

Chat transcript: attendee comments and questions

25 January 2024 10.00– 12.00hrs

Name	Institution	Chat
Lucy Barnes	Open Book Publishers	The mentimeter slide will stay open for you to add your challenges, and we'll return to it later in the Q&A
Lisa McLaren	SCONUL	Menti link and code for everyone: www.menti.com/23596153
Lucy Barnes	Open Book Publishers	The mentimeter slide will stay open for you to add your challenges, and we'll return to it later in the Q&A
Lucy Barnes	Open Book Publishers	Thank you Lisa!
Ross Mounce	Arcadia	TAs -- shovelling the bad actors more money to just carry-on and change nothing 😞
Holly Limbert	University of Derby	👍
John Atkinson	Coventry University	👍
Stuart Dempster	University of Southampton	I would love to see crowdsourcing to fund key subject OERs, where market failure is particularly acute (business, law etc) to help shift the dial. We have the data that could be mined to help create a shortlist that could be used to 'co-curate' the development of sustainable and appropriate OERs using our presses.
Tom Grady (Copim & Birkbeck)	Copim	one sec
Jason Harper	University of Plymouth	You might need to select a different screen view to share
Tom Grady (Copim & Birkbeck)	Copim	I think current view of Elaine's slides are OK? I can't screen share on her behalf unless she stops hers first and I don't want to interrupt!
Andrew Barker	Lancaster University	Yes works for me


Chat transcript: attendee comments and questions

25 January 2024 10.00– 12.00hrs

Name	Institution	Chat
Tom Grady (Copim & Birkbeck)	Copim	👍
Joshua Shelly	University Library, University of Potsdam	<p>I find this anecdote about not knowing what a monograph is and not being interested to be quite important.</p> <p>It strikes me that this anecdote really shows how scholars/academics are overwhelmed with requirements, recommendations and responsibilities. At the end of the day they are most responsive when they feel that different OA initiatives have the smallest administrative burden possible and simultaneously help them achieve their goals as scholars (above all — achieve career advancement).</p>
Holly Limbert	University of Derby	<p>Surely, as academics, the main goal should be to advance the dissemination of knowledge and to make change for the better? Appreciate that there are a lot of pressures on researchers and an overwhelming number of tasks to complete. However, I think culturally speaking, the meaning of career advancement needs to be re-evaluated.</p>
Ross Mounce	Arcadia	👍
Charles Watkinson	University of Michigan	<p>Yes, achieve career advancement but also as Holly says get the fulfilment of global reach. At the University of Michigan we recently tracked down and interviewed readers of our Press's OA monographs. The stories meet a deeper need for the authors I think: https://blogs.lib.umich.edu/tiny-studies/how-do-university-michigan-press-book-authors-and-readers-perceive-open-access</p>
Lucy Barnes	Open Book Publishers	<p>Similar feedback here -- but also important to note these are authors who have successfully navigated the difficulties and accessed the benefits! The difficulties tend to come first: https://oabooks-toolkit.org/the-oabooks-landscape/7555171-author-success-stories</p>



Chat transcript: attendee comments and questions

25 January 2024 10.00– 12.00hrs

Name	Institution	Chat
Joshua Shelly	University Library, University of Potsdam	I totally agree w/ the point that research evaluation is problematic and needs to be reevaluated. My point is simply that librarians and publishers are here to support researchers/academics and we need to be careful that we don't create extra burdens on researchers (especially administrative ones)
Tom Grady (Copim & Birkbeck)	Copim	re: Pete's point just now on UKRI policy. Copim published today some possibly useful thoughts around challenges/opportunities of the new policy: https://copim.pubpub.org/pub/copim-response-to-ukri-funding-mechanism-for-diamond-open-access-book-models/release/1
Holly Limbert	University of Derby	
Wendy Taylor	University of Salford	Salford's principles are on our website https://www.salford.ac.uk/library/open-research/open-access/open-access-monographs
Peter Barr	University of Sheffield	Sheffield's content strategy: https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/about/content-strategy
Wendy Taylor	University of Salford	Details on our Salford Authors events at https://www.salford.ac.uk/library/find-resources/salfordauthors - do encourage your researchers to join the session we have that week with Open Book Publishers and Punctum
Holly Limbert	University of Derby	Have signed up and retweeted the tweets! 😊
Wendy Taylor	University of Salford	Thanks Holly!
Holly Limbert	University of Derby	We will promote internally too.
Ross Mounce	Arcadia	BPCs like APCs are also <u>prices</u> not 'costs'. Never let anyone discuss them as if they are costs. Prices are set on the basis of what a publisher thinks the

Chat transcript: attendee comments and questions

25 January 2024 10.00– 12.00hrs

Name	Institution	Chat
		consumer is willing to pay (not necessarily what it costs to make!)
Tom Grady (Copim & Birkbeck)	Copim	
Imogen Ward-Smith	University of Exeter	Absolutely!
Holly Limbert	University of Derby	
Elaine Sykes	Lancaster University	100% agree @ross mount
Matt Hunt	Birmingham City University	Salford are doing so many great things 🙌 will be taking these ideas back to my institution
Holly Limbert	University of Derby	Really inspiring stuff! 🌟
Anna Hughes	Jisc	@Phil you mention that SCONUL are running a Rights Retention webinar next month, do you have any more detail yet? Thanks.
Tom Grady (Copim & Birkbeck)	Copim	Q for Dominic: I really liked your phrase: "We want to enable not acquire" - how do you square this with the regular challenge that your spending must demonstrate and tie in with local relevance at your institution?
Paula Kennedy	University of London Press	Thanks for flagging that, Ross! (I'm the Head of Publishing at UoL Press). The same book recently jointly won another prestigious prize and I think there's collective work we can do across OA/ institutional publishers to help libraries showcase the quality of our books. It's frustrating the 'prestige' myth of commercial publishers is still raised when we often offer specialist expertise in OA book publishing...
Lisa McLaren	SCONUL	Hi Anna Hughes, Phil did mention a Rights Retention webinar. We have the speakers in place and are just finalising a date, so we hope to have an announcement soon.

Chat transcript: attendee comments and questions

25 January 2024 10.00– 12.00hrs

Name	Institution	Chat
Ross Mounce	Arcadia	Hi Paula - yes, I agree! This prestige thing is very annoying. So lets all do what we can to highlight award-winning OA books and presses 👍
Lucy Barnes	Open Book Publishers	VERY much agree with that, Paula. OA presses have a wealth of knowledge and skills t(some specific to OA, some more traditional), and I think it's really important that we (I work at Open Book Publishers, for those who aren't aware) emphasise our strengths and what we bring to the table, rather than staying in the defensive crouch of saying that OA books are peer reviewed etc
Tom Grady (Copim & Birkbeck)	Copim	I take your point Pete about the policy presenting potential new problems but Graham at Jisc has made the point that policies like this only come about to accelerate change because change is not happening quickly enough...
Holly Limbert	University of Derby	If funders didn't provide block grants for APCs and BPCs, a lot would change and would have to!
Paula Kennedy	University of London Press	Lucy/ Ross - totally agree. We're discussing within OIPA (Open Institutional Publishing Association) working on showcasing what our institutional presses do and have achieved. Perhaps we could join up with Scholar-Led publishers and SCONUL on some joint initiatives around this? I'm inspired by Dominic's author event at Salford and wondering if we could do something similar across multiple OA publishers/ libraries.
Tom Grady (Copim & Birkbeck)	Copim	@holly well, quite: the REF won't come with any BPC money so if OA books are mandated there then we're absolutely going to need alternative models like Diamond ones and presses like UoL, etc
Ross Mounce	Arcadia	(apologies for just plugging Arcadia stuff but this is relevant...) regarding prestige, I should note MIT Press is considered by most as prestige, and ALL of their academic monographs going forwards are going to be open access from now on in, so MIT Press is definitely one to recommend to relevant faculty... (that said they only have so much capacity)

Chat transcript: attendee comments and questions

25 January 2024 10.00– 12.00hrs

Name	Institution	Chat
		https://mitpress.mit.edu/mit-presss-direct-to-open-reaches-annual-funding-goal-opens-access-to-full-list-of-2024-monographs/
Holly Limbert	University of Derby	@Tom absolutely! We continue to wait for that policy requirement.
Andrew Knight	Imperial College London	Institutions would be weaned away from prestige publishing by making "% Open Publishing" part of the determinants for league tables.
Sally Dalton	University of Leeds	There is lot's of work going on around research culture at many institutions, at a strategic level. I think this can help us to raise these issues and have this conversation with our institutions.
Lucy Barnes	Open Book Publishers	Paula I love this idea, and would be very happy to collaborate on this!
Maria Follett	Liverpool John Moores University	Also for this very reason (REF) we need to see viable green routes for monograph publishing
Ross Mounce	Arcadia	society needs vs individual desires. Individuals buy range rovers, society needs cyclists 🤔
Paul Stokes	Jisc	Perhaps we need an Elon Musk style figure to undermine the "Tesla" like prestige 🤖
Paula Kennedy	University of London Press	Lucy - excellent, will follow up with you!
Holly Limbert	University of Derby	@Ross 🤝👏
Tom Grady (Copim & Birkbeck)	Copim	@maria I have a sinking feeling that Green for books presents a whole different set of problems, and authors don't like it. As a backstop/failsafe not bad, but Diamond and OA-led presses seems a better option to me.
Sally Dalton	University of Leeds	What are the issues around green @Tom Grady?

Chat transcript: attendee comments and questions

25 January 2024 10.00– 12.00hrs

Name	Institution	Chat
Tom Grady (Copim & Birkbeck)	Copim	and re: prestige. I tend to think we'll always have this problem because humans are human and as everyone just pointed out it's often tied to progression - so perhaps we need to get thinking creatively about working with it/around it but accept it's not going away. We need to talk to authors about OA expertise per Lucy and Paula above. Give authors a quality/prestige reason to move AWAY from the presses that won't adapt or that are price gouging.
Tom Grady (Copim & Birkbeck)	Copim	@sally discoverability perhaps an issue for green books? also as I said authors not generally a fan
Sarah Munks	Leeds Trinity University	I have to leave now. Thanks for a very thought provoking set of presentations and discussion. I've learnt a lot!
Ross Mounce	Arcadia	to answer Ariana's question in the US context, I'd say the Mellon Foundation have put a fair bit of money into open access for monographs
Mike Ager	University of Kent	Could we introduce a policy whereby we review and aim to replace course e-textbooks/ books with existing OA titles and then divers the monies saved into the OA Publishing activity.
Lucy Barnes	Open Book Publishers	Part of the problem with green is that books are often more complicated objects than journal articles. The manuscripts that authors send to us tend to lack architecture like indexes; if they contain a lot of images or multimedia (we are just about to publish a book with embedded audio files) they lack those. If Green is a policy requirement, there may also be issues around whether it's the 'author accepted' manuscript that's uploaded (i.e. with no editing work done) or whether it's the publisher-edited MS. With some books, editorial intervention on the main text is relatively minimal; with some it's extensive.
Ariana Kaleta	Senate House Library/University of London	hi Ross, sure Mellon are great...there are a few foundations dipping into OA in the US, it's more in UK and Europe that I'm curious...

Chat transcript: attendee comments and questions

25 January 2024 10.00– 12.00hrs

Name	Institution	Chat
Ross Mounce	Arcadia	I'd also look closely at the upcoming response to the Nelson Memo from the National Endowment for Humanities - the (new) coming NEH open access policy may spur something useful
Tom Grady (Copim & Birkbeck)	Copim	@sally Martin Eve has written on potential issues with Green for books: https://www.researchinformation.info/analysis-opinion/crucial-time-oa-monographs
Sally Dalton	University of Leeds	Thanks @Tom, @Lucy.
Karen Jackson	University of Warwick	I have to dash to another meeting now, but thank you everyone for a really thought provoking session - lots I will be taking back to my institution! I think we will be wrestling with this issue for some time!!
Emma Crowley	Bournemouth University	Agreed, a centralised infrastructure would be far more financially astute @Elaine
Ross Mounce	Arcadia	the French have a national repository (HAL). It certainly does enable efficiencies https://hal.science/?lang=en
Jason Harper	University of Plymouth	There may be policy tension between a sector that rejects BPCs and a Research England scoped REF policy, to some extent informed by Government (which has an interest in fostering the economy, ensuring employment, maintaining ties with business, and bringing in corporate taxes). Altruism versus economics
Ross Mounce	Arcadia	the French can then build overlay journals on-top of the national repository e.g. https://www.episciences.org/
Andrew Knight	Imperial College London	Feels like "UK Universities Press" would be pretty prestigious
Mike Ager	University of Kent	Elaine's proposal makes great sense as OA is at odds to the underlying commercial publisher's objective of maximising profit... the whole reason for starting a business.

Chat transcript: attendee comments and questions

25 January 2024 10.00– 12.00hrs

Name	Institution	Chat
Dominique Walker		Scotland are trying this with Scottish Universities Press (managed through SCURL): https://sup.ac.uk
Ross Mounce	Arcadia	Cambridge UP are in the billionaires club now fwiw https://www.researchinformation.info/news/cambridge-hits-1-billion-revenue-first-time
Lucy Barnes	Open Book Publishers	Interesting news, Ross!
Ross Mounce	Arcadia	yeah, the Oxford 800mn revenue is just small fry in comparison 🤔
Ross Mounce	Arcadia	large-scale attracts fraud / low-quality research / lack of care from the publisher. small-scale means everything actually gets looked at / reviewed.
Lucy Barnes	Open Book Publishers	@ross Scant resources to put behind innovative OA models, for sure.
Ross Mounce	Arcadia	indeed!
Elaine Sykes	Lancaster University	Although I might argue that we need to also do something - we could talk forever but whilst we do, publishers will start to dominate the discussion before we've figured out what we're doing!
Emma Crowley	Bournemouth University	If it's challenging for large RLUK institutions to scale up their local/institutional press capacity, it's virtually impossible for smaller non-RLUK HEIs. National response is needed.