

Choosing Open Access for Books: Myths and Truths Beyond the BPC

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<https://openbookcollective.org/>
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Context

- For the first time in the UK, OA is to be mandated for academic books – this means that both monographs and edited chaptered books must be published Open Access from January 2024, though a 1 year embargo is permissible
- OA books are more read and more cited
- OA is a service to academia and a public good
- Most academics want to publish OA!



Myth 1: I or my funder must pay to publish an OA book

- False. There are many ways of funding OA book publication including:
- Subscription models (Open Book Collective, Opening the Future, individual publisher schemes)
- Hybrid publication models
- Library/grant supported publication
- Most publishers take a piecemeal approach – the OBC aims to provide more sustainability
- Books that are OA without BPC are often called ‘Diamond OA’

Myth 2: OA books are lower quality

- False. There are several high quality Diamond OA publishers, such as those approved for membership by the OBC. These must meet high criteria for standards such as peer review, production quality and metadata. Look also for memberships: DOAB, OASPA.
- A study by Deville et. al (2019) showed no significant difference in acceptance rates between OA and closed access book publishers

The logo for OASPA (Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association) features the letters 'OASPA' in a bold, teal-colored, sans-serif font.The logo for DOAB (Directory of Open Access Books) consists of the lowercase letters 'doab' in white, set against an orange trapezoidal background. To the right of this graphic, the words 'directory of open access books' are written in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font, with 'open access' on one line and 'books' on the line below.

Myth 3: No-one will find my OA book; OA publishers are less discoverable

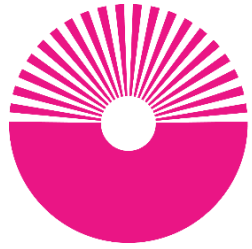
- Changing. Historically, discoverability has been an issue for OA books due to lack of consistent high quality metadata. Open Book Collective/Open Book Futures is working to change this.



Myth 4: OA books means electronic books only

- False. Many OA book publishers use hybrid models, including all the OBC publishers

Insert own book image here
and link to mediastudies.press



OpenBook Collective

Aims

Raise new
revenue
streams for
OA publishers
& SPs

Support a
model of OA
book
publishing not
reliant on
BPCs

Make it easier
for librarians
to subscribe
to OA
membership
schemes

Build a new
community of
publishers,
service
providers,
librarians

Ethos

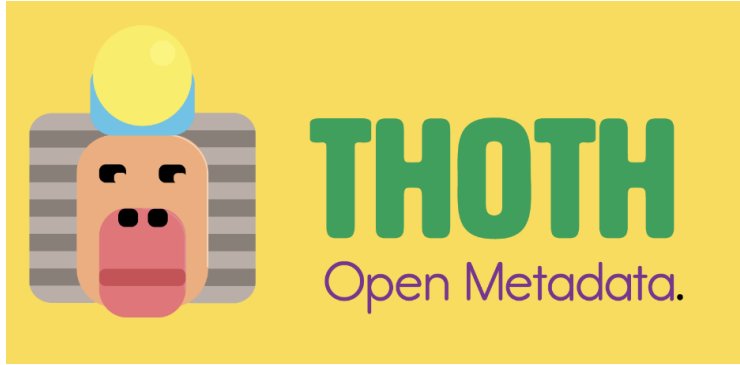
Open
infrastructure

Not for profit
(a charity, in
the process of
being
registered)

Community
led

Supporting
bibliodiversity





In sum

- Academics are not [...] passive players in the move towards OA. They do have choices, to an extent, about where they publish and how they invest their research time, and can also be working with librarian colleagues to evidence and promote the academic rigour, standards and value of OA. They can organise with fellow academics and scholar-publishers in the compilation and presentation of such data (Fathallah 2022, 16)

Resources to explore

[The Open Book Collective](#)

[Open Book Collective documentation site](#)

[Our organizational model, including membership criteria](#)

[The COPIM project: Community-Led Open Publishing Infrastructures for Monographs](#)

[The Open Book Futures Project \(COPIM successor\)](#)

[Thoth](#)

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).

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