



# Open Book Collective:

*Sustainable Futures  
for Open Access  
Monographs*

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**ARCADIA**  
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**Research  
England**

## Fiesole Retreat 2024

*Connecting Global North and  
Global South:  
African Perspectives in Scholarly  
Communications*

# COLLECTIVE, CONNECTED, SUSTAINABLE



To successfully create a new path toward an open and sustainable monograph future, especially in the humanities and social sciences—and particularly for the long tail of small, nonprofit, and under-funded scholarly publishers—the global community of publishers, infrastructure providers, and libraries must develop new OA publishing and funding models supported by fully open and sustainable infrastructures.

# copim

Building community-owned infrastructures to support open access books

2019–2023

2023–2026

outputs



+ Thoth Archiving Network



+ OBC Community Governance

Experimental  
Publishing  
Group

Awarded £5.8 Million

**Open Book Futures**  
A copim community project





## Open Book Collective: Aims and Ethos

### 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 biodiversity



## Open Book Collective: Community-led Governance Model for OA Monographs



The OBC is not just a financial intermediary between open access book initiatives and funders, but instead is an interdependent and mutually reliant community of persons and organisations, all with vested interests in the transformation of academic book publishing.



# Open Book Collective: Platform and Shared Catalog



The OBC's business model is distributive:

small annual contributions sourced from a network of research institutions across the world form a robust revenue pool that enables an extremely cost-effective method for funding open access books in which no single institution bears a disproportionate cost and publisher and publishing service provider members share revenue and resources with each other.

### How does it work?



## Benefits for Libraries and Research 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





# Open Book Futures

A copim community project

£5.8 million funding to significantly expand and accelerate  
COPIM open access infrastructures

LYRASIS

doab

RLUK  
Research Libraries UK

SPARC\*  
Europe

OPERAS  
open scholarly communication in the european  
research area for social sciences and humanities

Jisc

SCURL

SciELO  
Books

Expansion of  
outreach both  
within  
Anglophone  
contexts &  
beyond

Platform  
enhancements  
+ new OBC Info  
Hub

Grant giving  
pilot, via  
Collective  
Development  
Fund, to build  
publishing  
capacity



## Biodiversity in the OA monograph publishing ecosystem



The OBC is an interdependent and mutually reliant community of persons and organisations all devoted to bibliodiversity and the long-term sustainability of high-quality open access scholarly books and long-form scholarship.



# Workshop: Towards Sustainable Open Access Book Publishing in the African Context

Dates: February 7th, 8th, 9th 2024

Location: University of Cape Town

Partners: Association of African Universities, African Platform for  
Open Scholarship (formerly Continental Platform), Lancaster University,  
Open Book Collective, Thoth, OAPEN/DOAB



<https://openbookcollective.pubpub.org/pub/call-for-applications-towards-sustainable-open-access-book-publishing-in-the-african-context/release/1>

## OPERAS

Open scholarly communication in the European  
research area for social sciences and humanities

About ▾ Special Interest Groups ▾ Services ▾ Projects ▾ News & Events ▾ OPERAS National Nodes



### Special Interest Groups

#### Special Interest Groups

Common Standards and FAIR  
Principles

Tools and Platforms

Multilingualism

Multilingualism SIG bookshelf

Advocacy

How-to-Advocacy

Open Access Business Models

Best Practices

Open Access Books Network

### Special Interest Groups



#### 5. Open Access Business Models

The Open Access Business model Special Interest Group works on the main business models currently used by open access publishers, with a particular focus on the situation of European publishers in the social sciences and humanities, especially journals and monographs, in light of the Plan S guidelines. Furthermore, the group examines price transparency, and revenue infrastructure and management platforms.

## Major strengths: partnerships, organizational support and key collaborations



### Collaborations with new network partners

- SciELO Books (Brazil/Latin America)
- Next Generation Library Project/Educopia (US)
- Scottish Universities Press (SUP)/Scottish Confederation of University Research Libraries (SCURL)
- Research Libraries UK (RLUK)

- **Partnerships between:**
  - **Universities** (Birkbeck, University of London, Coventry University, Lancaster University, Trinity College, University of Cambridge), and
  - **Library OA experts** (Lancaster University Library, Loughborough University Library, University of California Santa Barbara Library)
  - collaborating with a diverse range of non-academic stakeholders, including
    - **OA publishers** (Open Book Publishers, punctum books), and
    - **OA service providers** (Jisc, DOAB, OBC, Thoth).
- Organizations that are supporting the project on a consultancy basis
  - **LYRISIS** – a major US library membership organization
  - **OPERAS** – a Research Infrastructure provider with a focus in the EU
  - **SPARC Europe** – a key EU-based advocacy organization for Open Research
  - **African Continental Platform** – Africa's leading platform for hosting OA books, and
  - **Digital Preservation Coalition** – a charity dedicated to enabling its members to deliver resilient, sustainable and useful long-term access to digital content and services.



Conclusion: Long-term sustainability of the OA publishing ecosystem for monographs



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