Infrastructuring the Open Book Collective

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Open Book Collective / Mattering Press / Lancaster University

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Looking back: OASPA talk, 2019

Infrastructures as “experimental material-semiotic practices interweaving social, economic, political and legal orderings with moral reasoning and technical networks that inevitably produce new and unpredictable assemblages that reconfigure the world”

(Calkins & Rottenburg 2016)
1. From infrastructures to (practices of) infrastructuring

Not … what is being built?

but … what relations are being put into play?
Meeting our communities

WP2 Workshop in Partnership with University of Michigan, MPublishing, and Lyraisis
by ERI Cemalpoulo and Dan Rudman
Published on: May 15, 2020

On May 13, 2020, COPIM's Work Project 2 held its first workshop in collaboration with Lyraisis and The University of Michigan to enhance the development of resources, infrastructure, and support for open access books.

https://doi.org/10.21428/785a6451.c6005f3a

UK Libraries Outreach Workshop
by COPIM
Published on: May 12, 2022

Defining Communities
for us as a project, establishing who our community is, or will become, was essential to us from the start, and we started the project with the idea that the main stakeholders that we felt should collaboratively create and maintain open infrastructure for scholarly communication and publishing, should be included in the project consortium itself, namely scholars, publishers, libraries, universities, and technology providers (and of

https://doi.org/10.21428/785a6451.79dcdd83

https://doi.org/10.21428/785a6451.a9a9c954
Researching the landscape

COPIM
The promise of collaboration: collective funding models and the integration of OA books into libraries

Elke Gerolaopoulos, Isabella Penier, Joët Deville

https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4501511

LIBER QUARTERLY
Open Access Monographs: Myths, Truths and Implications in the Wake of UKRI Open Access policy
Judith Rathbun
Publications and Research (Parly), Lancaster University, United Kingdom

https://doi.org/10.53377/lq.11068

COPIM
Revenue Models for Open Access Monographs 2020 v2
Isabella Penier, Martin Paul Eve, Tom Grady

https://doi.org/10.53377/lq.11068
Building an organisational & legal model
Building a governance model

Open Book Collective: A Model for Open Community-led Governance

Published on: Sep 03, 2022

We're thrilled to announce today that the Open Book Collective (OBC) has finalized its founding organisational governance model and we're excited to share that with the larger community of open access (OA) stakeholders who are collectively working on the transformation of open access. (https://doi.org/10.21428/785a6451.d1a7e0dd)
Building a platform

Site specifications

https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5572054
.. but so much infrastructuring work is hidden

Coordination work (across timezones), emotional labour, political negotiations, changing specifications.. etc
The case against Book Processing Charges

Expensive & inefficient
- £10,000 - £11,000 for larger commercial presses
- £4,500 - £6,000 for smaller, non-profit presses

Unequal
- Likely only accessible by researchers on large research grants (as things stand, in the UK)
- Likely more accessible to later career scholars in more secure academic positions

Stultifying
- Reproduces a ‘thin’ version of Open Access – universal access as a benefit not a necessity
- Entrenches commercial publishing monopolies
- Likely to only be affordable by academics in wealthier national contexts
- A failure of imagination, including of infrastructural possibilities
**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 bibliodiversity
Collective, Connected, Sustainable

We bring together publishers, publishing service providers, and scholarly libraries to secure the diversity and financial futures of open access book production and dissemination.

A tour of the OBC site
Collective, Connected, Sustainable

We bring together publishers, publishing service providers, and scholarly libraries to secure the diversity and financial futures of open access book production and dissemination.

Prosperous OA Communities
- Creating a space for publishers, service providers, libraries and others to learn, network and support each other

Sustainable Funding
- Delivering new, more reliable revenue streams to small to medium-sized publishers, helping them move away

Robust Infrastructures
- Delivering new financial resources to the vital infrastructures of OA book publishing and making it easier

Diversity in OA
- Supporting a variety of approaches to OA publishing, while making OA for books more accessible to a wider range of

Workflow
One procurement process, integration with third party payment arrangements, consolidated contracts

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

For libraries / institutions
Collective, Connected, Sustainable

We bring together publishers, publishing service providers, and scholarly libraries to secure the diversity and financial futures of open access book production and dissemination.

Workflow
OBC manages invoicing, contracting, payment flows, making offering membership programmes possible for even small publishers.

Outreach
OBC undertakes outreach work on their behalf, to global community of potential supporters.

Reducing BPCs
A new income stream for publishers, helping them transition away from BPCs.

Sustainable OA infrastructures
Via new income streams for service providers.

Prosperous OA Communities
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Diversity in OA
Supporting a variety of approaches to OA publishing, while making OA for books more accessible to a wider range of.
OpenBook Collective

Updates via OBC mailing list
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