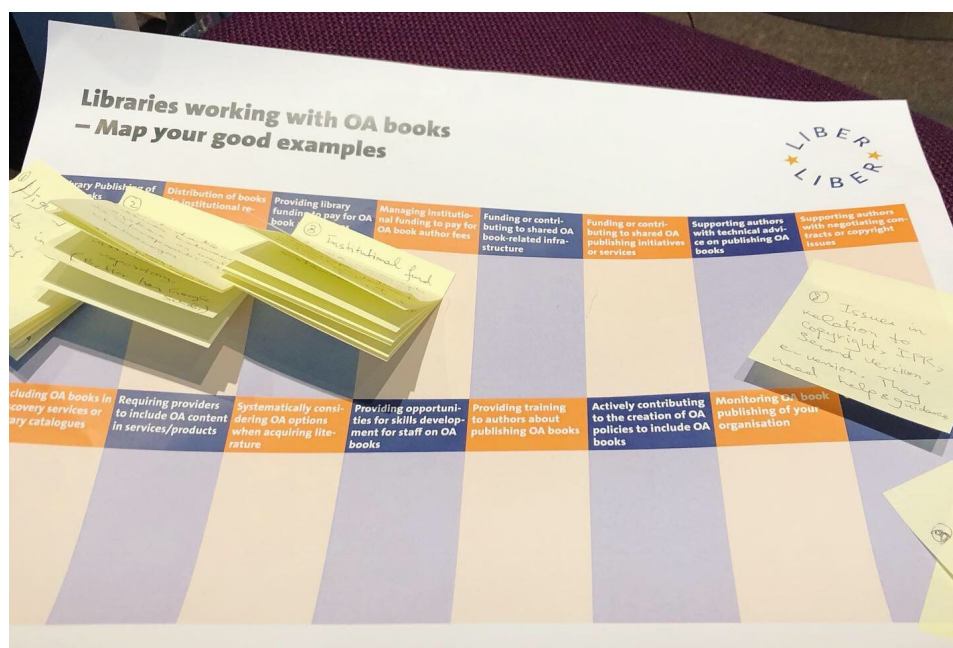LIBER Open Access Working Group Workshop

Documentation from the pre-conference workshop entitled:

Open Access Books in Academic Libraries: How Can We Adapt Workflows & Cost Management to an Open Scholarly Communications Landscape?

The participants in the workshop were asked to use their own experiences to discuss activities in research libraries related to open access books. The list of suggested activities was put together by the Open Access working group during a meeting in Hamburg in early 2019 and is based on recommendations from the [Knowledge Exchange landscape study from 2017](). The participants worked with a sheet including the 16 categories along with post-it notes and writing utensils. The table below gives an overview of the notes from the different groups.

Activity	Notes from workshop participants
1. Library publishing of OA books (incl. own university press, OJS/OMP platform or publishing office)	- Do not have the means to set up own university press - Many universities are already doing this, but some local presses struggle to gain recognition or reputation.

2. Distribution of books via a repository (own publications, green OA or archive copies)	- Jyväskylä University publishes dissertations and some monographs in a repository - There are metadata issues that prevent this. More interoperability is needed
3. Providing library funding to pay for OA book author fees	- This is something on the wishlist! - The University of Reading has a small fund that has been used occasionally, but not entirely spent. More awareness needed? €3,000 for university press publishing & €1,000 for commercial publishing is available. - Need to think about short term funding vs. sustainable funding - Can libraries subsidise some of the BPC using internal funding? - Comparison with the TOME model from the US. A collaboration between universities and university presses.
4. Manage institutional funding to pay for OA book author fees	- This is something on the wishlist! - Building university - Compare with the TOME model from the US to look at possibilities of shared funding. - Just providing systems and funding for the green route for OA books will take too long. We need a variety of funding models.
5. Supporting authors with technical advice on publishing OA books (i.e. formats, metadata)	- Do we have enough skills for this?
6. Supporting authors with negotiating contracts or copyright issues	- This is tricky from a legal perspective. Need to develop more skills? - Copyright issues are difficult - What about version management of content?
7. Providing training to authors about publishing OA books	- Working with lunch and breakfast meetings to encourage researchers to learn more about OA (max 30 min) - What do authors think about the green OA route? - Create opportunities for raising issues from academic staff, provide support and promote collaboration. - Promote this to young researchers

	- Connect training to policies and mechanisms for academic career development. - Create opportunities for short training sessions

8. Including OA books in discovery services or library catalogues	- Discovery vs. acquisition - discovery is fixable, but the acquisition is harder since suppliers don't list free content - This requires attention from the leadership - More good examples are needed in this area.
9. Requiring providers to include OA content in services/products (e.g. discovery services, database providers etc.)	- See comment above - This should be a task for the library leadership
10. Systematically considering OA options when acquiring literature	- A simple discovery tool for acquisition teams to look at when considering to purchase digital books would be a good idea.
11. Providing opportunities for skills development for staff on OA books (also as parts of Open Access or Open Science initiatives)	- Need for more skills development related to metadata - This is something that the library and university leaders need to focus on. - Can we set up "train the trainer" programs within LIBER?
12. Funding or contributing to shared OA book-related infrastructures (DOAB, OAPEN, SCOSS etc.)	- Many libraries are already doing this.
13. Funding or contributing to shared OA publishing initiatives or services (KU, OBP etc.)	- Many libraries are already doing this (but do we see results?).
14. Actively contributing to the creation of OA policies to include OA books (institutional, national or international)	- Many universities already have this, but some policies need to be reviewed/revised. - Policies to facilitate the building of infrastructure is nice, but we need to focus more on promotion and compliance for the policy to have full effect.
15. Monitoring OA book publishing of your organisation (e.g.	- Mechanisms for this are on the wishlist!

collecting publication data, usage, metrics etc.)	- We need to provide evidence for why authors should publish OA based on the results of monitoring.
16. Other	- Development of practices for altmetrics measures relevant for OA books is needed - The legal deposit mechanisms of electronic material in each country or region needs some attention here. How do we preserve OA books for future use? - Lobbying at the government level is also needed.

Collecting the best ideas

The groups were asked to each nominate at least one thing that was done in their libraries to be used as a good example, and one thing that they would like to do in the near future to put on the wishlist. The results of this exercise were the following notes.

Good Examples of activities done in libraries

- University Presses who send metadata about published books to DOAB, OAPEN & BASE (*example: Stockholm University Press*)
- Libraries which provide funding for OA books, for which authors can apply (*example: University of Reading*)
- Collaboration between organisations to add scale to publishing activities (*example: White Rose University Press*)
- Expanding the repository to include OA books (including creating awareness for the service)
- Hosting breakfast or lunch meetings to showcase OA support for researchers (*example: Södertörn University*)
- Including OA books in discovery services and catalogues (*examples: Exeter University, TU Dublin, ZBW Leibniz Information Centre for Economics, RCSI, University of Toulouse, French National Bibliographic Agency*)

Wishlist of things that libraries would like to do in the future

- Shared guidelines for metadata requirements for OA books
- Buy-in from university management (funding to develop systems and services)
- More work with skills development for librarians (on an organisational and individual level)
- Mapping the needed infrastructure for libraries
- Find a simple way to work with moving metadata between systems, more interoperability
- Working out when and where decisions to acquire OA literature is made
- Global registry of OA books