publishOA.ie

Results of a Survey of Irish Publishers

Version: 1.0

Distribution: Public

Date: 11 October 2023

Doi: 10.5281/zenodo.8432496

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements

Summary

The Irish government's National Open Research Forum funds projects with the aim of improving Ireland's open access landscape by implementing priority actions. PublishOA.ie was one of the six projects awarded funding by NORF under the 2022 Open Research Fund. The project's overall aim is to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a diamond open access platform for journals and monographs in Ireland. As part of this evaluation, Publish OA's second working group responsible for Work Package 2 – Feasibility Study Part 1: Building momentum/Stepping stones – was tasked with evaluating the landscape of publishing in Ireland, identifying gaps and providing appropriate support. Desk research was performed to create a Directory of Irish publishers and all publishers in this Directory were contacted via a survey to check details in the Directory and engage with publishers on initial evaluation of the publishing landscape in Ireland that will be followed by a World Café, focus groups, semi-structured interviews and training/support on specific areas.

Introduction

The Irish government's [National Open Research Forum](#) (NORF) funds projects with the aim of improving Ireland's open access (OA) landscape by implementing priority actions. [Publish OA](#) was one of the six projects awarded funding by NORF under the 2022 Open Research Fund. The project was launched in November 2022 and is funded for two years. Its overall aim is to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a diamond OA[1] platform for journals and monographs in Ireland.

Publish OA is co-led by the [Royal Irish Academy](#) and [Trinity College Dublin](#) and includes partners from the higher-education institutes in Ireland who contribute [members](#) to the project's five working groups.

As part of the evaluation, the second working group (WG2) responsible for Work Package 2 – Feasibility Study Part 1: Building momentum/Stepping stones – was tasked with evaluating the landscape of publishing in Ireland, identifying gaps and providing appropriate support. Prior to Publish OA's work, there had been no public, centralised list of publishers active on the island of Ireland. Further to this, there was no compiled data on the scope of OA publication being undertaken by Irish publishers, nor on their interest or readiness to engage in OA publishing. To address these gaps, Publish OA surveyed the Irish publishing community and invited them to participate in semi-structured interviews and/or participate in a focus groups/adapted World Café events, dependent on publisher preferences. Publish OA sought to collect and formalise data on which publishers are currently operating in Ireland and to investigate the scope of their OA publishing practices. The [methodology](#) for this study and its [results](#) are given below.

---

[1] Diamond open access is defined by [Science Europe](#) as 'a scholarly publication model in which journals and platforms do not charge fees to either authors or readers'. The type of publishing platform in question is one that allows for end-to-end publishing of journals and/or monographs and that is flexible in terms of interoperability with other publishing tools/software, publishing workflows, ecommerce needs and discoverability, among others.

Methodology

1. Directory – desk research

Publicly available data were sourced from the following websites: [Publishing Ireland](#), the [Arts Council](#), [Directory of Open Access Journals](#), [ISSN portal](#), *[Science and Public Policy](#)* and [Library Publishing Organisation](#). Other non-publicly available data were retrieved from the subscription service *[Ulrich's List of Serials](#)*, and shared with the project by *[Books Ireland](#)* and [DIAMAS](#) via [Irish Open Access Publishers (IOAP)](#).

An Excel file was created with a tab for journals containing the following fields: 'source', 'publisher', 'publisher location', 'title', 'type of journal', 'ISSN', 'url', 'society/institution', 'OA', 'licence', 'APCs', 'language(s)', 'journal contact email', 'publisher contact name', 'publisher contact email', 'rights', 'OA policy', 'repository' and 'platform'.

Following discussions with the project working groups, this information was edited down to 'Book/journal publisher', 'Publishing house', 'ROI/NI', City/town', 'Journal titles (if applicable)', 'Type of publisher', 'If 'Other', 'Publisher's suggestion', 'Type of submission accepted', 'Publisher contact name', 'Publisher contact email', 'Generic email' and 'Publisher website'. This information was subsequently exported into the project database and published [online](#) on 15 June 2023.

2. Survey questions

Next the working group decided upon some questions to include in the survey to help with its aim of evaluating the landscape of publishing in Ireland, identifying gaps and providing appropriate support.

These questions were subsequently added to Microsoft Forms.

3. Ethics application

The project team made a minimal risk human research ethics application to Munster Technological University to cover the survey and this application was approved on 12 May 2023 under reference number HREC-MR-23-017.

4. Survey

Once the ethics application was approved, the survey was launched through Microsoft Forms and publishers contained in the survey were invited to complete it. The survey was also publicised via Publishing Ireland.

[Results](#) of thew survey are given below.

Results

publishOA.ie

Survey of Irish publishers ✀

The PublishOA project is funded by the National Open Research Forum (NORF). Its overall aim is to assess the feasibility of establishing a national Open Access (OA) publishing platform for the island of Ireland.

As a first step, it published a *Directory of Irish publishers* on 16 June 2023 to help assess the current landscape of publishing in Ireland.

With this survey, the project aims to assess the initial needs of Irish publishers identified in the *Directory,* engage with this community and provide relevant support where possible.

This form will take approximately five minutes to complete.

Information on how the data collected in this survey will be used can be found here: https://www.ria.ie/sites/default/files/privacy-notice-puboa-001.pdf

This study has received ethical approval from Munster Technological University (Research Ethics Approval No: **MTU-HREC-MR-23-017-A, 12 May, 2023.**

For more information about the study, see https://publishoa-ie.moodlecloud.com/mod/page/view.php?id=99

93	26:45
Responses	Average time to complete

1. Please confirm that you have read the information above and consent to your data being used in the way described. *

   ◯ Yes, I consent to my responses being used as described above.

   ◯ No, I do not consent to my responses being used as described above.

● Yes, I consent to my responses ... 92
● No, I do not consent to my resp... 1

The one negative response was a test to see that this option was working and thus can be discounted with only 92 valid responses.

2. Name of publishing house:

Enter your answer

This information provided in answers to this question is sensitive and thus will not be published in this report.

3. Which of the terms below describes the focus of your publishing house? (You can choose more than one option.)

- [ ] Academic/scholarly
- [ ] Children's
- [ ] Commercial
- [ ] Cultural
- [ ] Educational
- [ ] Irish language
- [ ] Library
- [ ] Local
- [ ] Poetry
- [ ] Professional body
- [ ] Religious
- [ ] Society
- [ ] Student journal
- [ ] Trade
- [ ] Other

Information about the categories used is available here.

🔵	Academic/scholarly	62
🟠	Children's	10
🟢	Commercial	11
🔴	Cultural	35
🟣	Educational	24
🟤	Irish language	16
🩷	Library	5
⚫	Local	15
🟡	Poetry	18
🔵	Professional body	3
🔵	Religious	4
🟠	Society	12
🟢	Student journal	4
🔴	Trade	17
🟣	Other	10
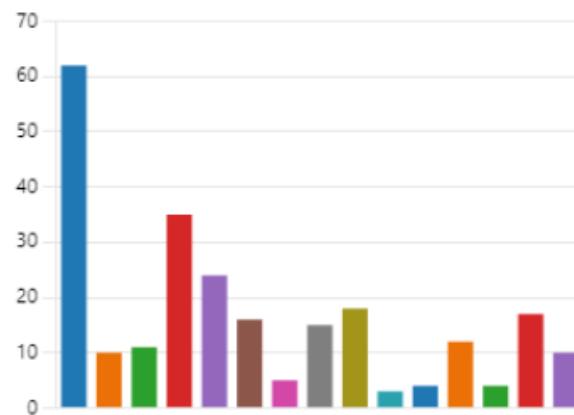
4. What type of texts do you publish? (You can choose more than one option.)

☐ Printed books

☐ Printed journals

☐ eBooks

☐ Online journals

☐ Other

|		
🔵	Printed books	53
🟠	Printed journals	31
🟢	eBooks	35
🔴	Online journals	37
🟣	Other	12

5. The Budapest Open Access Initiative defines Open Access as the "free availability [of scholarly literature of] the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited."
(https://www.budapestopenaccessinitiative.org/faq/#openaccess)

Based on this definition, which of the following statements represents the work of your publishing house? (You can choose more than one option.)

☐ We publish OA journals

☐ We publish OA books

☐ We are interested in publishing OA journals

☐ We are interested in publishing OA books

☐ We are not currently interested in OA journals

☐ We are not currently interested in OA books

☐ Other

🔵	We publish OA journals	29
🟠	We publish OA books	9
🟢	We are interested in publishing ...	15
🔴	We are interested in publishing ...	15
🟣	We are not currently interested i...	22
🟤	We are not currently interested i...	34
🩷	Other	9
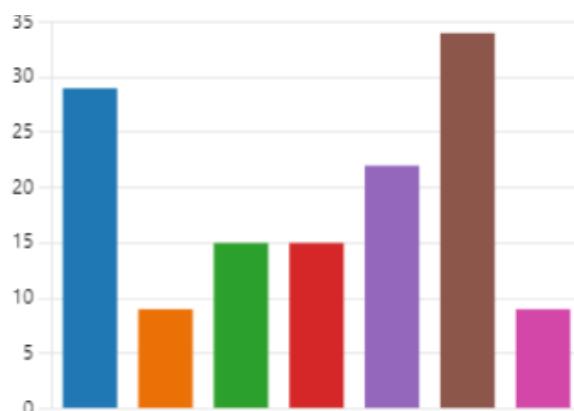
6. Has your publishing house received funding in the last five years from any of the following? (You can choose more than one option.)

☐ Public funding (government, funding agency, research-performing organisation)

☐ EU

☐ Philanthropic/charitable organisations

☐ Corporate

☐ Other

🔵	Public funding (government, fun...	39
🟠	EU	2
🟢	Philanthropic/charitable organis...	13
🔴	Corporate	7
🟣	Other	15

7. Who owns the copyright of your published materials? (You can choose more than one option.)

☐ You as publisher

☐ Author

☐ Licensed openly (e.g. Creative Commons)

☐ Other

🔵	You as publisher	42
🟠	Author	65
🟢	Licensed openly (e.g. Creative C...	20
🔴	Other	8

8. Would your publishing house be interested in receiving support on any of the following OA-related topics? (You can choose more than one option.)

☐ Meeting funder/institutional OA requirements

☐ OA definitions and terminology

☐ Copyright and licensing agreements

☐ Compliance with the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and/or Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB)

☐ Publishing a specific OA journal/book

☐ OA publishing technical solutions

☐ Archiving best practice

☐ Metadata best practice

☐ Other

Category	Count
● Meeting funder/institutional OA...	33
● OA definitions and terminology	26
● Copyright and licensing agreem...	39
● Compliance with the Directory o...	36
● Publishing a specific OA journal...	21
● OA publishing technical solutions	31
● Archiving best practice	33
● Metadata best practice	29
● Other	6
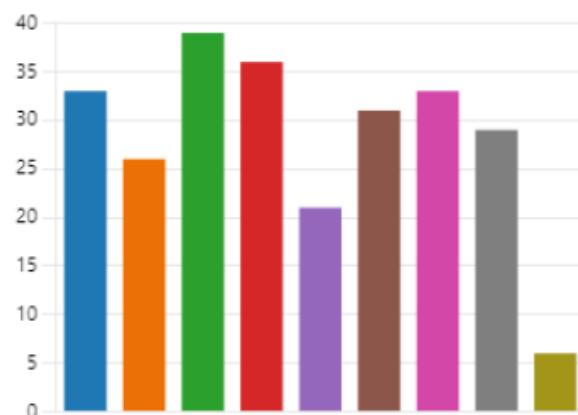
9. We will be engaging with Irish publishers via semi-structured interviews, focus groups and community events in relation to this project. This will provide opportunities to learn more about OA. Would you be willing to be contacted in relation to this project?

○ Yes

○ No

● Yes	63
● No	28

> 10. Thank you for agreeing to be contacted in relation to this project, please provide your name facilitate this. *
>
> Enter your answer

This information provided in answers to this question is sensitive and thus will not be published in this report.

> 11. Thank you for agreeing to be contacted in relation to this project, please provide your email address to facilitate this. *
>
> Enter your answer

This information provided in answers to this question is sensitive and thus will not be published in this report.

Next steps

1. Directory updated as per survey responses.
2. Publishers who agreed to be contacted have been invited to focus groups, a World Café and semi-structured interviews.
3. Support is planned as per the responses to Q8.