Infrastructing the Open Book Collective

Joe Deville [@joe_dev]

Open Book Collective / Mattering Press / Lancaster University

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Looking back: OASPA talk, 2019

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Joe Deville

Lancaster University
Twitter: @joe_dev

Infrastructures as "experimental material-semiotic practices interweaving social, economic, political and legal orderings with moral reasoning and technical networks that inevitably produce new and unpredictable assemblages that reconfigure the world"

(Calkins & Rottenburg 2016)

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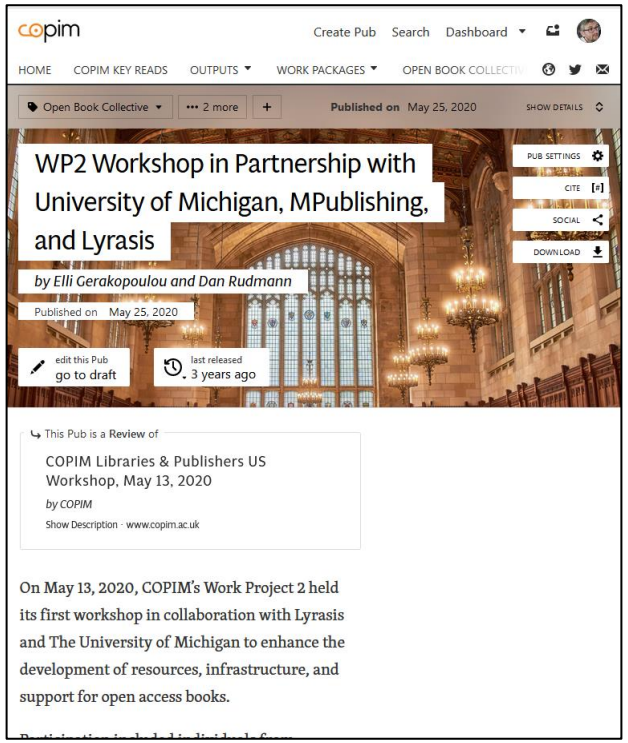
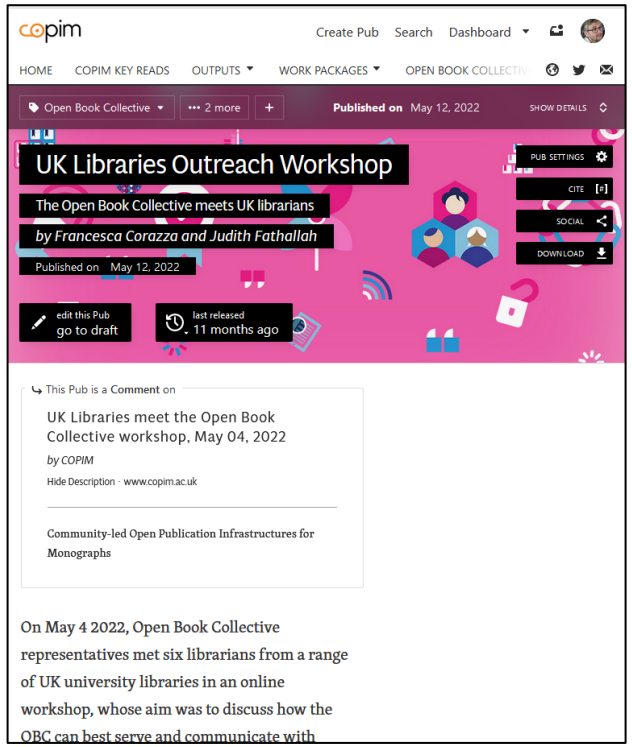
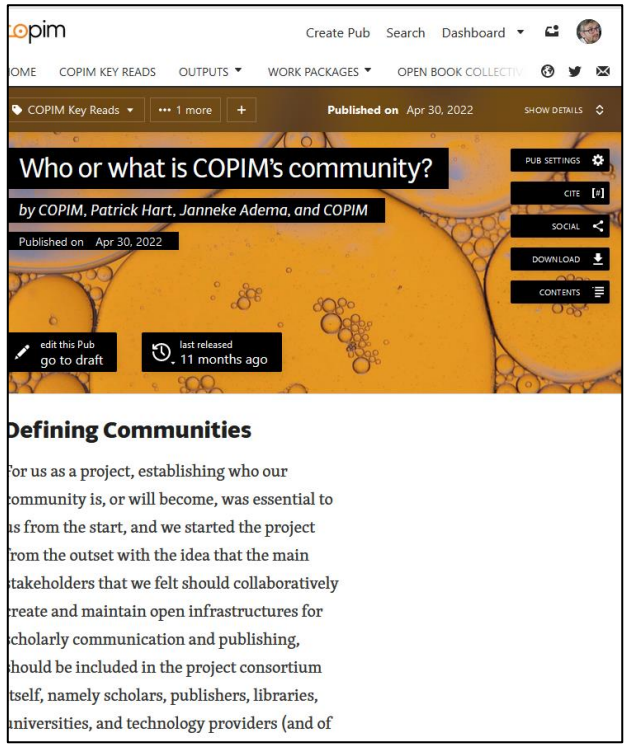
1. From infrastructures to (practices of) infrastructuring

Not … what is being built?
but … what relations are being put into play?

Meeting our communities







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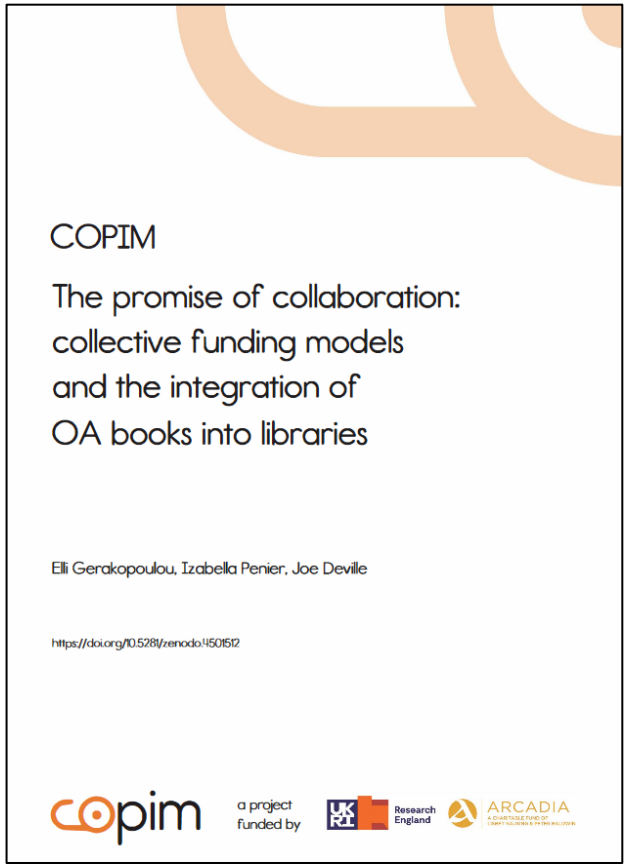
Researching the landscape



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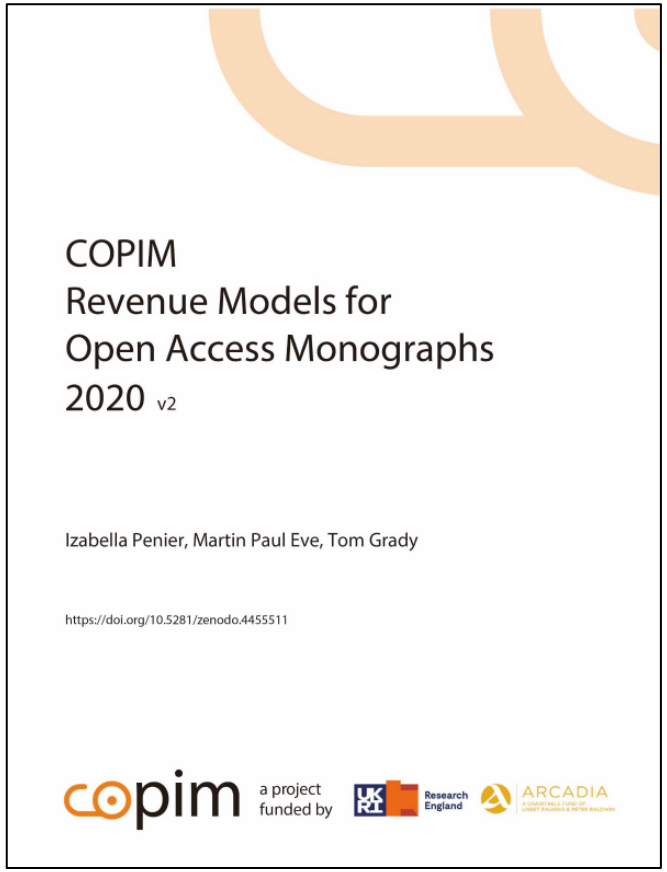

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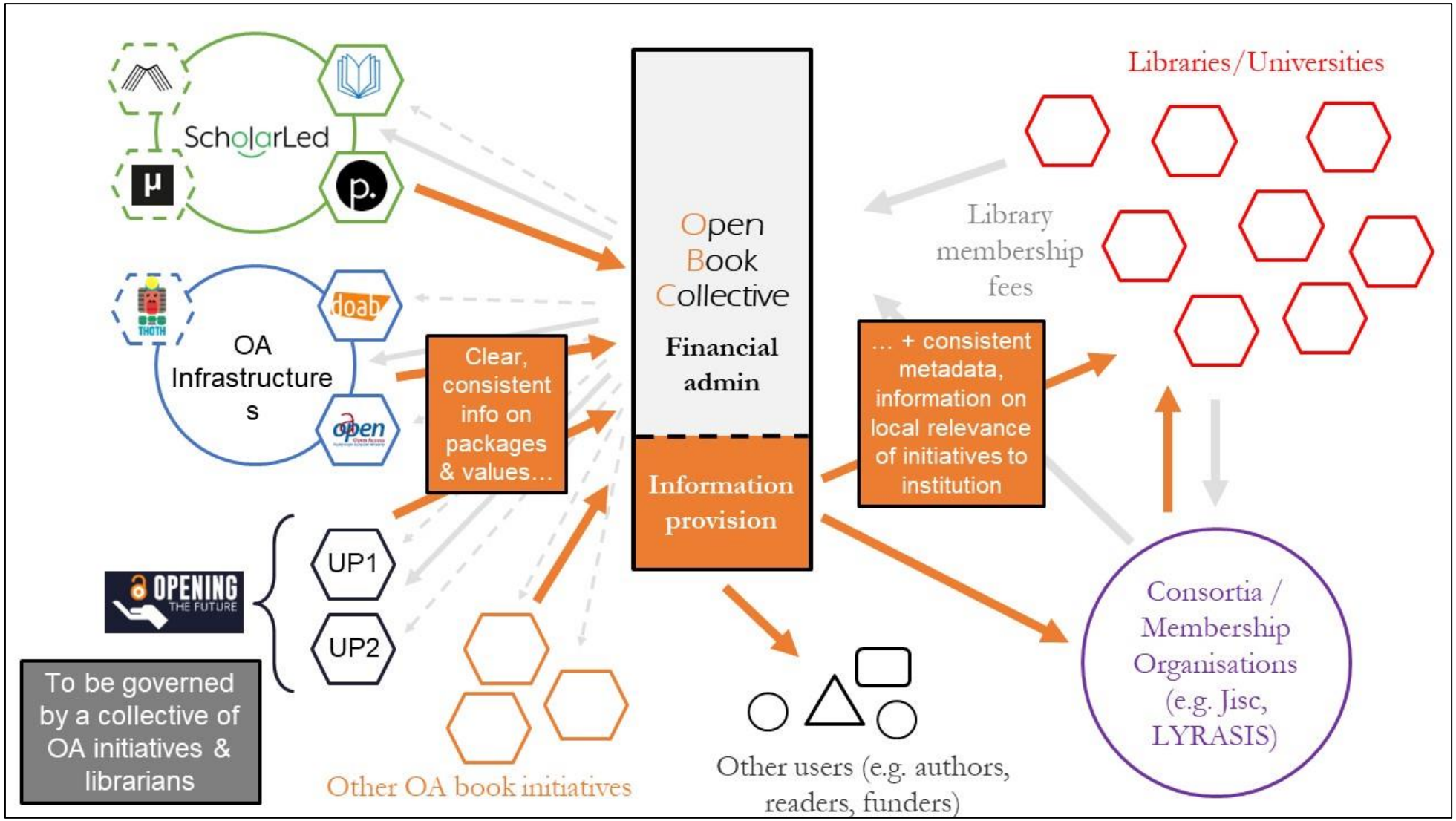
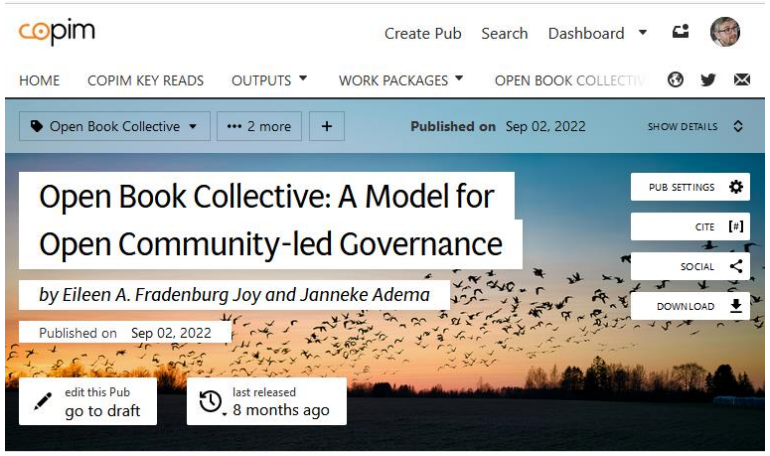
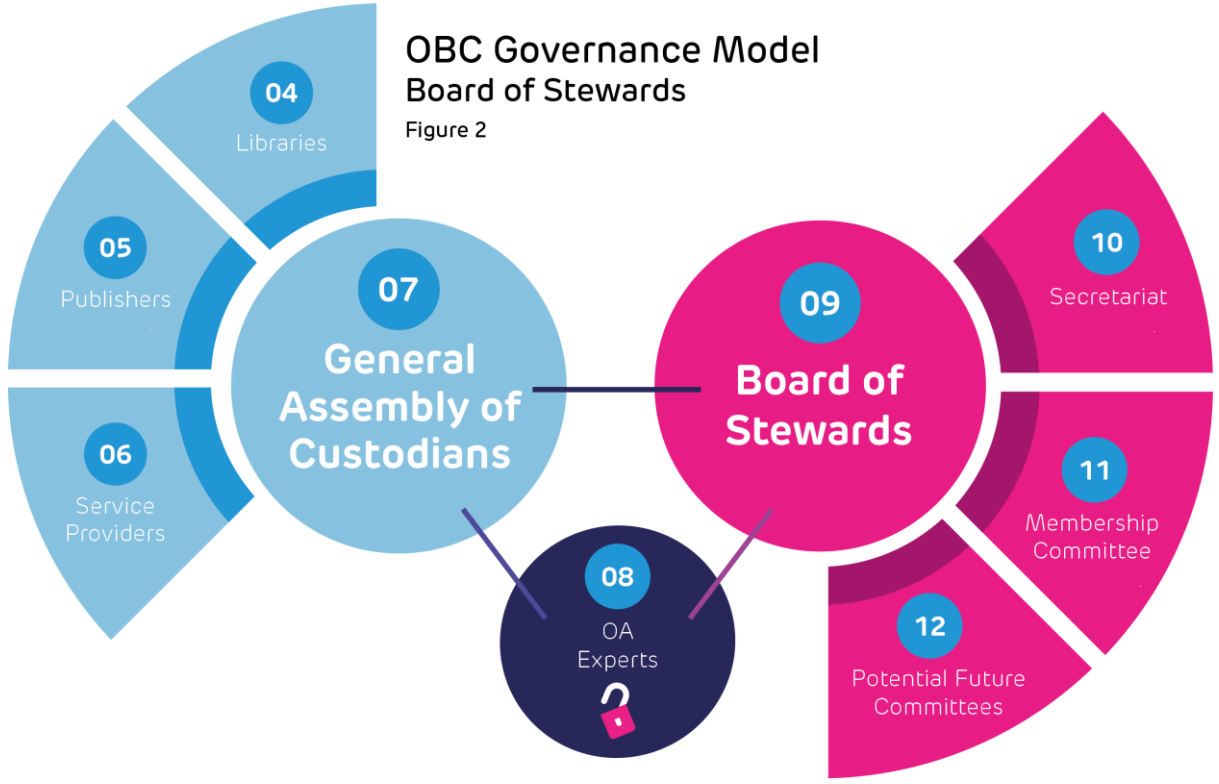
Building an organisational & legal model



Building a governance model



We're thrilled to announce today that the Open Book Collective (OBC) has finalized its founding organisational governance model and we're excited to share that with the larger community of open access (OA) stakeholders who are collectively working on the transformation of



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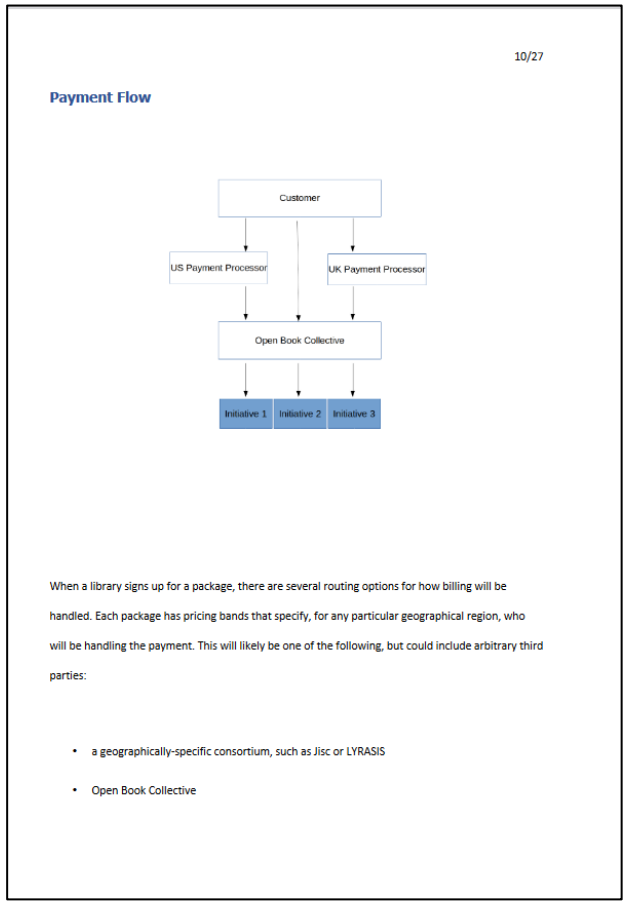
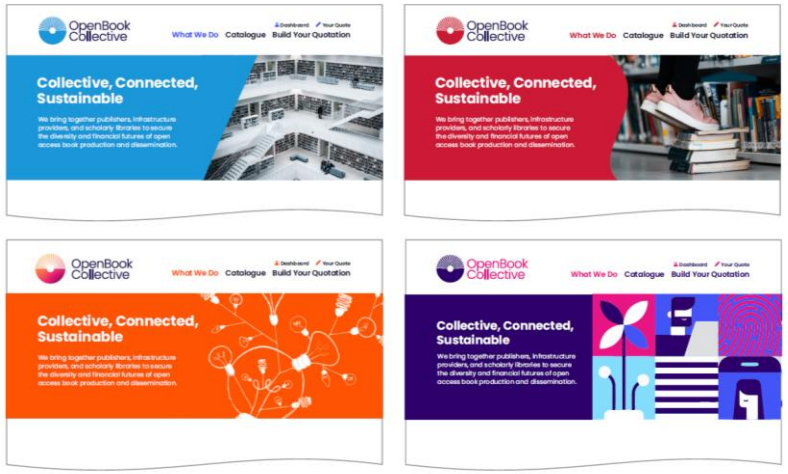
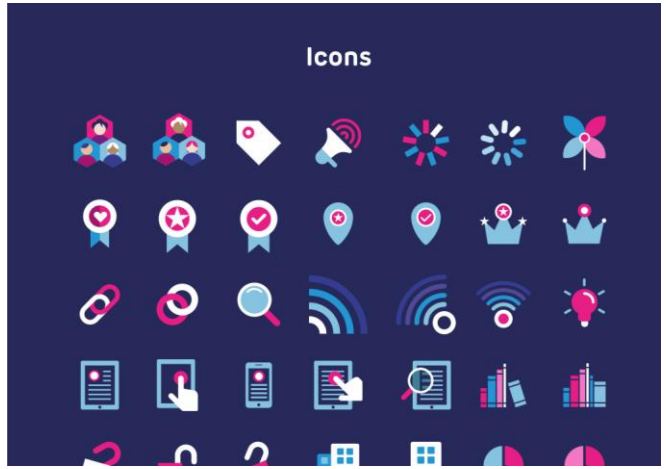
Building a platform



Site specifications





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.. but so much infrastructuring work is hidden

Coordination work (across timezones), emotional labour, political negotiations, changing specifications.. etc

The case against Book Processing Charges

Expensive & inefficent

£10,000 - £11,000 for larger commercial presses

£4,500 - £6,000
for smaller, non-profit presses

Unequal

Likely only accessible by researchers on large research grants (as things stand, in the UK)

Likely more accessible to later career scholars in more secure academic positions

Likely to only be affordable by academics in wealthier national contexts

Stultifying

Reproduces a ‘thin’ version of Open Access – universal access as a benefit not a necessity

Entrenches commercial publishing monopolies

A failure of imagination, including of infrastructural possibilities

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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

A tour of the OBC site

For libraries / institutions

Aggregation
Acting as a membership package aggregator & discovery portal

Relevance
Quick & consistent information about values / priorities / subject focus of initiatives (including full book catalogue)

Due diligence
Expert scrutiny of peer review practices, governance procedures, business models

Workflow
One procurement process, integration with third party payment arrangements, consolidated contracts

For publishers/service providers

Workflow

OBC manages invoicing, contracting, payment flows, making offering membership programmes possible for even small publishers

Outreach

OBC undertakes outreach work on their behalf, to global community of potential supporters

Reducing BPCs

A new income stream for publishers, helping them transition away from BPCs

Sustainable OA infrastructures

Via new income streams for service providers

OpenBook Collective

Updates via OBC mailing list

info@openbookcollective.org

@OpenBookCollect