

Embracing the Future: Transitioning from Print Journals to Digital Publishing through Diamond Open Access

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LIBSENSE WORKSHOP

13TH AUGUST 2024.



Presentation Outline



Introduction

This presentation provides an overview of the transition from print journals to digital publishing, with a focus on the advantages and benefits of the Diamond Open Access model. It covers the challenges of print journals, the opportunities of digital publishing, the understanding and implementation of Diamond OA, and best practices for a successful transition.

Overview of the evolving landscape of scholarly publishing

The shift from print to digital formats

The rise of open access models

What is Diamond Open Access?



Diamond Open Access (Diamond OA) is a publishing model that provides free and immediate access to scholarly content without any financial barriers or restrictions for readers or authors. It is a type of Open Access (OA) publishing that has the following key characteristics:



No author-facing fees



No reader-facing fees:



Community-driven and non-profit:



Sustainable funding model:



Commitment to openness and equity:



Scholar-led governance:



By removing financial barriers and prioritizing open access, Diamond OA seeks to transform the scholarly communication landscape and promote more inclusive, sustainable, and community-driven models of publishing. It is an important alternative to the traditional subscription-based or APC-based OA models dominated by commercial publishers.



The Challenge of Print Journals

- ❖ High costs of print production and distribution
- ❖ Limited accessibility and reach
- ❖ Sustainability concerns

Advantages of Digital Publishing

- Increased accessibility and global reach
- Reduced costs and environmental impact
- Opportunities for enhanced features and interactivity

Landscape of no-fee open access publishing in Africa: A Report by EIFL (Electronic Information for Libraries)

This study provides an overview of open access (OA) journals in Africa that do not charge fees.

It is based on survey responses from 199 journals, 21 institutional, national and continental platforms that host Diamond OA journals, and 25 country reports with information about current funding and financial sustainability approaches and challenges, institutional in-kind support, incentives and collaborations among Diamond OA journals, needs and strategies to advance Diamond OA.

This landscape study was conducted as a part of the three-year 'Collaboration for sustainable open access publishing in Africa' project (November 2023-October 2026), implemented by EIFL, AJOL and WACREN with support from Wellcome Trust.

The study informed and guided in planning for developing and delivering a participatory funding approach to strengthen the quality and sustainability of African Diamond OA publishing while maintaining its diversity.



Landscape of no-fee open access publishing in Africa: A Report

Summary of the findings

Most journals that responded to the survey are relatively small in terms of the annual output: 64.8% of the responding journals published up to 20 articles and 31.7% published 11–20 articles in 2023.

About 60% of the respondents rely on volunteer work fully or partially.

Institutional funding: 45.7% of the respondents have institutional funding provided either through permanent (24.6%)

Sustainability: Almost equal numbers of respondents see their funding sources as stable or very stable (40.1%) and unstable or very unstable (39.2%).

Technical service efficiency: Nearly half (49.2%) of the respondents rely solely on in-house infrastructure

The findings and highlights are presented in the link below.
<https://shorturl.at/zaEWP>





Benefits of Diamond Open Access



Ensures equitable
access to research

Supports sustainable
scholarly communication

Promotes innovation
and collaboration

Benefits of Transitioning to Diamond OA



Increased accessibility and visibility of research



Promotion of equity in knowledge dissemination



Alignment with open science principles



Potential cost savings compared to subscription models



Opportunities for innovation and community engagement

Transitioning to Digital Publishing: What to do!



ASSESSING THE READINESS
OF YOUR
ORGANIZATION/INSTITUTION



DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC
PLAN FOR THE TRANSITION

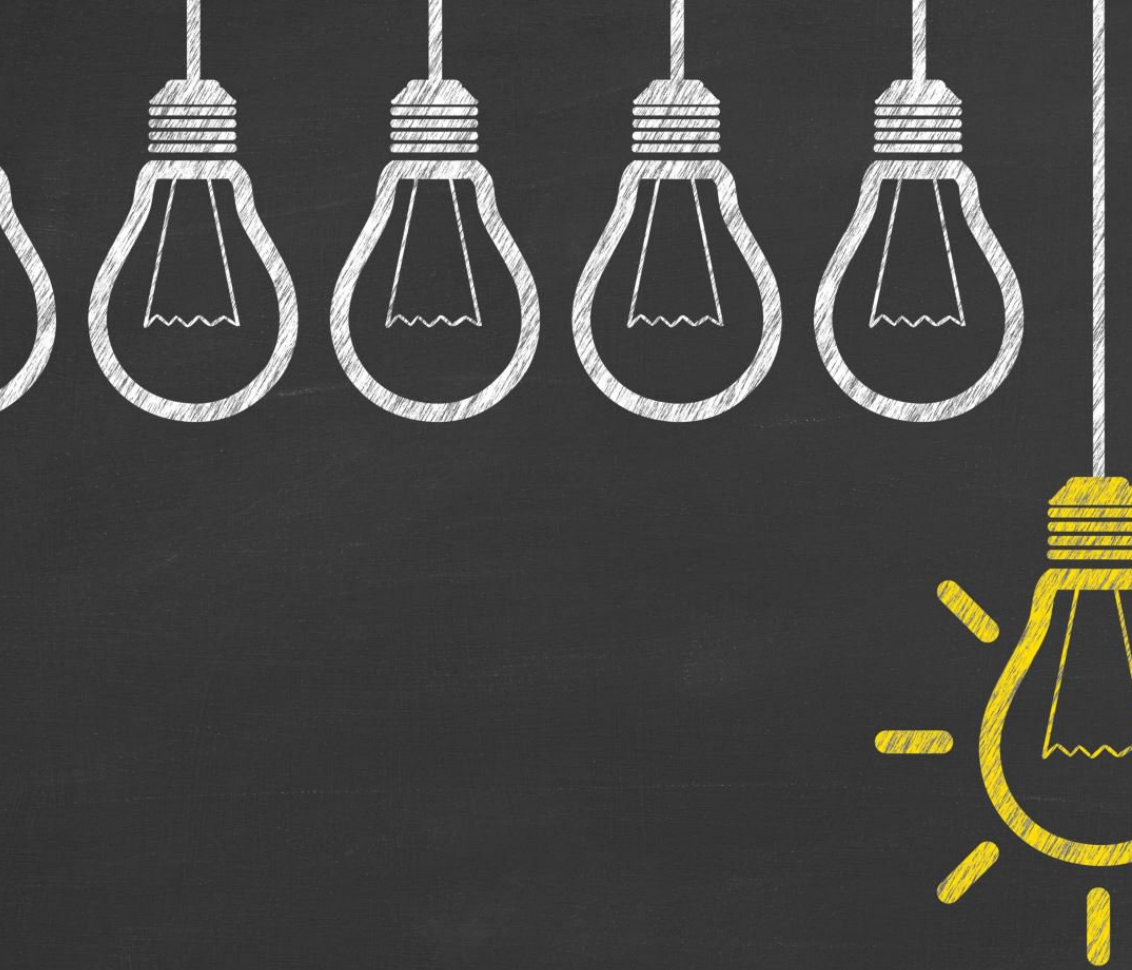


ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS
AND SECURING
INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Best Practices for Successful Adoption

- Investing in digital infrastructure and technology ... **LIBSENSE/WACREN**
- Developing policies and workflows for digital publishing
- Providing training and support for authors and editors





How does Diamond OA impact the traditional publishing industry?

The shift towards Diamond Open Access (OA) publishing has had a significant impact on the traditional publishing industry. Here are some of the keyways in which Diamond OA is disrupting and transforming the landscape:

- Revenue model disruption:
- Loss of market control:
- Increased competition and pressure for reform:
- Shifts in prestige and influence:
- Challenges to the existing scholarly communication system

While the traditional publishing industry has resisted the rise of Diamond OA, the growing adoption of this model is forcing publishers to adapt and explore new ways of delivering value to the research community. The impact of Diamond OA is ultimately driving a more equitable, sustainable, and innovative future for scholarly publishing.

Case Studies and Success Stories

Examples of successful transitions to Diamond OA publishing: Highlighting the impact and benefits experienced by organizations

-OpenEdition (France): Transition from print to digital publishing with Diamond OA model

- SciELO (Latin America): Pioneering Diamond OA platform for scholarly journals

- JISC (UK): Supporting Diamond OA initiatives and infrastructure development

- Libraria (Global): Collaborative Diamond OA publishing for the humanities and social sciences

-MUSE (Middle East University Scholarly Exchange)

-Érudit (Canada)

Source: <https://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/for-authors/transitioning-journals-to-oa/guide-to-transitioning-journals-to-open-access-publishing/>

Case Studies and Success Stories

Case Study 1: OpenEdition (France)

OpenEdition is a leading platform for digital publishing in the humanities and social sciences in France.

It transitioned from a print-based model to a Diamond Open Access model in the early 2010s.

The key benefits of this transition include:

Significantly increased accessibility and readership of scholarly content

Reduced costs for institutions and authors through the elimination of subscription fees and APCs

Enhanced features and functionalities for digital publishing, such as multimedia integration and interactive components

Strengthened financial sustainability through institutional support and grants rather than relying on commercial revenue streams

Case Study 2: SciELO (Latin America)

- **SciELO (Scientific Electronic Library Online) is a pioneering Diamond OA publishing platform established in Brazil in the late 1990s.**
- **It has since expanded to include journals from various countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and South Africa.**
- **SciELO's Diamond OA model has been instrumental in:**
- **Promoting the visibility and global reach of research from the Global South**
- **Fostering collaborative networks and knowledge-sharing among scholars in the region**
- **Demonstrating the feasibility and sustainability of Diamond OA at a large scale**
- **Inspiring the adoption of similar models in other parts of the world**

These case studies highlight the diverse ways in which organizations have successfully transitioned to Diamond Open Access publishing, addressing challenges, leveraging benefits, and inspiring further adoption of this model globally. The key takeaways include the potential for increased accessibility, financial sustainability, and innovation in scholarly communication.

Case Study 3: JISC (UK)

JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee) is a UK-based non-profit organization that supports the use of digital technologies in higher education and research.

JISC has been actively involved in promoting and supporting Diamond OA initiatives in the UK and beyond.

Key JISC initiatives include:

Providing funding and infrastructure for Diamond OA platforms and journals

Conducting research and publishing reports on the benefits and challenges of Diamond OA

Advocating for policy changes and funding mechanisms to encourage the adoption of Diamond OA

Case Study 4: Libraria (Global)

- Libraria is a collaborative Diamond OA publishing initiative focused on the humanities and social sciences.
- It brings together a network of scholars, librarians, and publishers to develop sustainable, community-driven publishing models.
- Libraria's approach emphasizes:
 - Fostering scholar-led publishing to ensure academic autonomy and control
 - Leveraging institutional support and grants to cover publishing costs
 - Promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange
- Exploring innovative publishing formats and features enabled by digital technologies

Successful Diamond OA platforms and journals:

Case study 5

MUSE (Middle East University Scholarly Exchange):

- MUSE is a Diamond OA platform launched in 2017 to promote the visibility and accessibility of research from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.
- It publishes peer-reviewed journals across various disciplines, with a focus on addressing regional challenges and promoting knowledge exchange.
- MUSE has been successful in fostering collaboration and strengthening the academic landscape in the MENA region.

Case study 6

Érudit (Canada):

- Érudit is a Diamond OA platform for scholarly journals, books, and other publications in the humanities and social sciences, primarily in French.
- Established in 1998, Érudit has become a leading hub for French-language scholarly communication in Canada and beyond.
- Its Diamond OA model has been instrumental in preserving and disseminating the cultural and linguistic diversity of research in the Francophone world

These are just a few examples of the many successful Diamond OA platforms and journals that have emerged worldwide, demonstrating the viability and impact of this publishing model in various academic disciplines and regions.

Best Practices for Successful Adoption



Investing in digital infrastructure and technology



Developing policies and workflows for digital publishing



Providing training and support for authors and editors

Transitioning to Diamond OA: Challenges and Considerations

Securing sustainable funding and resources

Scalability and technological infrastructure

Cultivating awareness and driving cultural change

Ensuring quality assurance and peer review processes

Achieving interoperability with existing systems

Conclusion

Diamond OA offers a pathway to unlock the full potential of open, equitable, and community-driven knowledge dissemination. By eliminating financial barriers for both readers and authors, this model aligns with the principles of open science and democratizes access to research outputs.

The success stories we have highlighted demonstrate the viable and impactful nature of this publishing approach.

However, the transition to Diamond OA is not without its challenges. The time is now to take decisive action. We call upon all stakeholders in the scholarly ecosystem – publishers, librarians, researchers, funders, and policymakers – to join us in this transformative journey.

Let us seize this moment and embrace the future of scholarly communication through Diamond Open Access.

Thank you for listening

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