KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE SURVEY ON OPEN ACCESS MONOGRAPHS

Knowledge Exchange survey on open access monographs

1.0   About the survey

In 2017, Knowledge Exchange, a collaboration between six national organisations to support the development of digital infrastructure to enable open scholarship, published a landscape study on open access monographs in eight European countries[1]. This report identified commonalities and differences across countries, areas of good practice, and important gaps in knowledge and information, which may need to be filled before open access for monographs can progress. In order to take this work forward, Knowledge Exchange conducted a survey between April and May 2018 to identify next steps that should be considered to support progress for open access for monographs.

2.0   Executive Summary

- The survey received 233 usable responses from 25 countries. There was a bias towards European countries, particularly the UK. However, there were only slight differences when comparing UK responses with those from other European responses. As the number of responses from other regions was low, a further comparison across regions was not possible
- Academic libraries and universities were the largest groups that responded to the survey, authors and publishers were also well represented
- Three quarters of all respondents (75.1%) felt that 'levels of publishing costs and how these relate to book publication charges' were holding back the progress of OA monographs
- Concerns of libraries broadly mapped onto the concerns of authors/readers. However, quality assurance was also of high relevance to authors/readers. Authors/readers did not see effect on sales and usage when a book is made OA as a major concern, whereas libraries ranked this quite highly. Publishers did not see the lack of quality as a major concern, but ranked effect on sales as the second most important issue
- Librarians were identified as the most actively supportive group towards open access monographs, whereas intermediaries/distributors were viewed as the least interested group. Funders were considered to have no clear pattern of support, as were academics, funders and universities to some extent
- When asked to select priorities for further development of OA monographs, better infrastructure ranked highly, as did better funding and better rewards for authors. Stricter enforcement of mandates was seen as the least important
- When asked for comments on good practice and also blockages in the system, comments about policies and mandates and also lack of funding were at the forefront of concerns
- University presses and academic-led publishing initiatives offering OA monographs were largely seen as a positive approach, although lack of institutional support was seen as an issue
- Traditional publishers were criticised for a lack of viable and transparent business models
- A number of OA platforms were highlighted. However, there were also concerns about the need for better platforms and the lack of discoverability
- Issues around quality and peer review were seen as a major blockage to open access monographs. Many comments implied a link between OA and loss of quality, while others saw this perception as a major concern

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[1] http://repository.jisc.ac.uk/6693/1/Landscape_study_on_OA_and_Monographs_Oct_2017_KE.pdf

- There were mixed views around author awareness and engagement. At best it was thought that once academics became aware they would publish more in OA. At worst it was thought the academics were indifferent or even hostile to OA and that it would harm their careers
- Concerns were expressed about moving to a book processing charge business model and that multiple models were required. Costs and their lack of transparency were also highlighted as a major issue

3.0 Survey analysis

In total 233 valid responses were collected from 25 countries. The majority of responses were received from Europe, with a bias towards responses from the UK. Therefore, this report cannot provide a regional analysis of responses outside of Europe. Responses from the UK were compared with the responses in the complementary dataset. It appears that in most cases the UK responses did not skew the results. There was also a bias towards responses from academic libraries and universities. Consequently, the number of responses from publishers/ university presses, research institutes/foundations, funders, and learned societies were less well represented.

3.1 Preliminary questions

3.1.1 *Place of work and roles*

Respondents were asked to identify their country and place of work. In addition, respondents were asked to specify what best described their main role in relation to academic monographs. There was a high number of responses categorised as 'Other' (48 responses, 21.3% of total number of responses). However, a secondary question on the main role enabled the answers to both questions to be cross-checked and merged to give more clarity to the respondents' main place of work and role.

Table 1 shows the main role identified. The responses indicate that there is a bias from respondents from academic libraries and universities. However, 'author/reader' and 'publisher' are the joint third largest group of respondents.

Role	Number of responses
Academic library	25.3%
University	23.7%
Author / Reader (all answers)	12.4%
Publisher (all answers)	12.4%
Other	9.6%
Other libraries	5.6%
Research funder	2.4%
Research institute / foundation	2.4%
University Press	1.6%
National policymaker	1.6%
Learned society	0.8%
Board member of OAPEN	0.4%
Consultant	0.4%
Distributor / intermediary	0.4%
OA search-tool manager	0.4%
Scientific and technical service	0.4%

Table 1. Responses by role.

'Other libraries' refers to non-academic libraries and includes private libraries, college libraries and national libraries. The category 'Other' includes all the responses that either made reference to a

city name or to diverse organisations such as a museum, a college, a health authority, a hospital, an office, or a not-for-profit organisation.

Figure 1 shows the main place of work by country. Academic libraries were the main place of work identified by all the survey respondents. However, in the UK, Finland and Sweden, universities had the highest number of responses. If the UK data is removed, academic libraries and universities are still the top two places of work.
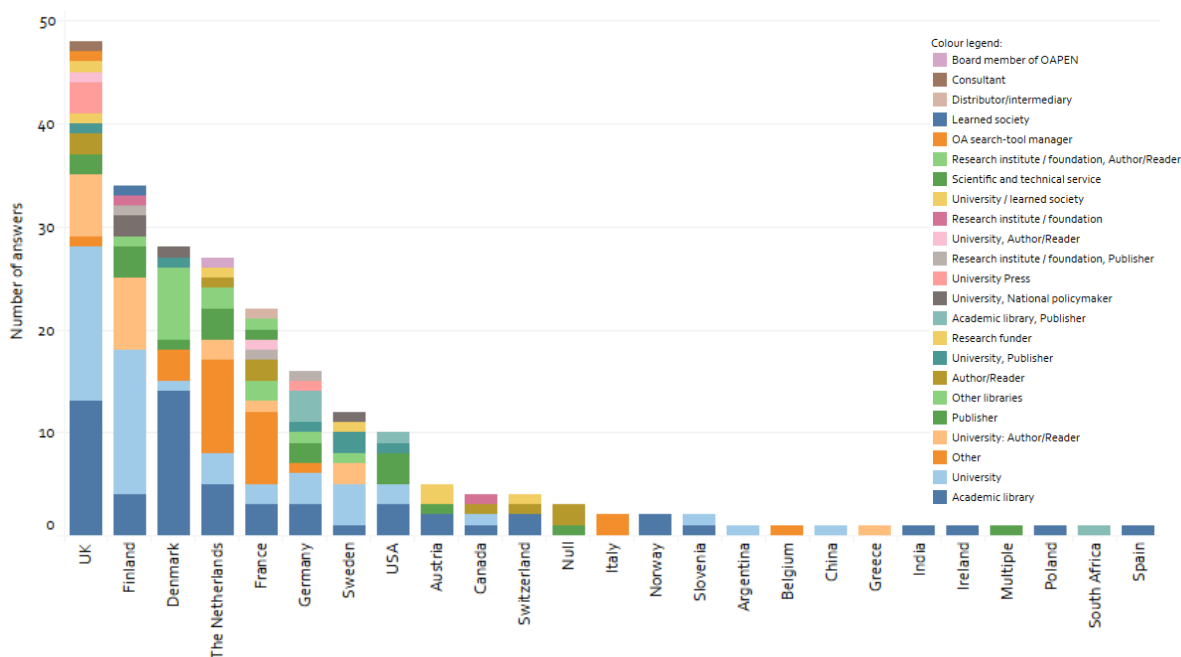

Figure 1. Main place of work and role.

In addition, respondents were asked if they had any other roles in relation to monographs. 37% of total responses were considered valid (i.e. answers where respondents repeated the same answer for main role and other roles were not considered valid). The most common secondary role in relation to monographs was as author/reader and there was a close relation between academic librarians having another role as author/reader.

3.1.2   Country of work

226 respondents (97% of total survey responses) identified their country of work. The data shows a strong representation from respondents working in European countries, in particular the UK (Figure 2). Responses were collected from 17 European countries. However, 10 of the 17 countries had less than 5 responses. The low number of responses from countries outside Europe means that it is not possible to do any regional analysis outside of Europe.
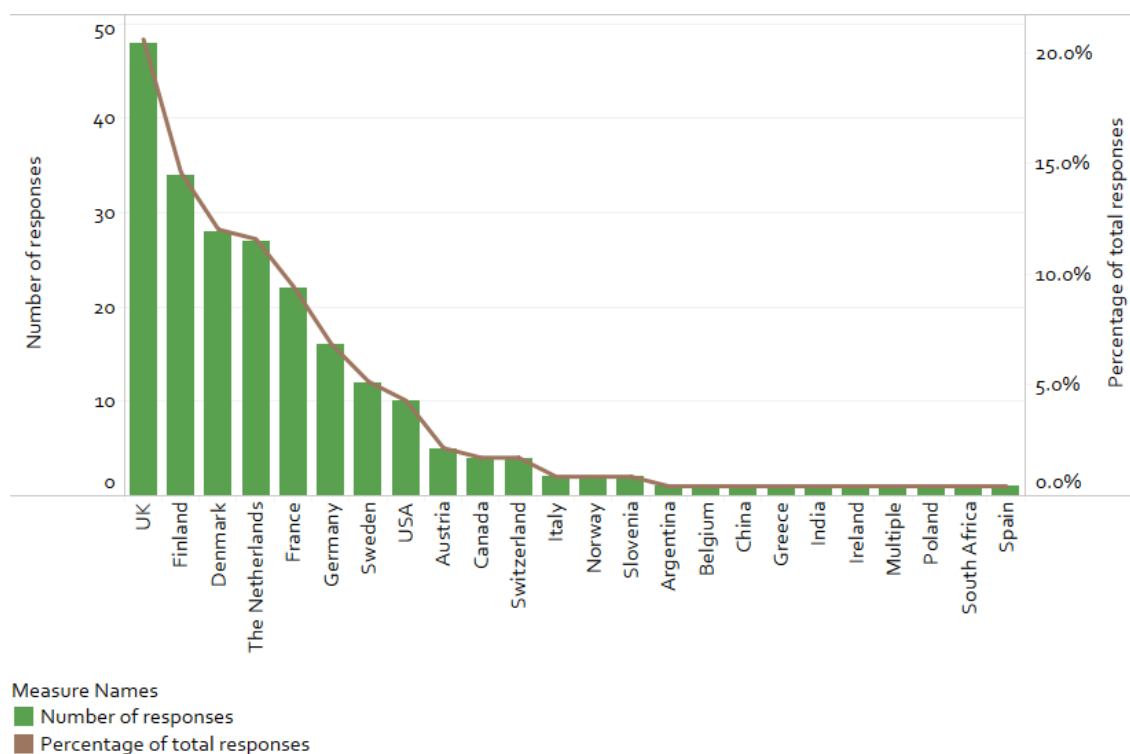
Figure 2. Country of work.

3.2 Information and knowledge gaps which affect the progress of open access monographs

The Knowledge Exchange landscape study identified several information and knowledge gaps, which may affect the progress of open access monographs. Respondents were asked, with regards to their job, to tick all the information gaps that they considered were holding back the progress of OA monographs. 185 respondents (79.4% of total survey responses) expressed their views. Multiple answers were allowed in this question (Table 2).

Response options	Number of responses	Percentage of total responses
Levels of publishing costs and how these relate to book publication charges	139	75.1%
Quality assurance processes and service levels offered by book publishers	85	45.9%
Effect on sales and usage when a book is made OA	84	45.4%
Ways in which OA requirements from funders, institutions or publishers are communicated	81	43.8%
Number of monographs/OA monographs published	74	40%
Types of self-archiving policies that are mandated or permitted	68	36.8%
Level of compliance with OA mandates or policies	48	25.9%
Total number / percentage of unique answers	*185*	*79.4%*

Table 2. Information and knowledge gaps

'Levels of publishing costs and how these relate to book publication charges' was identified as the most relevant information and knowledge gap of all the options provided with 75.1% of the responses. Level of compliance with OA mandates or policies had the smallest number of responses and this may reflect the relatively low number of mandates in existence. For example, at the time of the survey the UK mandate was still being agreed and the French mandate had not been announced.

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When cross referencing these responses with role (see Figure 3), 'levels of publishing costs and how these relate to book publication charges' was the most important information and knowledge gap for all roles.

All countries responses	Levels of publishing costs and how these relate to book publication charges	Quality assurance processes and service levels offered by book publishers	Effect on sales and usage when a book is made OA	Ways in which OA requirements from funders, institutions or publishers are communicated	Number of monographs/OA monographs published	Types of self-archiving policies that are mandated or permitted	Level of compliance with OA mandates or policies	Total
Academic library	36	21	20	21	21	26	13	158
University	21	14	11	9	11	10	7	83
University: Author/Reader	17	16	9	11	7	6	4	70
Other	9	6	5	7	8	5	3	43
Publisher	14	2	8	6	4	2	5	41
Other libraries	9	3	8	4	7	4	2	37
Author/Reader	6	4	2	5	2	4	4	27
University, Publisher	5	4	4	3	4	2	2	24
Academic library, Publisher	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	18
Research funder	5	3	2	4		2	2	18
University Press	3	1	2	3	2	2	1	14

Figure 3. Information and knowledge gaps by place of work and role

Figure 4 shows the top four places of work/role and their responses to the knowledge and information gaps question. It appears that concerns of libraries broadly map onto the concerns of authors/readers. However, quality assurance is also of high relevance to authors/readers. Authors/readers do not see effect on sales and usage when a book is made OA as a major concern, whereas libraries rank this quite highly. This may reflect an assumption on academic views by libraries, rather than an actual concern of the libraries themselves as it is hard to see why this should be a major concern for libraries? While publishers do not see the lack of quality as a major concern, they do rank effect on sales as the second most important issue. For academic libraries, the second most selected option was 'types of self-archiving policies that are mandated or permitted' and this appeared to be more relevant for academic libraries than for the remaining groups, which probably reflects libraries concerns around compliance for these policies.
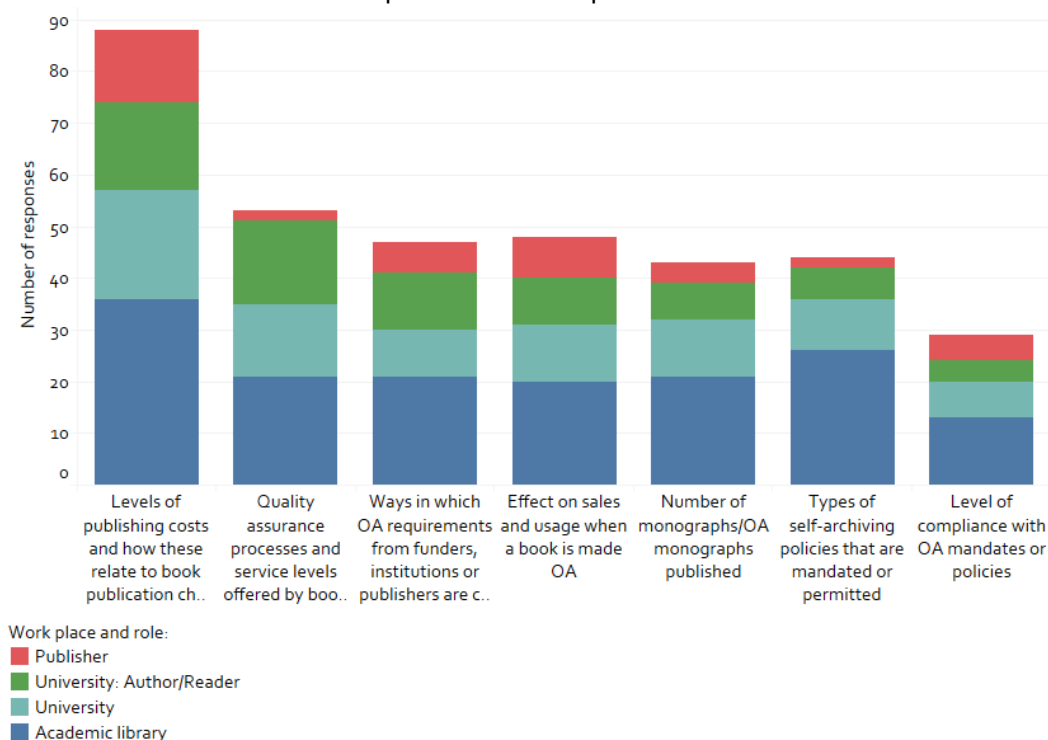

Figure 4. Information and knowledge gaps by place of work and role

A comparison was made between the types of responses selected by all countries versus European countries (excluding the UK) and the UK only (Figure 5). In some cases, the responses order varies when the results are compared for all countries versus Europe (excluding the UK) or the UK only. However, differences are relatively small. For example, quality assurance processes and service levels are the second most important response selected by all respondents, whereas the effect on sales and usage when a book is made OA is the second most important response for the European respondents (excluding the UK).
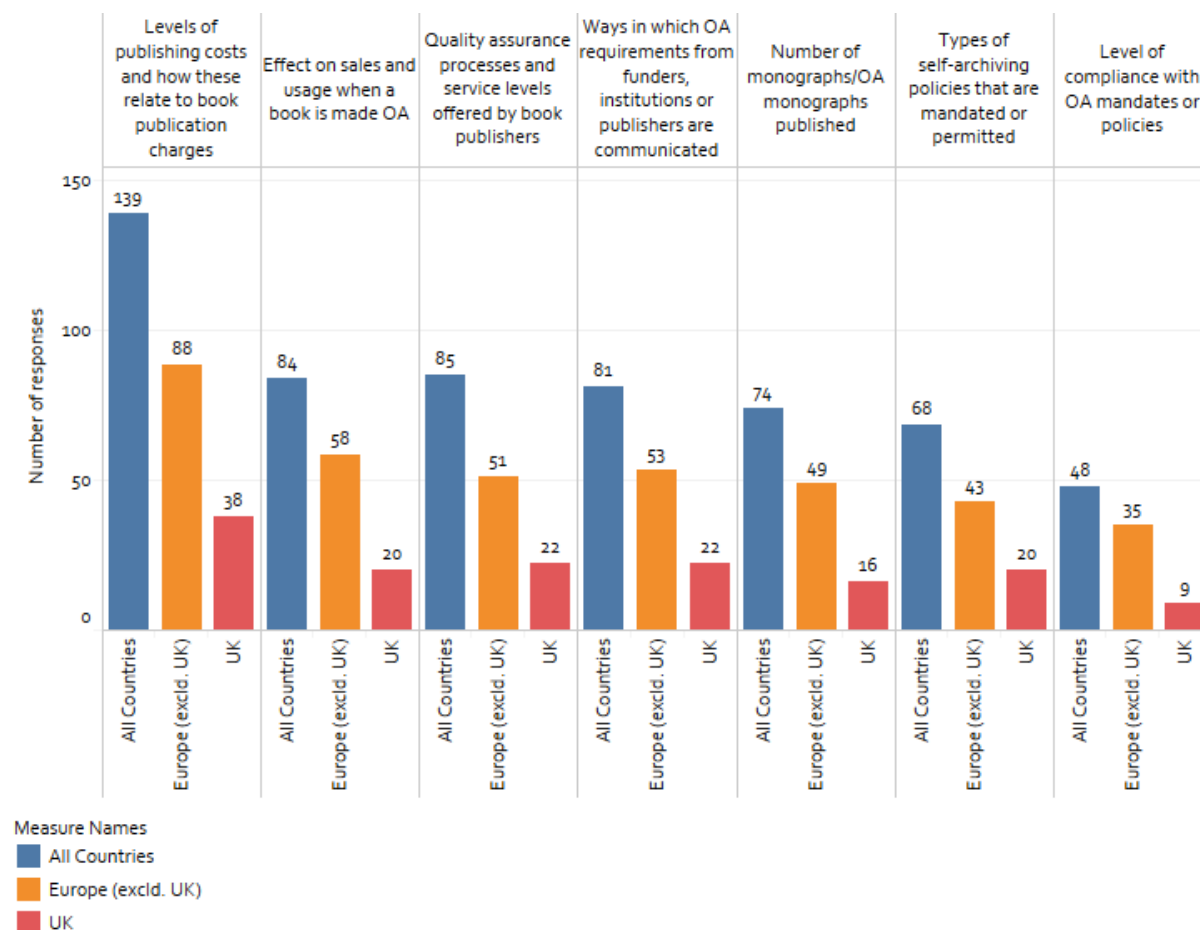

Figure 5. Information and knowledge gaps by countries groups.

3.3   Filling the knowledge gaps

The survey asked who respondents thought could do most to help fill these knowledge gaps. A total of 159 unique answers (68.2% of total survey responses) were provided by the respondents, multiple answers where possible for this question.

Figure 6 indicates a traffic light colour gradient from the highest (green) to the lowest (red) number of responses. Perhaps unsurprisingly, publishers were identified as the primary stakeholder that can fill the gap on 'levels of publishing costs and how these relate to book publication charges' (105 responses or 66% of unique responses). Publishers also ranked highly in all other areas, except in 'ways in which OA requirements from funders, institutions or publishers are communicated' and 'level of compliance with OA mandates or policies'. The stakeholders with the highest responses for the former were universities, and funders and libraries, with funders and policymakers identified for the latter.

	Publishers	Libraries	Universities and research institutions	Academics	Funders	National policymakers	International policymakers	Intermediaries / distributors	Total
Levels of publishing costs and how these relate to book publication charges	105	34	53	22	55	38	27	16	350
Quality assurance processes and service levels offered by book publishers	57	22	28	28	21	20	11	9	196
Effect on sales and usage when a book is made OA	52	26	19	8	18	22	12	18	175
Number of monographs/OA monographs published	41	24	28	27	26	19	14	9	188
Ways in which OA requirements from funders, institutions or publishers are communicated	37	34	54	14	52	35	22	4	252
Types of self-archiving policies that are mandated or permitted	37	27	29	11	38	38	27	3	210
Level of compliance with OA mandates or policies	16	17	31	12	28	28	21	2	155

Figure 6. Stakeholders that can support filling the knowledge gaps.

3.4 Status of open access monographs across countries

Respondents were asked to think about open access monographs in their own countries, and to assess if a series of statements were true or untrue. 149 (64%) respondents answered this question.

Figure 7 shows that the majority of answers fell in the 'Mixed' category, with the highest number of responses going to 'Academics have positive attitude towards OA monographs', which suggests a certain amount of uncertainty in these areas. However, the number of answers under 'Generally untrue' and 'almost always untrue' showed a high response rate in the options 'Good co-ordination between organisations', 'Workable plan on how to achieve open access for monographs' and 'Enough funding available'. There is a clear indication that none of the statements in the survey are seen as largely 'true', and that funding is clearly a major issue, especially with reference to issues around 'Levels of publishing costs and how these relate to book publication charges' as shown above.
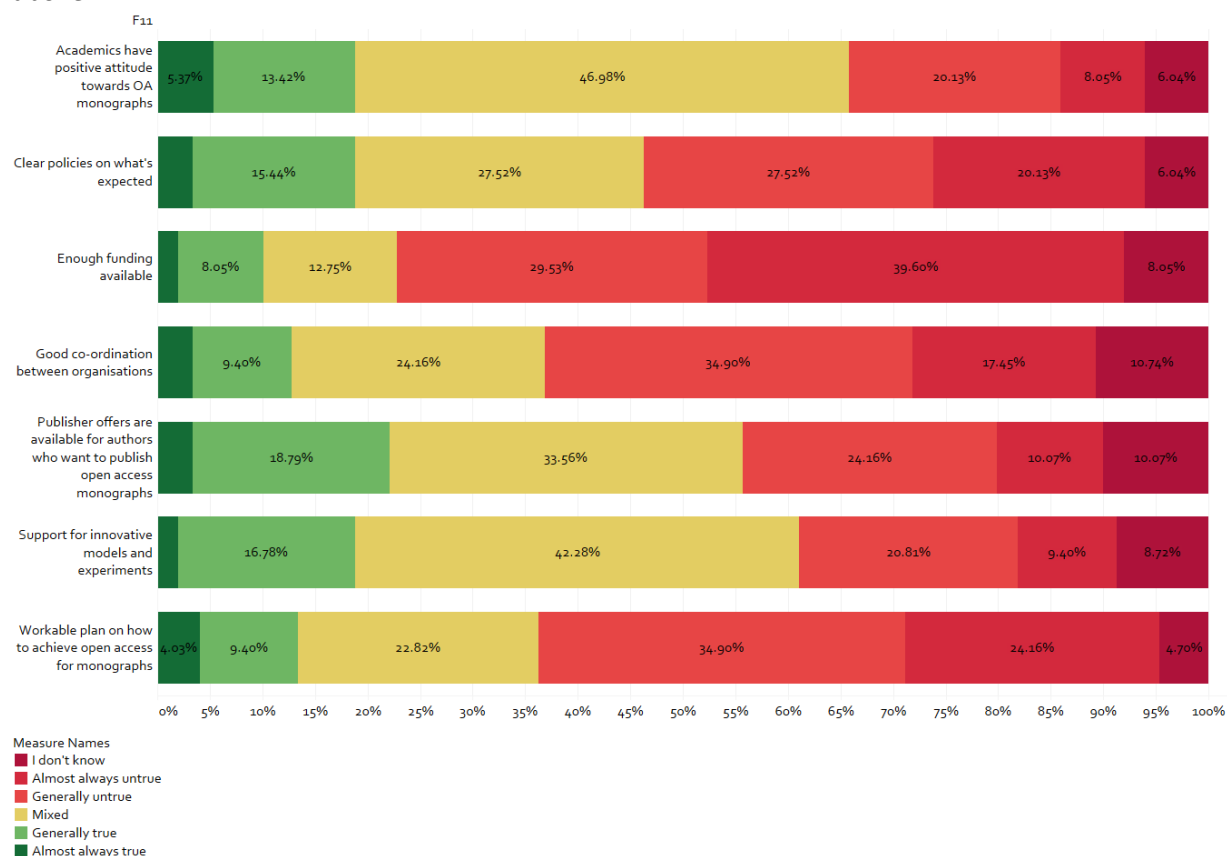

Figure 7. Status of open access monographs across countries

Figure 8 illustrates how responses were distributed across the option 'Academics have positive attitude towards OA monographs' for the groups referred above. The figure shows similar answer patterns when the results are compared with those provided by all respondents in Figure 6.

Academics have positive attitude towards OA monographs	Academic library	University	University: Author / Reader	Research funder	Publisher	Grand Total
Almost always true		2	1		2	8
Generally true	5	1	4	2	2	20
Mixed	22	4	9	1	9	70
Generally untrue	10	4	5	1	2	30
Almost always untrue	4	1	1	1		12
I don't know	2		1			9
Grand Total	43	12	37	5	15	149

Figure 8. Academics attitudes towards OA monographs

Figure 9 illustrates the distribution of responses to 'Enough funding available'. The majority of responses, in particular from academic libraries, stated that it is almost always untrue that enough funding available.

Enough funding available	Academic library	University	University: Author/Reader	Research funder	Publisher	Grand Total
Almost always untrue	19	7	9	1	6	59
Generally true	1			2		12
Mixed	5	2	3	2	2	19
Generally untrue	13	3	8		7	44
Almost always true	1					3
I don't know	4		1			12
Grand Total	43	12	38	5	15	149

Figure 9. Enough funding available

A number of additional comments 29 (12.4%) were received regarding this question. Overall, the comments highlighted issues in seven areas (some comments covered more than one theme):

» **Funding** (7 responses made reference to issues regarding funding). The question of funding was seen to be at an early stage for some, while others noted that it was dispersed depending on the type of institution or discipline. One publisher and a research funder noted that funding needed to be increased

» **Publishers** (6 responses). The option to publish in open access were noted by publishers, while the cost of fees were noted by one academic library. The need to ensure quality and good peer review was also noted as well as the issue of 'predatory publishers'

» **Authors/researchers** (3 responses). The need to raise awareness was noted by one research funder

» **Funders** (3 responses). The need for coordination between funders and academics was noted by one academic library

» **University presses** (3 responses). The rise of new university presses publishing OA monographs was raised by two responses, one from North America and one from Europe.

» **OA Monographs policies** (10 responses). Uncertainties around policies and the need for better communication came from funders and libraries. Green open access, the fact that monographs are behind journals with regards to open access policies and the need for policy makers, funders, publishers and institutions "to develop viable, sustainable and affordable options for OA monograph publishing before implementing mandates" were raised

» **Disciplines** (2 responses). One university noted that STEM subjects were in favour of open access, whereas HSS subjects were concerned about open access.

3.5 Most typical attitude of groups towards open access monographs

Respondents were asked how they would describe the most typical attitude of defined groups towards open access for monographs in their own countries. Overall, 149 unique answers (64% of total responses) were provided. Figure 10 shows the responses by stakeholder group. Librarians were identified as the most actively supportive (84 responses, 56.4%) whereas intermediaries/distributors were seen as the least interested group (43 responses, 29%). Interestingly, funders were seen to have no clear pattern of support, as were publishers, academics and universities and research organisations to some extent.
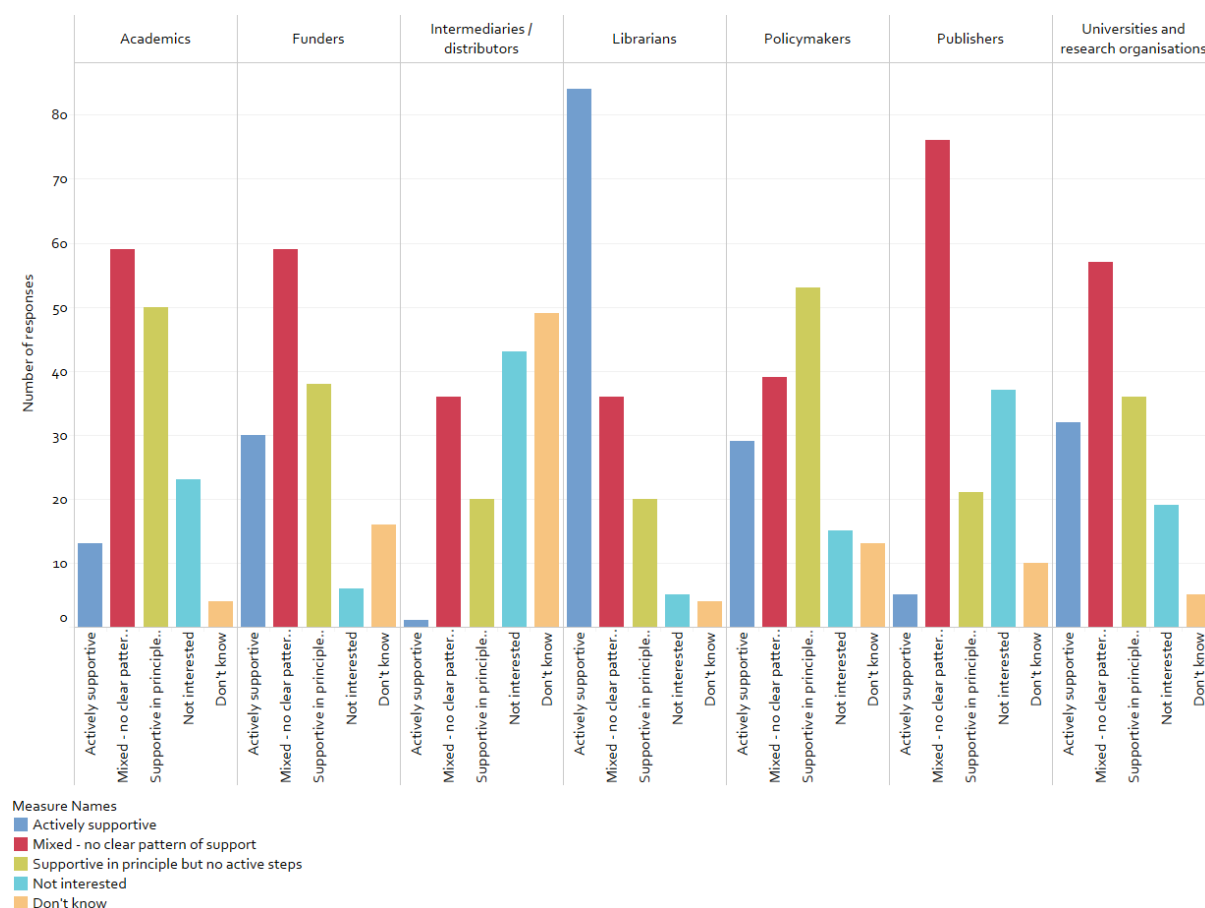

Figure 10. Attitude towards open access monographs by group

3.6 Main priorities for the further development of open access monographs

Thinking about their main role, respondents were asked what they thought were the main priorities for the further development of open access monographs in their country. Respondents were asked to rank each option. 142 (61% of total responses) respondents answered the question. Figure 11 shows that the majority of responses were categorised as very important or quite important. Further analysis by country did not bring back any meaningful data at that level of granularity.

Better infrastructure ranked highly, as did better funding and better rewards for authors. Stricter enforcement of mandates was seen as the least important.
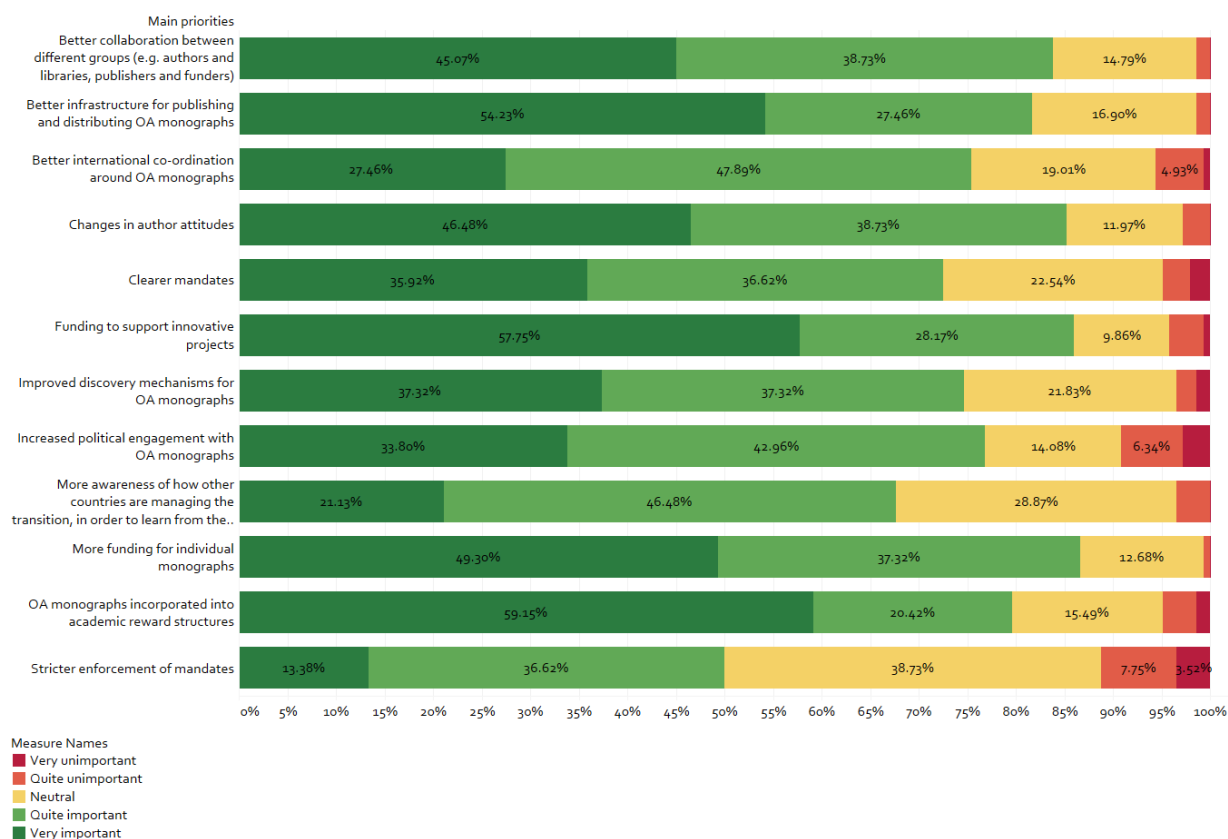
Main priorities	Very important	Quite important	Neutral	Quite unimportant	Very unimportant
Better collaboration between different groups (e.g. authors and libraries, publishers and funders)	45.07%	38.73%	14.79%		
Better infrastructure for publishing and distributing OA monographs	54.23%	27.46%	16.90%		
Better international co-ordination around OA monographs	27.46%	47.89%	19.01%	4.93%	
Changes in author attitudes	46.48%	38.73%	11.97%		
Clearer mandates	35.92%	36.62%	22.54%		
Funding to support innovative projects	57.75%	28.17%	9.86%		
Improved discovery mechanisms for OA monographs	37.32%	37.32%	21.83%		
Increased political engagement with OA monographs	33.80%	42.96%	14.08%	6.34%	
More awareness of how other countries are managing the transition, in order to learn from the..	21.13%	46.48%	28.87%		
More funding for individual monographs	49.30%	37.32%	12.68%		
OA monographs incorporated into academic reward structures	59.15%	20.42%	15.49%		
Stricter enforcement of mandates	13.38%	36.62%	38.73%	7.75%	3.52%

Measure Names
- Very unimportant
- Quite unimportant
- Neutral
- Quite important
- Very important

Figure 11. Main priorities for the further development of open access monographs

4.0   Emerging themes

Respondents were given the opportunity to comment on a number of areas regarding measures that worked well (in their organisation or country and other countries), blockages in the system and what they saw as the biggest risk to the ongoing development of open access monographs. It should be noted that many respondents did not describe actual examples while others referred to best practice already outlined in the landscape study. However, a number of key themes emerged and these have been grouped together below.

4.1   OA monograph policies and funder engagement

Austria was held up by a number of respondents as a leader in this area. For example, one comment stated "I would like to have clear paths for researchers to apply for funding like they do in Austria". Switzerland and the Wellcome Trust were also noted as having provision for funding for individual OA monographs, although it was noted that the success rate of these policies is not known. A UK publisher also highlighted that the "Wellcome Trust's combination of advocacy, policy support for gold OA and funding has been important in driving the debate, helping to change the culture, and increasing the number of OA monographs published". The publication fund at the Technical University of Berlin, available to researchers since April 2018 in order to fund open access monographs and anthologies was also mentioned as an area of best practice. It was noted by an author/reader in Sweden that funding there was beginning to work. The US was also cited as a good example for funding mechanisms, such as Mellon and also collective funding models.

It was also observed that institutional funding in the UK is beginning to become available for OA monographs. It was viewed as "a start and if this can produce some positive results practices may become better established". In addition, the lead taken by Research England in the UK was also highlighted, "I would also want to see that the systems for gaining academic merit are supportive of OA and digital monographs in the same way as the REF in Great Britain". The consultation on the

second Research Excellence Framework (REF) in UK was also noted as a best practice case. One US respondent noted "HEFCE's clear leadership in the conversation about OA monograph mandates in the UK". However, one UK author/reader thought that the 2027 REF mandate for open access monographs was the biggest risk. Another thought that a strong green policy might also be a risk. Conversely, another response considered the risk being not implementing a mandate for open access monographs.

An author/reader highlighted the Royal Historical Society's introduction of a no-fee OA monograph series for early career researchers. A UK research funder also commented that "[o]ur support for multiple routes to OA monographs (book processing charges and self-archiving) enables authors the widest choice of publisher for their work".

Library crowdfunding from collection budgets, which result in no author-facing fees were cited as best practice, using Open Library of Humanities as an example from the Open access journals world, "[w]e need something similar for book[s]". Knowledge Unlatched was also referred to in this area. An example from Canada noted an agreement between the Library and the 'Press' to finance four new monographs on open access ($10,000 each) and that this has been very successful

Regarding funding, a publisher commented that their expected print sales were taken into account when calculating the book processing charge (BPC) and that this was not 'double dipping'.

15 comments were received around the lack of funding as a blockage, while 18 respondents believed that this was the biggest risk for open access monographs. Countries represented in the comments were France, Finland, Germany, Sweden, Ireland, the UK, Netherlands and the US and included libraries, authors/readers and publishers.

It was suggested that too much work was going into journal offsetting deals and resolving issues around the total cost of ownership and that more work around the funding of open access monographs was required, although this was not elaborated upon in the comment. This was accompanied with a call for social sciences and humanities authors to get involved (see also author awareness and engagement). Another comment referred to the time and resources it takes libraries and research offices to ensure compliance for journal open access policies and that this affects the resources that can be contributed to the delivery of open access monographs.

One view from an academic library was that "Authors feel that they are faced with requirements to publish OA and no clue as to how they can achieve this. A lot of effort is put into searching for possibilities to comply with funder requirements that should better be turned towards writing and performing research. As a result humanities research is disadvantaged as compared to disciplines with a focus on articles in journals". Another respondent considered that "academics are frightened of mandates compelling them to publish OA without any support or funding to do so". Furthermore, a view from a UK author/reader was that a top down approach where authors were forced was a risk and would be seen as a threat rather than an opportunity.

There were four comments about the lack of incentives. Recognition or reward systems for authors who wished to publish open access and that this in itself caused a blockage. Building on lack of incentives, there were further comments on the lack of national guidelines or policies.

A further comment observed that policies which feature CC BY as a requirement were alienating Humanities scholars. "It's just a step too far for them to have to, as they see it, allow other people to exploit their work, and to change it. It feels like giving up control over something they care deeply about. Some OA campaigners are too evangelical about the positives and don't deal with the perceived negatives of OA."

4.2 University Presses, Academic-Led publishing and traditional publishers

This particular theme included many comments from outside of Europe and North America. A number noted that open access monograph presses were being set up in the library, although no specific examples were given.

Library as publisher initiatives in UK universities and their support for OA monographs were mentioned, particularly UCL, White Rose (as an example of a consortia press) and the commitment of LSE Press to monograph publishing (LSE launched after the KE landscape study was published). UCL's distribution via JSTOR was also highlighted.

US initiatives were also cited, particularly Michigan University Library, which "has a very effective publishing wing that I would like to emulate in our Library", Lever Press and Luminous Press, "We worked on publishing one book with U of California Press's Luminos initiative. The whole experience was highly positive and informative: starting with the selection of the title for the OA-funded programme, through very good communications from the editor about the procedures, licences etc. to the production phase itself, and high-quality output/final book. University of California Press has been excellent also at providing usage data and so forth on request". The TOME initiative in the US was also mentioned, it includes 13 institutions and is seen as "a good way of introducing the conversation which will gather momentum as examples start to be published". The distribution of costs was also seen as "a sensible way aligned with the interests of the main stakeholders"

Of note in Norway were Universitetsforlaget and NOASP (Cappelen Damm Akademisk), it was thought that they had "done a good job developing their practice of offering OA publishing of monographs. They understand the need for OA and they are willing to explore the field of publishing OA monographs in cooperation with scholars and universities"

Stockholm, Helsinki and Aalborg University Presses were also referred to as best practice initiatives, as were the support of the university presses in Germany, "which mandate OA without expecting any financial return to the institution. The best solution, if the institutions agree to afford it!" Other presses mentioned that have not been named in the landscape study include: založba Univerze na Primroskem in Slovenia and the University Press of Potsdam in Germany, which publishes open access monographs with print copies for sale.

Lack of institutional support was seen as an issue for new university presses. There was also one comment that considered them as a 'red herring', "and probably not the best way of enabling change (I'm happy to be proved wrong though!)". Linking university presses to issues around quality, a further comment referred to the "sub-optimal attempt at creating a university press, where non-professionals (librarians, university administrators, etc.) are working with publishing less efficiently than a professional publisher would".

A number of comments were made regarding academic-led publishing. Language Science Press was highlighted as being innovative and leading open access in linguistics, Media Commons Press was cited as "challenging the form of the monograph".

While comments were largely positive towards new university presses and academic-led publishing, a number of comments were received about 'traditional' publishing being a blockage in the system. Lack of adoption and support from traditional or commercial publishers was seen as a risk by some academic libraries and author/readers. Indeed, others suggested that publishers were guilty of "misinformation, lobbying, [and] subversion" against open access. A further comment suggested that the lack of a "viable and sustainable business model for OA publishing by major (prestige) publishers which operates at no or minimal cost to authors" was also a blockage in the system. Lack of transparency was also seen as a risk.

In a related comment, it was suggested that there was a risk of the 'enclosure' or 'co-option' of open access or the big deal for monographs from large publishers. This view was expressed by academic libraries, author/readers and some publishers (presumably New University Presses) in North America and Europe.

4.3   Publishing platforms

A number of platforms were highlighted: OAPEN and DOAB, Knowledge Unlatched, Scalar in the US and Open Edition in France. The Leibniz-Informationszentrum Wirtschaft in Hamburg and Kiel was cited as innovative and having the possibilities to develop new services or software. Heidelberg University's innovative presentation of books was also mentioned. The open access server for Aarhus University (http://ebooks.au.dk/index.php/aul) was also cited for its ease of use, although it was noted that there is no review process. Institutional repositories such as the Bridge of Knowledge and Pomeranian Digital Library were also highlighted.

However, two comments referred to the need for a better platform for OA monographs. Lack of discovery was also highlighted by a number of comments from the US and the Netherlands, particularly around flags in MARC records leading to better awareness

4.4   Quality

Issues around quality was seen as a major blockage to open access monographs. There were a number of comments around quality and peer review, one UK author/reader summed this up by saying "[p]rovide clear peer review processes and quality standards for OA publishers. Without these OA has no credibility for demonstrable research excellence and institutional reward processes". A further comment suggested that the vanity publishing label needed to be addressed. To a certain extent, this comment supported a comment from a library in South Africa, which stated that there was a "view that open access is of lower quality and associating open access with predator publishing".

A UK publisher commented that there would be a "general degradation of serious book publishing" and that "[t]he value added to Humanities books by publishers could be lost, and at the same time the broader appeal of those books could be lost too (to a degree), so that more books end up being pumped out but they are read by even less people". Another respondent stated that "early career scholars having to choose between renowned publishers to boost their cv in hypercompetitive world or sticking to OA demands of Dutch funding organizations".

Peer review was also raised, "[t]he fear that 'free' means 'cheap and non-peer-reviewed' or 'not as valuable'. We need to continue to show and support strict review measures in order to prove that OA materials can be, and should be, of more value than the materials that are published and require a subscription fee". One respondent believed that the biggest risk was "the absence of a peer review process for the e-books".

There was a further concern from a Dutch author/reader that "monographs would remain text/PDF based and do not become modern collections of knowledge, but user stories".

Prestige is related in many ways to perceptions around quality and three comments reported that there was no prestige/merit in open access publishing and that authors' careers may be harmed.

On a positive note, Stockholm University Press was highlighted as a good example with their streamlined quality assurance process for open access monographs.

4.5   Author awareness and engagement

It was suggested in comments from Poland and India, that the only blockage was the lack of awareness. This was supported by a Dutch respondent commenting that their authors were willing to publish in open access.

However, other comments suggested that there was a certain amount of author resistance. An author/reader in the UK suggested that "[a]cademics are not aware or interested in OA monographs", another comment from Switzerland noted that compliance and interest from academics, their disciplines and faculties was missing. Another response indicated that academics were hostile towards open access while indifference, lack of interest and apathy were also stated as risks. There were also concerns around the lack of understanding of the benefits of open access.

A further comment suggested that it was not known what would happen if authors were not compliant. It was also thought that high BPC costs led to lack of academic buy-in.

It was suggested by a German library respondent that an increase in awareness would result in "new chances for small and medium publishers"

One comment felt that "researchers feel they have to publish with certain prestigious publishers otherwise their careers could be harmed", another that the status of the publisher was important for a CV, but not whether the work was open access. A Swiss comment noted that "PhD candidates have to give the university the right to publish their monograph OA".

Current practice in Finland, where academic posts are advertised specifying the research outputs that are expected was suggested as best practice as "a way to formalize the funding of the publishing side of such obligations. If a job requires specific outputs to be published, then the means to publish them ought to be made available".

4.6   Business models

There were a number of concerns related to the business model of open access monographs. Particularly around the lack of experimentation and the adoption of an APC paradigm due to the main models for open access monographs being "predicated on those developed for journal articles", another highlighted the fear of reinventing the wheel. One Swedish author/reader noted that there needed to be several business models for open access monographs, although a German university press expressed concerns around too many single models leading to a confusing diversity. Two authors/readers also expressed concerns around the sustainability of business models.

4.7   Costs

Related to concerns over business models, were concerns over costs. There were 20 comments about the high costs of open access book processing charges from respondents in the UK, Netherlands, Finland and Germany. The comments were from both academic libraries and authors/readers. Another area that received comments was the lack of transparency of publishing charges, comments from Germany and the US referred to the obfuscation of costs by publishers. A further response suggested that open access for monographs may be more expensive than the current system.

4.8   Collaboration

Collaboration received a number of comments in the area of best practice and a number of examples were noted. For example, partnerships between publishers and libraries (US) and also learned societies (Finnish Literature Society and Helsinki University Library). In particular, it was noted that non-commercial publishers are starting to experiment with open access publishing supported by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies. Collaboration between national stakeholders in Sweden was also highlighted.

4.9   Other themes

Other themes were also noted, but most only attracted one or two comments. Questions around measures that were working attracted comments on what was missing. For example, the need for better infrastructure, examples of best practice and clear support, the need for 'non-commercial publishing' to take the lead and a "[c]lear funding and support scheme to treat OA monographs as important as journal articles". Other comments received noted that nothing was working well at present (the Netherlands and the UK), that there was strong support but no funding (Finland) and one publisher who did not want to support open access monographs at all.

An example of preservation of OA monographs in the Netherlands was cited as best practice in this area.

Other issues raised in single comments referred to mistrust between major stakeholders, scaremongering by vested interests, lack of coordination between the stakeholders, copyright problems, and licence models.

There were also concerns around the speed and type of transition, with concerns that things would move too fast. However, one author/reader from Canada believed that there were no risks at all, another respondent from India thought that threats could be turned into opportunities with a change of mind-set. An alternative viewpoint was that OA monographs were "more pointless 'make-work' schemes by librarians".

5.0   Conclusion

The KE landscape study on open access monographs identified commonalities and differences across the eight countries in the report, areas of good practice, and important gaps in knowledge and information. The survey that followed the report attempted to help KE identify additional areas of best practice and also areas of concern in order to consider the next steps required to support progress in OA for monographs.

The survey did not return a large number of new areas of best practice, partly due to the bias in survey returns from European countries already covered in the report. However, it did surface a number of positives, such as new open access publishers (both university and scholar led) and confirmed the support of libraries in this area.

Most notably the survey identified a number of key areas of concern, which need to be addressed in order to progress a transition to open access for monographs. Lack of funding for the arts, humanities and social sciences authors in many countries go hand in hand with major concerns over publishing costs to authors (and funders). However, if authors are to move towards open access publishing, it would appear that concerns and perceptions around the lack of quality, peer review and prestige need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Furthermore, these concerns are not limited to one country or geographical area, which implies that collective action is required.

The survey did not evidence a great deal of concern around funder mandates. However, in what is a very fast moving area, the survey predates the recent announcements in France (https://libereurope.eu/blog/2018/07/05/frenchopenscienceplan/) and the European Union (https://www.scienceeurope.org/coalition-s/). Therefore, it can be implied that this area will require further work and it is needless to say that funder and policy maker involvement will have an influence on the concerns expressed in this survey.

Annex 1: Knowledge Exchange OA monographs survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete this Knowledge Exchange survey on open access monographs.

Knowledge Exchange recently published a landscape study on open access monographs. This survey will help us prioritise the next steps we should take to support the further development of OA in this area.

The survey should take about 10-15 minutes to complete. All responses are confidential and will not be shared beyond the Knowledge Exchange Task and Finish group on OA monographs.

1. Before we start, please tell us a bit about you

What is your main place of work?	
In which country is your main place of work based?	

2. The Knowledge Exchange report identified several information and knowledge gaps which affect the progress of open access monographs.

Thinking about your job, please tick all the information gaps that you think hold back the progress of OA monographs.

- [ ] Number of monographs/OA monographs published
- [ ] Level of compliance with OA mandates or policies
- [ ] Ways in which OA requirements from funders, institutions or publishers are communicated
- [ ] Quality assurance processes and service levels offered by book publishers
- [ ] Types of self-archiving policies that are mandated or permitted
- [ ] Levels of publishing costs and how these relate to book publication charges
- [ ] Effect on sales and usage when a book is made OA

3. Who do you think could do most to help fill these knowledge gaps? Please tick all that apply.

	Publishers	Libraries	Universities and research institutions	Academics	Funders	National policymakers	International policymakers	Intermediaries/distributors
Number of monographs/OA monographs published	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Level of compliance with OA mandates or policies	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ways in which OA requirements from funders, institutions or publishers are communicated	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Quality assurance processes and service levels offered by book publishers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Types of self-archiving policies that are mandated or permitted	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Levels of publishing costs and how these relate to book publication charges	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Effect on sales and usage when a book is made OA	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

* 4. Thinking about open access monographs, would you say the following things are true in your own country?

	Almost always true	Generally true	Mixed	Generally untrue	Almost always untrue	I don't know
Clear policies on what's expected	○	○	○	○	○	○
Good co-ordination between organisations	○	○	○	○	○	○
Enough funding available	○	○	○	○	○	○
Support for innovative models and experiments	○	○	○	○	○	○
Academics have positive attitude towards OA monographs	○	○	○	○	○	○
Workable plan on how to achieve open access for monographs	○	○	○	○	○	○
Publisher offers are available for authors who want to publish open access monographs	○	○	○	○	○	○

Any comments you'd like to add on your answers to this question?

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* 5. Still thinking about your own country, how would you describe the most typical attitude of these groups towards open access for monographs?

	Actively supportive	Mixed - no clear pattern of support	Supportive in principle but no active steps	Not interested	Don't know
Publishers	○	○	○	○	○
Librarians	○	○	○	○	○
Universities and research organisations	○	○	○	○	○
Funders	○	○	○	○	○
Academics	○	○	○	○	○
Policymakers	○	○	○	○	○
Intermediaries/distributors	○	○	○	○	○

6. What best describes your main role in relation to academic monographs? If you have multiple roles, please select the one where you feel you have most knowledge or experience.

○ Publisher

○ Research funder

○ Author/Reader

○ Librarian

○ National policymaker

○ International policymaker

○ Distributor/intermediary

○ Senior manager in university

○ Other (please specify)

[   ]

* 7. Do you have any other roles in relation to monographs? Please tick all that apply.

☐ Publisher

☐ Research funder

☐ Author/Reader

☐ Librarian

☐ National policymaker

☐ International policymaker

☐ Distributor/intermediary

☐ Senior manager in university

☐ Other (please specify)

[   ]

* 8. Thinking about your main role, what do you think are the main priorities for the further development of open access monographs in your country. Please rank each option.

	Very important	Quite important	Neutral	Quite unimportant	Very unimportant
More funding for individual monographs	○	○	○	○	○
Funding to support innovative projects	○	○	○	○	○
Increased political engagement with OA monographs	○	○	○	○	○
Better infrastructure for publishing and distributing OA monographs	○	○	○	○	○
Improved discovery mechanisms for OA monographs	○	○	○	○	○
Changes in author attitudes	○	○	○	○	○
Clearer mandates	○	○	○	○	○
Stricter enforcement of mandates	○	○	○	○	○
OA monographs incorporated into academic reward structures	○	○	○	○	○
Better collaboration between different groups (e.g. authors and libraries, publishers and funders)	○	○	○	○	○
Better international co-ordination around OA monographs	○	○	○	○	○
More awareness of how other countries are managing the transition, in order to learn from them	○	○	○	○	○

9. Please describe one thing you see working well somewhere else (another organisation or country) and which you wish you could introduce to your organisation or country.

10. Please describe one thing you think is currently working well in your organisation or country to support open access monographs (it can be big or very small!)

11. Please describe one blockage to open access monographs you wish you could remove from your organisation or country

12. What do you see as the biggest risk to the ongoing development of open access monographs in your organisation or country?

13. Finally, if you would like us to contact you with further information about this project, please provide your details.

What is your job title	
What is your name?	
What is your email address?	