Building a resilient, equitable open book publishing ecosystem

Joe Deville

Managing Director, Open Book Collective

Professor of Science and Technology Studies, Lancaster University



A concerning global context for scholarly publishing



RELX Group

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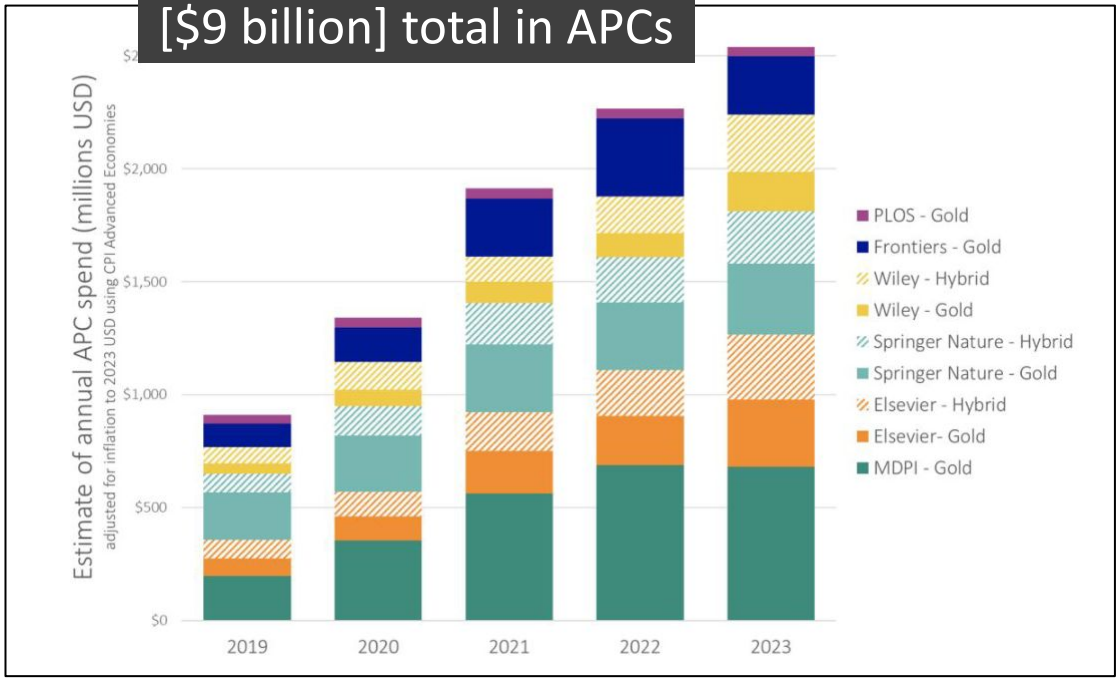
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RELX: ₦6.4trillion [£3.3billion] in profit in 2025, from revenue of ₦18.8trillion [£9.6billion] (35% margin)

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




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University Presses 10

LSE Press
Stockholm University Press
Edizioni Ca' Foscari
Concordia University Press
UCT Press
HUP Helsinki University Press
Leuven University Press
University of London Press
University of Westminster Press
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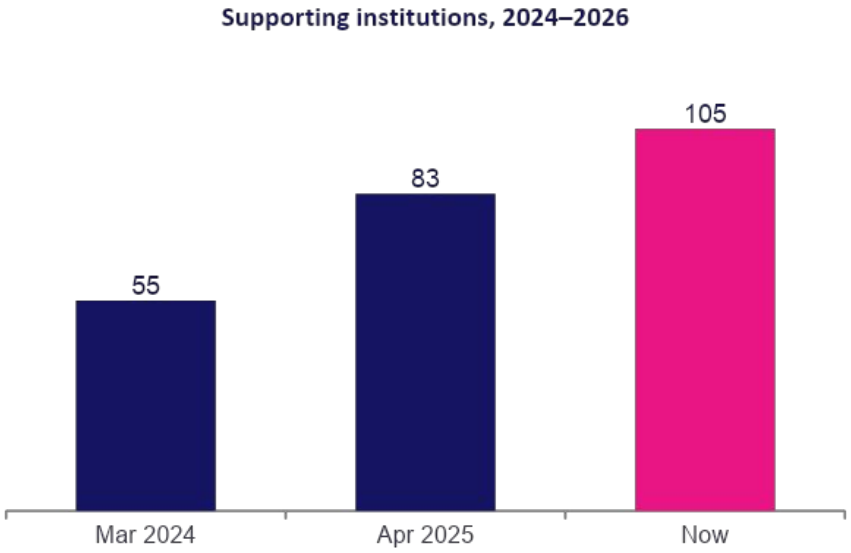
Building global library support

OpenBook Collective

100+

supporting institutions, in more than a dozen countries

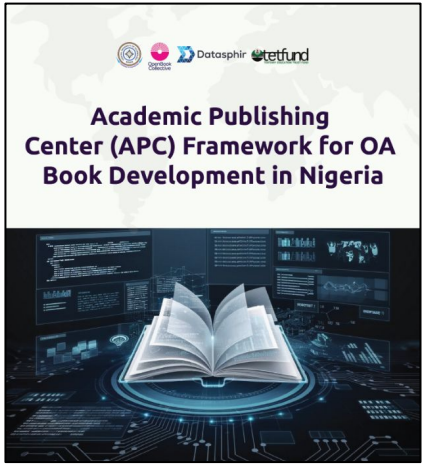
Roughly doubling since early 2024.



OpenBook Collective

OBC Collective Development Fund

- Building global open book publishing capacity
- Funded by 5% contributions from OBC members
- Annual grants programme, 3-5 grants per year
- 7 grants so far, totalling around ₦180million total
- In 2024, funded ‘Fostering Academic Self-Reliance in Nigeria through Open Access Books’







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Copim mailing list

@openbookcollective.bsky.social

@openbookcollect@mastodon.social

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