

Open access books: If not now, when?



Joe Deville

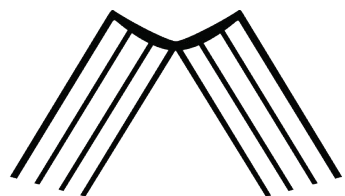
Lancaster University / Open Book
Collective

All slides CC BY



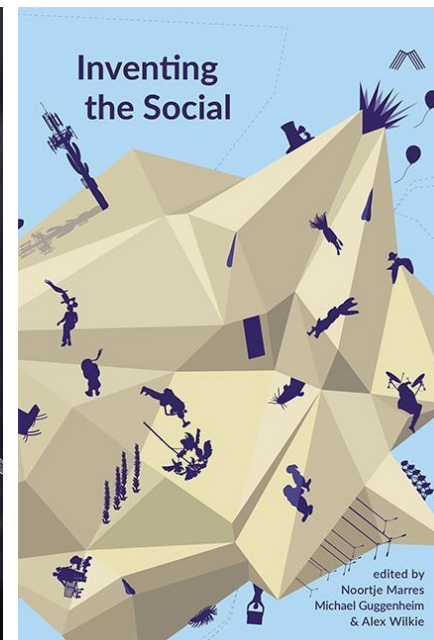
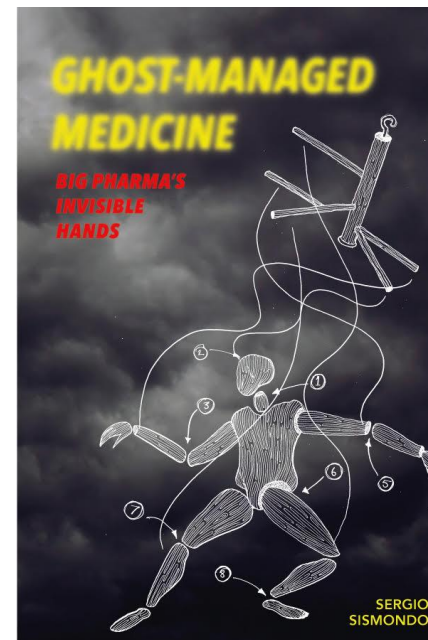
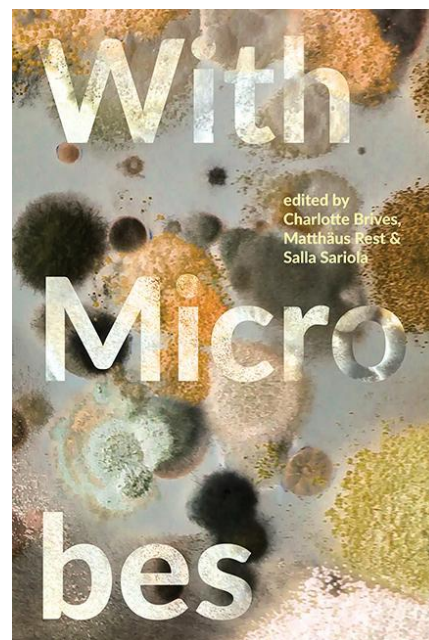
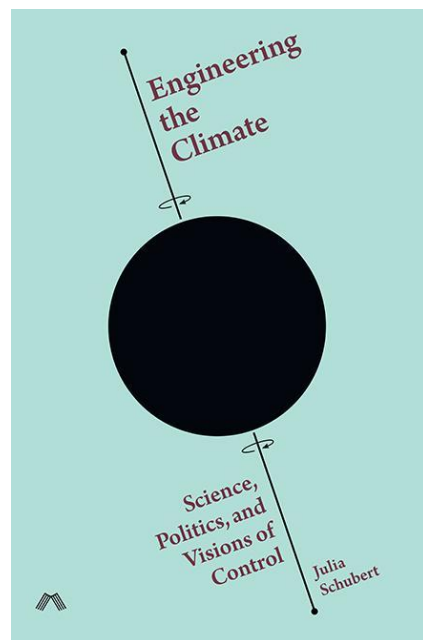
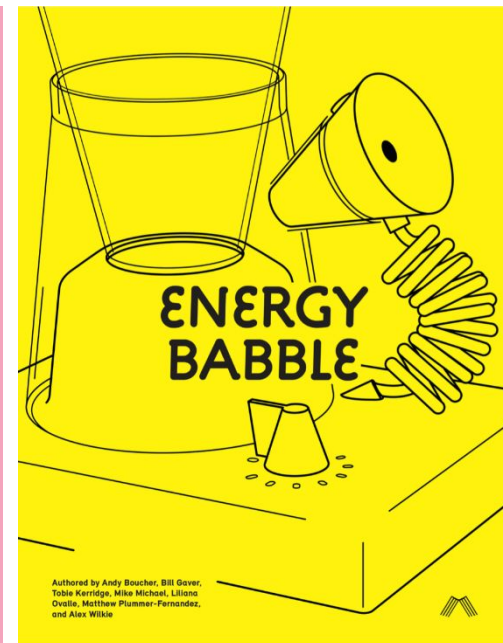
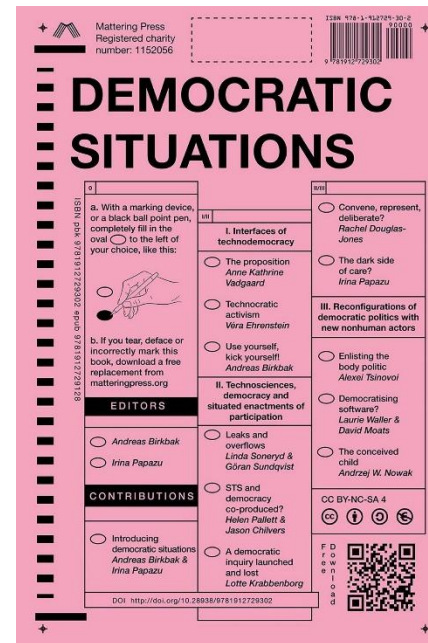
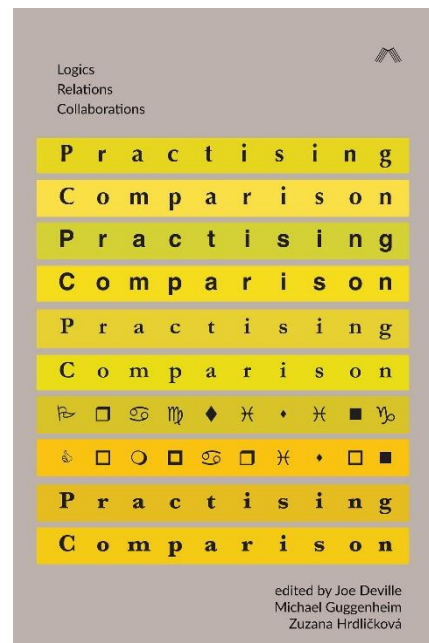
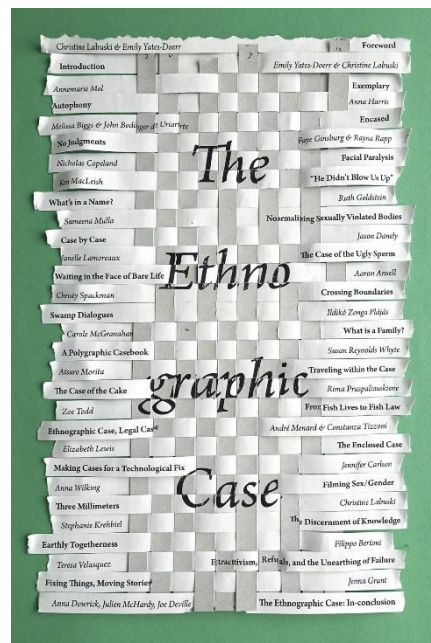
Open Book Futures is a Copim
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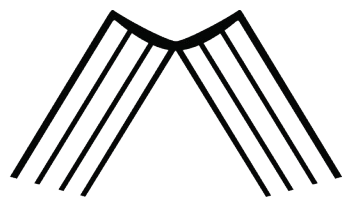




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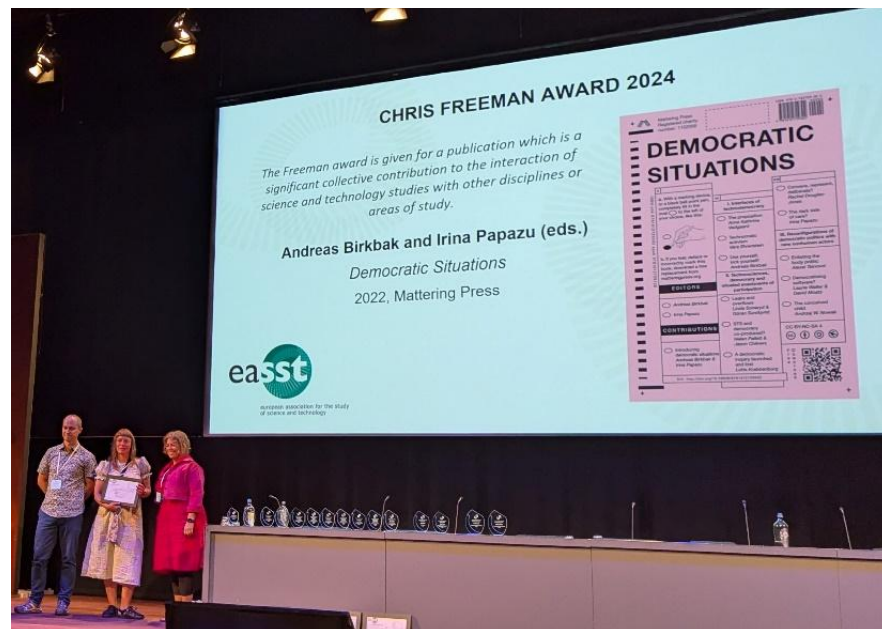
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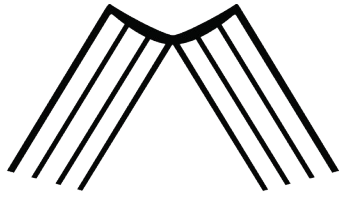




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But how to do and sustain this work,
if working alone?

Turned to types of collaboration
& working to ‘scale small’ (Adema & Moore 2021)



ScholarLed

A concerning global
context for scholarly
publishing



ELSEVIER

RELX Group



researchfish
by interfolio

SciVal

Scopus[®]

Pure

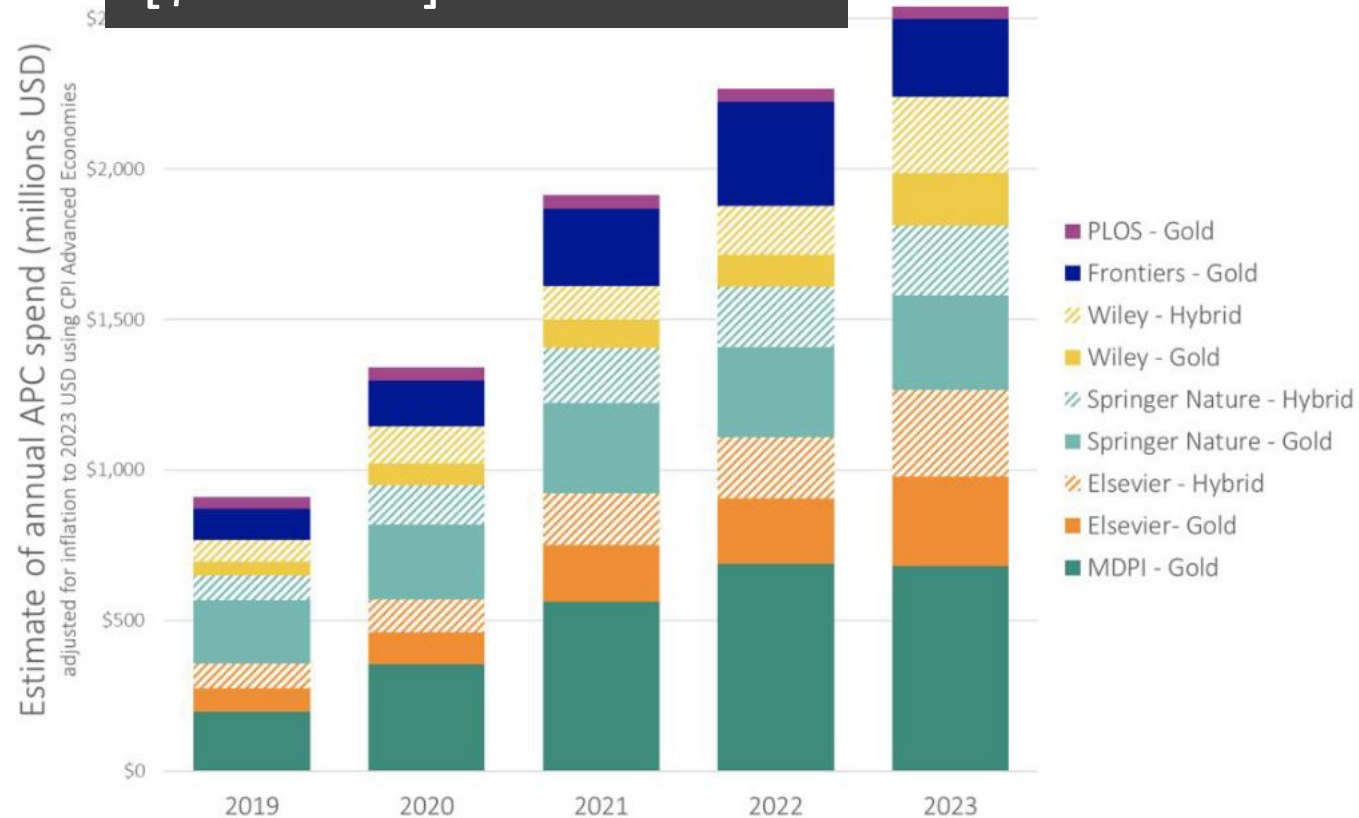
Digital Commons[™]

RELX: ~~£~~6.4trillion
[£3.2billion] in profit in
2024, from revenue of
~~£~~18.8trillion
[£9.4billion] (34%
margin)

Both profit/revenue
roughly tripled since
2022

A 'moral indignity'
(Pooley 2022)

2019-2023: ~~£~~13trillion
[\$9 billion] total in APCs



Commercial Book
Processing Charges
(BPCs) for open
access books:
between ~~£~~22million
[£11,000] and
~~£~~30million [£15,000]
per title

Haustein, S. *et al.* (2024) 'Estimating global article processing charges paid to six publishers for open access between 2019 and 2023'. arXiv. Available at:

<https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2407.16551>.

Increasing calls for increased diversity, equity and social justice in the open access movement

Scholarly publishing model entrenching global inequalities ...

“Through systemic inequalities embedded in the scholarly ecosystem, the publishing landscape has been northernised, with research from the global north sitting at the very top of the knowledge hierarchy to the exclusion of Africa and other parts of the global south

Reggie Raju & Auliya Badrudeen (2022), [Social justice driving open access publishing: an African perspective](#)

... including dominant OA publishing models

“The promise of open access for the global South has not been fully met. Publishing is dominated by Northern publishers who disadvantage Southern authors through platform capitalism and [OA] models requiring article [or book] processing charges to publish”

Monica Berger (2021), [Bibliodiversity at the Center: Decolonising Open Access](#)

A need for greater bibliodiversity

“Bibliodiversity calls for an inclusive and diverse scholarly communication landscape [...] Without bibliodiversity, we are restricting our imaginations and limiting ourselves to the understanding constructed by a minority of prestigious publications and publishers”

Lai Ma et al. (2023), [Open access at a crossroads: library publishing and bibliodiversity](#)

Large commercial publishers buying up the infrastructures of Open Access book publishing



WILEY



WILEY

Purchase price: \$298 million



WILEY



Taylor & Francis
Taylor & Francis Group

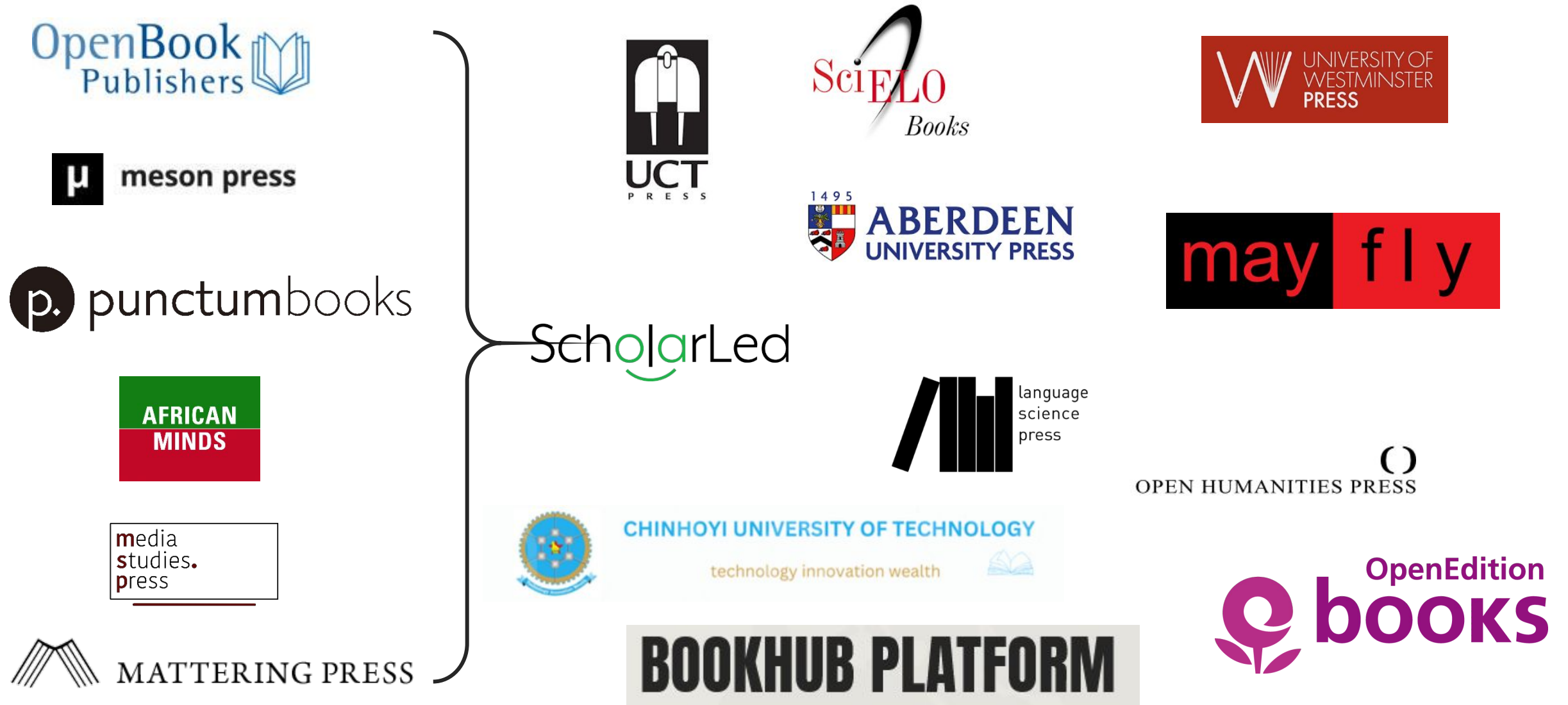


**Cambridge
Information
Group**

**No open access
without open infrastructure.**

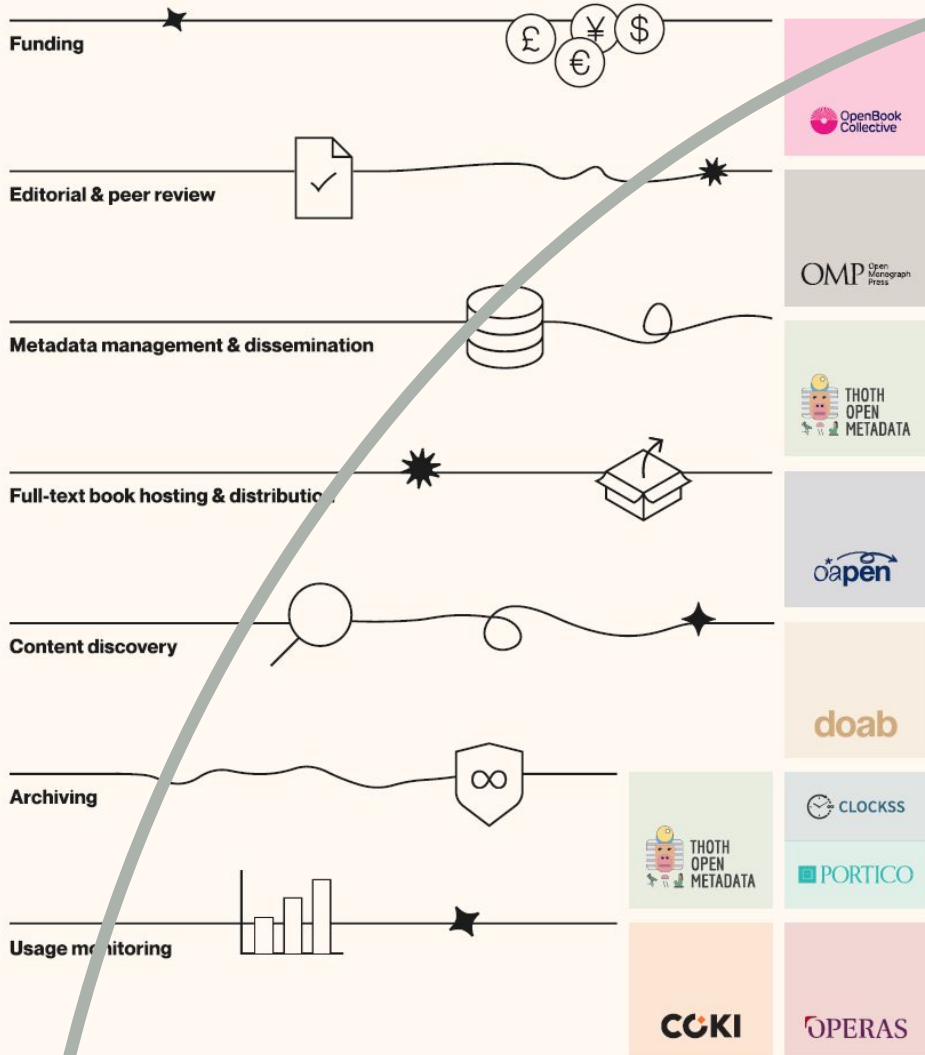
An emerging, innovative
open ecosystem for open
access book publishing

An increasingly diverse OA book publishing landscape



Open Books need Open Bricks.

Netherlands University Presses (nups) are collaborating on Diamond OA book publishing using interoperable and open infrastructures. Here's how they plan to build this:



This training example shows how any publisher can find its own easy and viable path to Diamond OA.

To learn more, scan the QR code or visit linktr.ee/oapenbooks.



 BY: credit must be given to the creator.

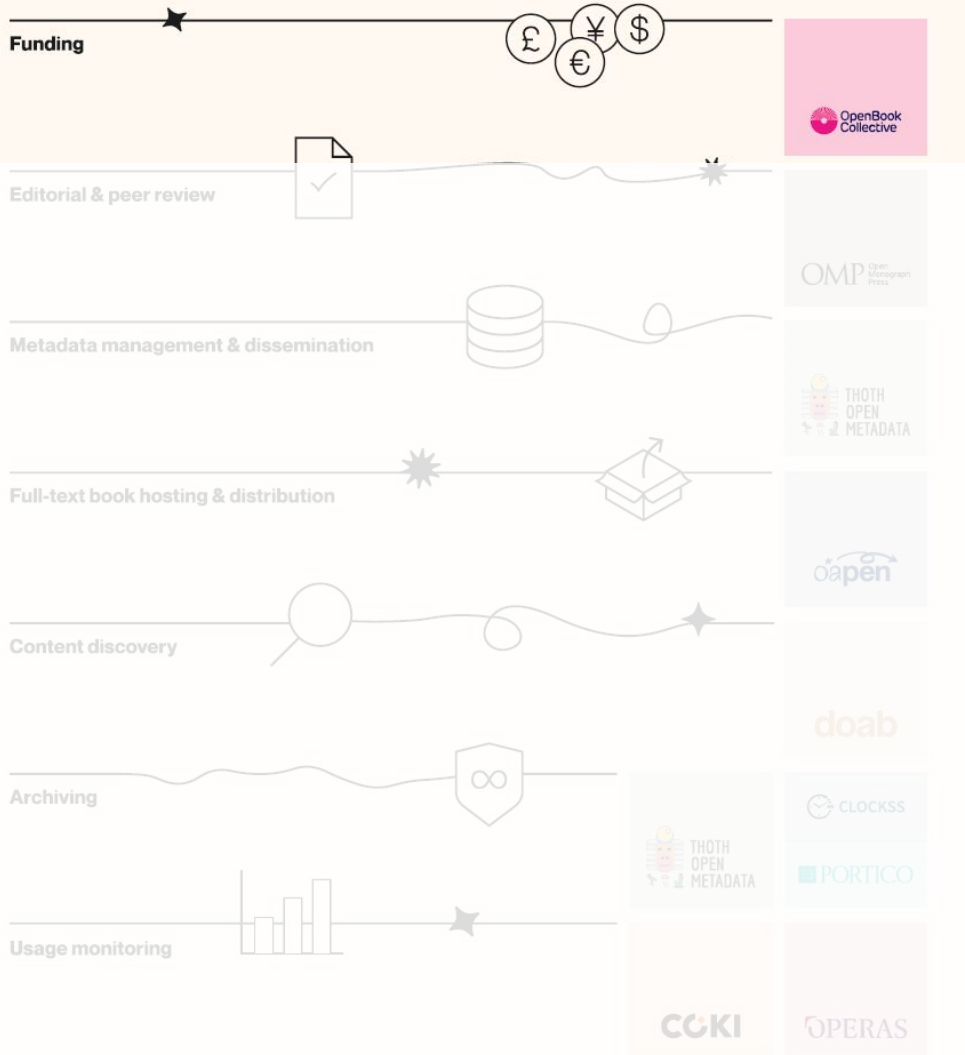
Creators: Niels Stern (OAPEN), Kevin Sanders (Open Book Collective), Tobias Steiner (Thoth Open Metadata)

Poster available at:

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15490313>

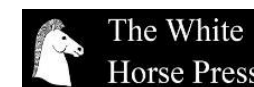
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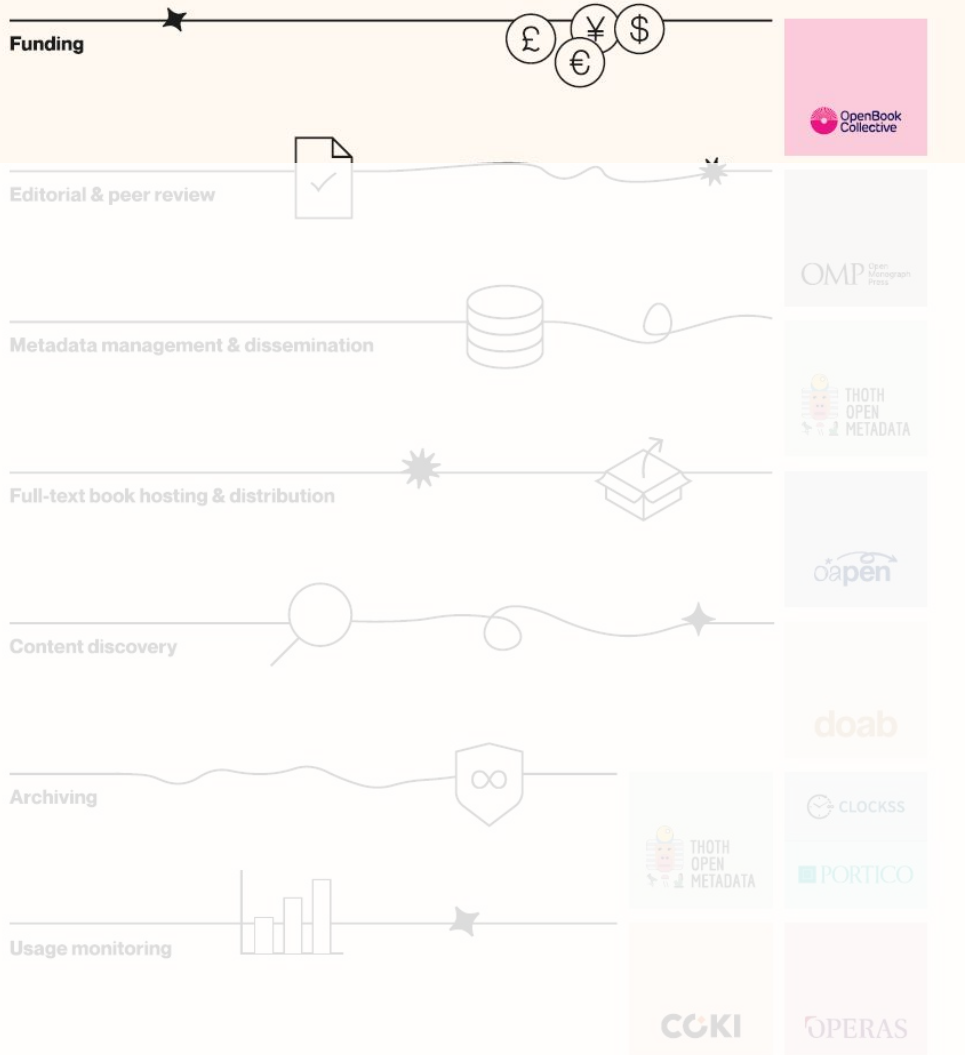
LEUVEN UNIVERSITY PRESS



17 'Provider' members (publishers + service providers)

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Securing sustainable funding via **renewable support from dozens of universities** (close to 100 currently)

Universities are not buying content, but **supporting the organisation**

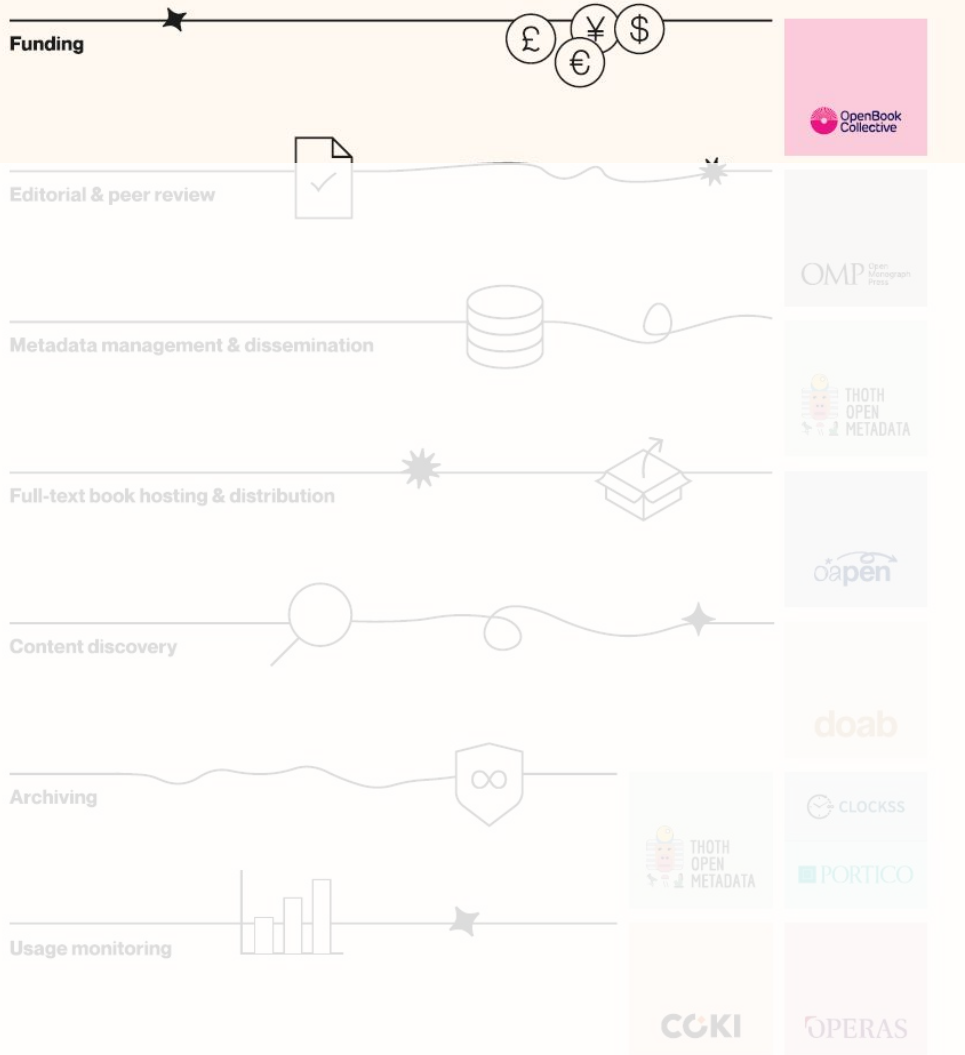
Provider members also contribute a portion of their income to the **Collective Development Fund**

This fund **issues grants annually** for projects that build the open access book publishing ecosystem

A different open access funding model

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Announcing OBC's First Collective Development Fund award: Fostering Academic Self-Reliance in Nigeria through Open Access Books

Establishing a sustainable platform to empower Nigerian scholars and educators to create, produce, and disseminate high-quality open access books, as well as fostering new collaborations across Academic

Announcing OBC's Second Collective Development Fund Award: Enhancing Open Access Book Publishing at Chinhoyi University of Technology Library

Establishing a new sustainable infrastructure for open access book publishing at the Chinhoyi University of Technology, building open access publishing capacity, and publishing a series of new high-quality open

Announcing OBC's Third Collective Development Fund Award: The Community Publishing Garden

Creating a model of participatory exchange for publishing practitioners and community members to better serve the forms of knowledge emerging from grassroots communities

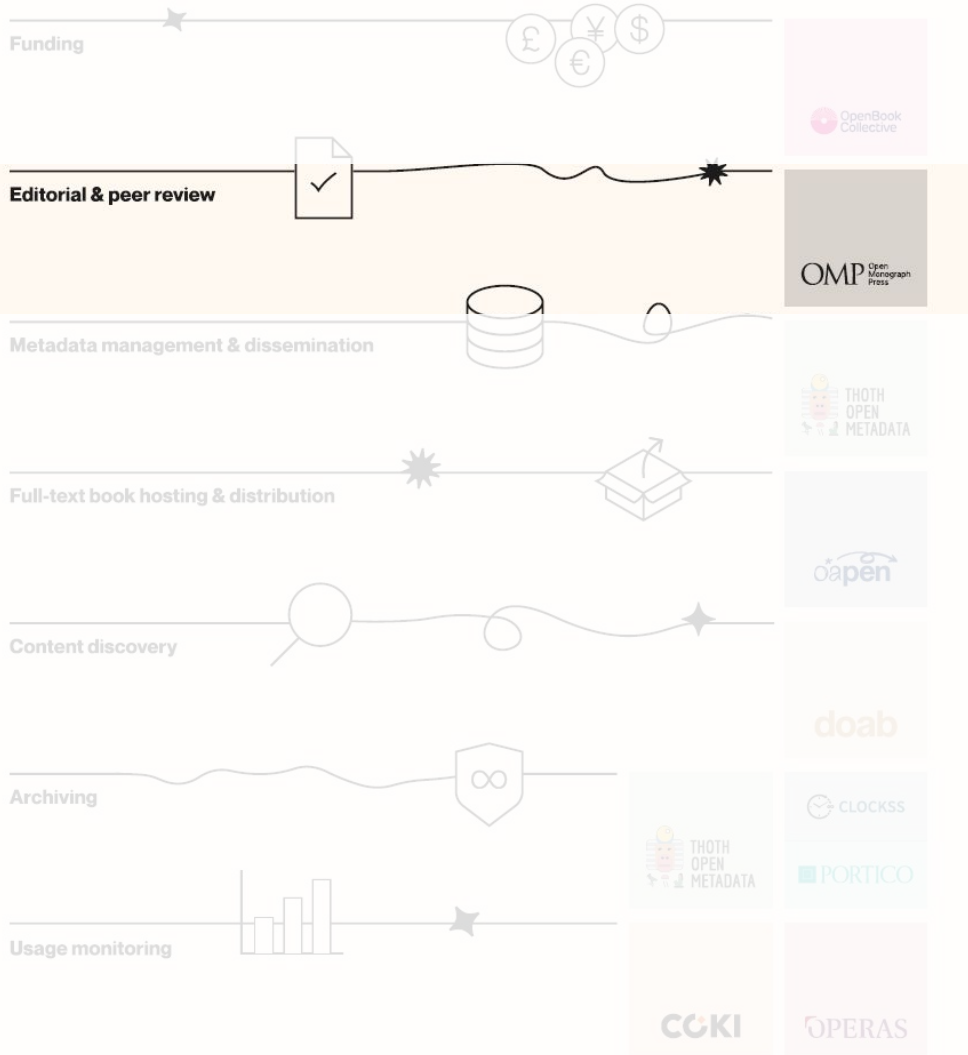
by Judith Fathallah

Published on Jan 13, 2025

Three grants in 2024 (₦90million total [£45,000])
Four more about to be announced

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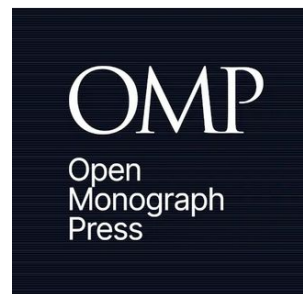


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COCI



PKP
PUBLIC
KNOWLEDGE
PROJECT

EVERYTHING A BOOK PUBLISHER NEEDS

1

SUBMIT

Invite authors to submit to your press through a configurable, step-by-step submission wizard.

2

REVIEW

Select peer reviewers, assign due dates, and send reminders to keep everyone on schedule.

3

PUBLISH

Publish books to your own website in PDF, ePub, or any publication format, alongside supplementary materials.

4

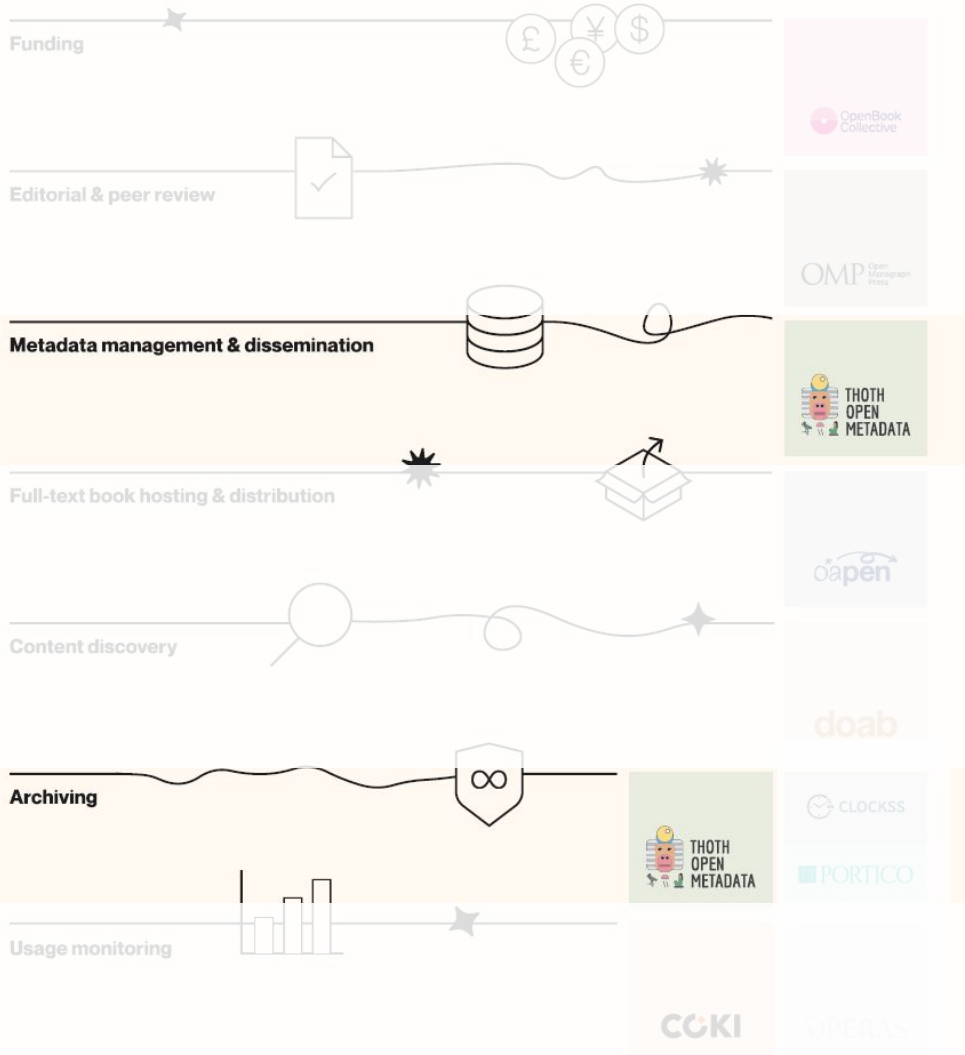
DISTRIBUTE

Drive the dissemination and discovery of your work through Google Scholar, full ONIX creation, and OAI-PMH metadata harvesters.

Open source, free to use, interoperable

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A free platform for publishers to manage & enrich book metadata

High quality open metadata exports to formats used by publishers and libraries

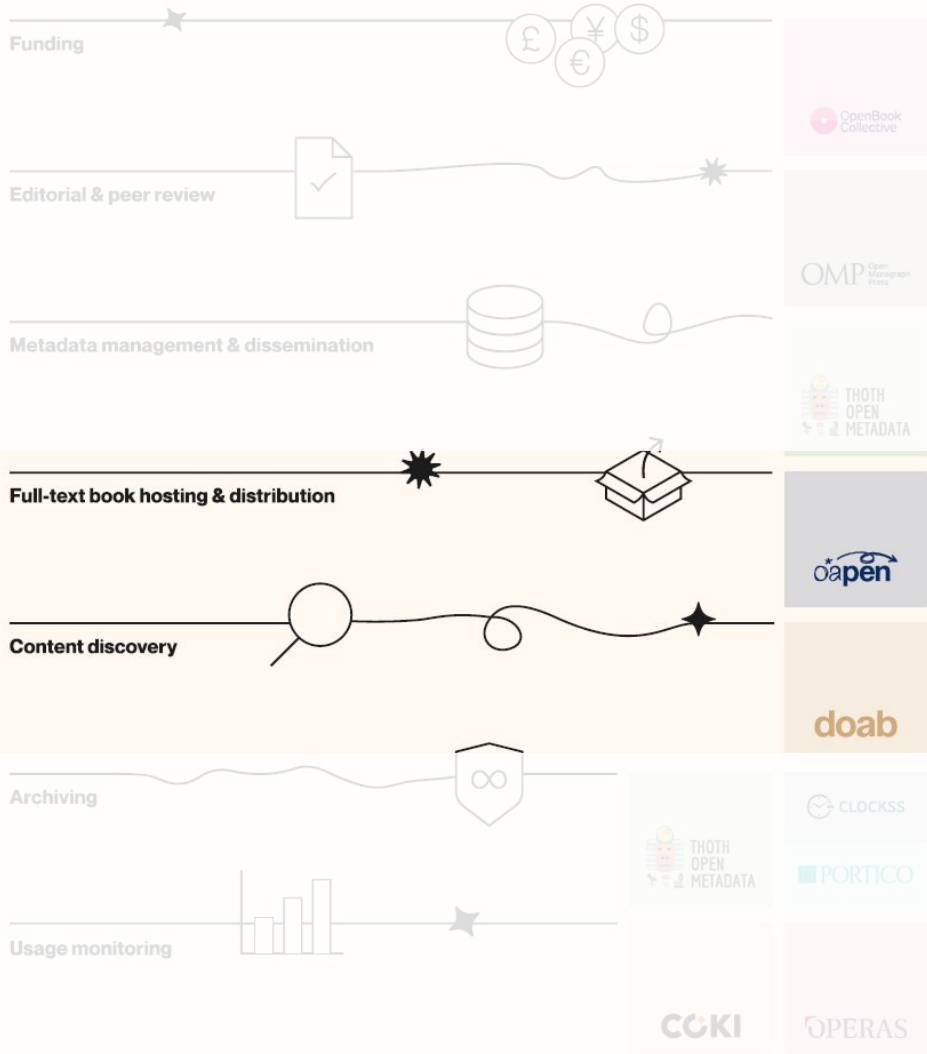
Option to join Thoth Plus paid service to disseminate OA content & metadata far and wide, so books found more easily and read more

Also provides easier, more affordable archiving solutions for small publishers

Books managed better, found easier, read more

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DOAB: A **discovery service/catalogue**, providing links/access to scholarly peer reviewed books

OAPEN Library: Hosting full text OA books, disseminating book metadata

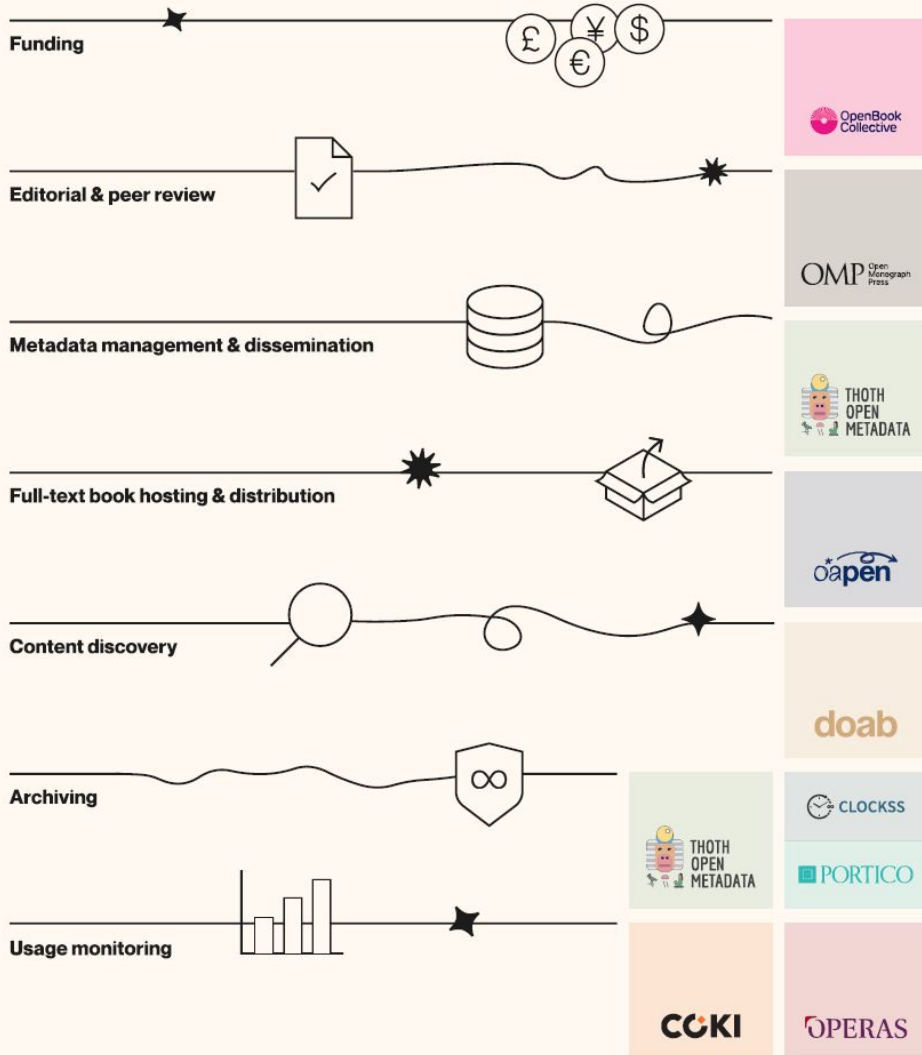
All DOAB services are **free of charge** and all data is freely available

Plus the **OA Books Toolkit:** a free to use resource to help authors better understand open access book publishing

Free book cataloguing, rich resources for authors

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What else?

Even more interoperability between platforms/services

Redirection of financial resources away from commercial publishing

Knowledge sharing (nationally and internationally)

Collaboration (nationally and internationally)

Open access books: if not now, when?

Thank you



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@openbookcollect@mastodon.social



info@openbookcollective.org



Slides

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17247027>