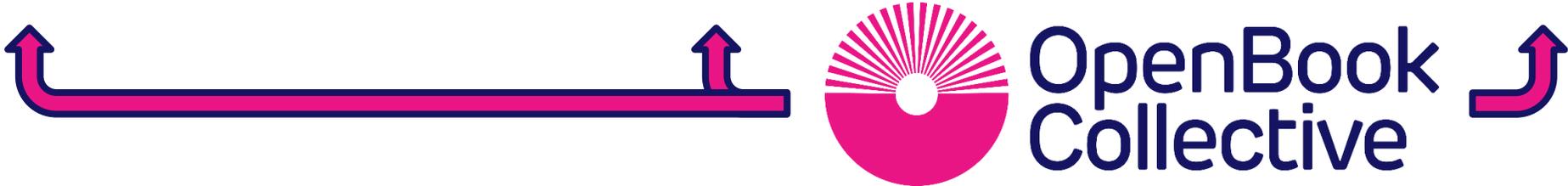
Open  
infrastructure

Not for profit

Community-  
& values-led

Supporting  
bibliodiversity

# Three strata of non-BPC based Open Access publishing



# 'Scaling Small' NOT 'scaling up'.

A publishing and distribution ecosystem for Open Access Books that is based on mutual reliance and collaboration rather than competition and incorporation.

To promote a biodiverse ecosystem while providing resilience through sharing of resources and knowledge, and other kinds of collaboration (Adema and Moore, 2021).

A nonprofit charity governed by its members at every level.

The OBC requires a commitment from our publisher members to move away from book processing charges, which are both unsustainable and deeply inequitable (Fathallah 2022).

Flexible consortial funding model allowing ease of comparison, local and global relevance, demonstration of value to budget holders, creation of bespoke packages.

Allows libraries to support an ecosystem, including infrastructure providers, not simply individual OA publishers or OA books.

## Offer to publishers

- Reducing BPCs: the OBC is a means for publishers to generate new income streams, helping them transition away from using book processing charges and to increase their output of OA books.
- Robust OA infrastructures: the OBC delivers new financial resources to the service providers of OA book publishing.
- Simplified workflow: the OBC manages invoicing, contracting, and payment flows, making membership programmes possible for even small publishers/service provider
- Outreach: the OBC undertakes outreach work on behalf of publishers/service providers to a global community of potential supporters

# Offer to libraries

- Ease of comparison: global and local relevance
- Bespoke or pre-selected packages
- Demonstration of value to budget holders
- Due diligence: assessing financial reporting practices, governance, peer review etc – also giving libraries a trusted group of publishers they can recommend to faculty
- Simpler workflow for managing multiple membership programmes & renewals
- Ability to invest in a fairer and more equitable OA landscape, rather than a single publisher or offering

## References

Adema, J. & Moore, S. A., (2021) “Scaling Small; Or How to Envision New Relationalities for Knowledge Production”, *Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture* 16(1), p.27-45. doi:

<https://doi.org/10.16997/wpcc.918>

Fathallah, J. (2022). Open Access Monographs: Myths, Truths and Implications in the Wake of UKRI Open Access Policy. *LIBER Quarterly: The Journal of the Association of European Research Libraries*, 32(1).

<https://doi.org/10.53377/lq.11068>

Joy, E. A. F., & Fathallah, J. (2022). Governance by Membership: The Open Book Collective. *Community-Led Open Publication Infrastructures for Monographs (COPIM)*. <https://doi.org/10.21428/785a6451.b6bbfd5c>

Okune, A. (2019). Decolonizing scholarly data and publishing infrastructures. LSE blog.

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2019/05/29/decolonizing-scholarly-data-and-publishing-infrastructures/>

Snijder, R. (2022). Open Access books: a global preference for regional subjects. LSE blog.

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2022/08/03/open-access-books-a-global-preference-for-regional-subjects/>

[www.openbookcollective.org](http://www.openbookcollective.org)