# OAPEN Open Access Books Toolkit
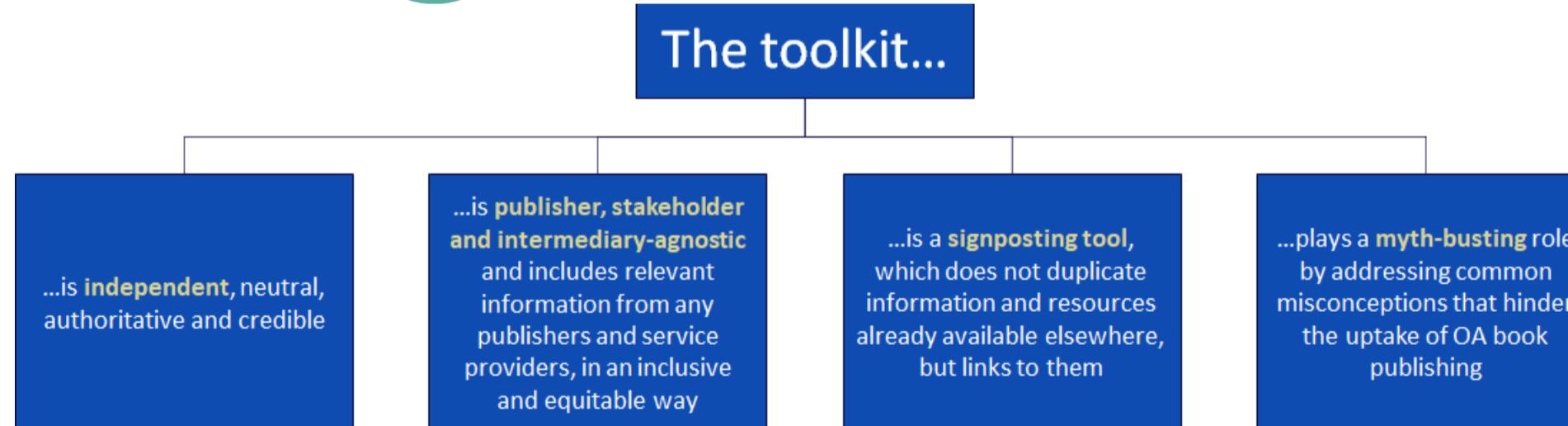
*An Open Resource on Open Access Books: Helping Authors to Better Understand Open Access Book Publishing*

**open** Open Access
Publishing in European Networks

## 1 Context

• There is growing interest in making academic books open access (OA), with the **number of OA books increasing** each year along with the introduction of additional funder mandates.

• However, **limited awareness** amongst authors as well as a **lack of understanding** and common misconceptions about licensing and quality, form barriers in the transition to Open Access for books.

• Within the context of open scholarship this calls for an **open resource** that is easy to use, kept up-to-date and relevant for researchers and research support worldwide.

• This has resulted in the concept of an **Open Access Books Toolkit**: making it easy for authors to find the information they need to publish their research as an open access book.

• The toolkit is going to be launched by the end of September 2020. The toolkit will be further developed over time with new resources based on **user feedback**.

## 2 What is it?

### The toolkit…

| …is **independent**, neutral, authoritative and credible | …is publisher, stakeholder **and intermediary-agnostic** and includes relevant information from any publishers and service providers, in an inclusive and equitable way | …is a **signposting tool**, which does not duplicate information and resources already available elsewhere, but links to them | …plays a **myth-busting** role by addressing common misconceptions that hinder the uptake of OA book publishing |

This toolkit consists of practical guidelines, helpful information and links to other resources around OA book publishing, gathered and curated by community experts. It will be a free-to-access resource to:
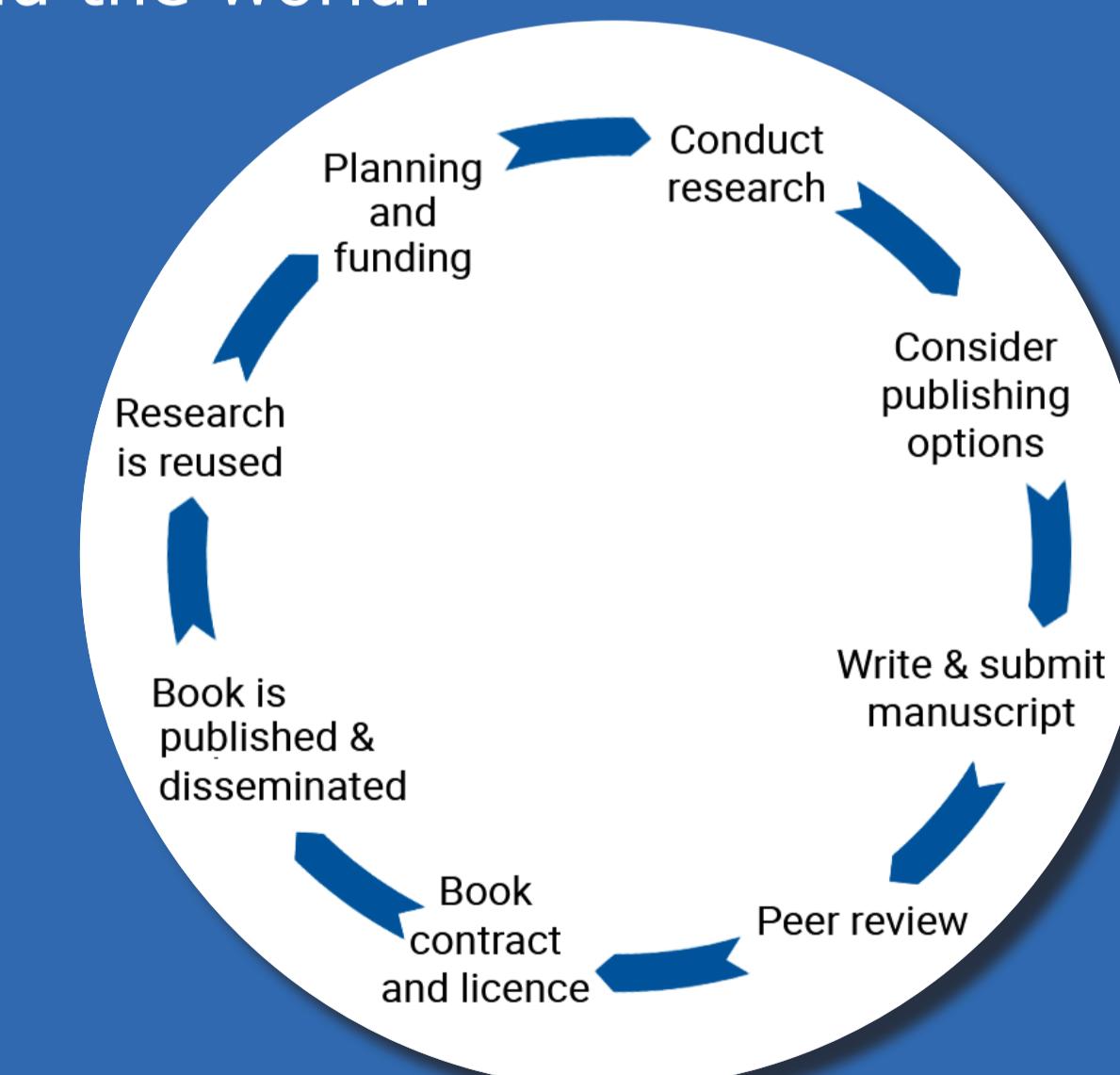
• Help authors better understand OA for books
• Support trust in OA book publishing
• Provide reliable and easy-to-find answers to questions from authors
• Provide guidance in the process of making a book open access

The toolkit will receive regular updates, carrying a timestamp for the last update on each page.

## 3 How is the OAPEN Open Access Books toolkit helpful for researchers?

The toolkit helps **past, current or prospective book authors** by answering questions around how to publish their research as an OA book. The toolkit takes authors to the right content they need, depending on where they are in the **research lifecycle**.

The toolkit covers different elements relevant to authors from different disciplines all around the world.

Planning and funding → Conduct research → Consider publishing options → Write & submit manuscript → Peer review → Book contract and licence → Book is published & disseminated → Research is reused →

## 4 Who are the main partners?

This unique resource is being developed by founding members OAPEN, Springer Nature and the University of Glasgow Information Services based on workshops hosted by the Universities of Glasgow, Oxford and Utrecht.

Additionally, a broad and diverse Editorial Advisory Board is involved with the development of the toolkit – including authors, publishers, research support staff, and other key stakeholders.

## 5 Schedule and Launch — stay informed!

The OAPEN Open Access Books Toolkit is going to launch on 30 September 2020 and will be regularly updated. We invite you to share this important resource with your network of researchers.

Sign up to receive an email about the toolkit launch and upcoming webinars at http://eepurl.com/g5fuFr or contact Tom Mosterd, Community Manager at OAPEN. t.mosterd@oapen.org

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