



**Report on the annual accounts  
1 January 2023 until 31 December 2023**

# 1. OAPEN Management Report 2023

## About OAPEN

The OAPEN Foundation is a not-for-profit and independent organisation based in the Netherlands ('Stichting'), with its registered office at the National Library in The Hague. OAPEN is providing infrastructures and services dedicated to open access (OA), peer-reviewed books:

[OAPEN Library](#) – hosting, distributing, and preserving OA books.

[OAPEN Open Access Books Toolkit](#) - a public information resources about OA book publishing

[Directory of Open Access Books](#) - a discovery service indexing OA books, in partnership with [OpenEdition](#)

## Mission

Overall OAPEN's mission is to

- increase the discoverability of open access books and
- promote and build trust in open access book publishing.

## Board and management

On 1 January 2023 the OAPEN Board of Directors consisted of the following persons:

- Bas Savenije, chair
- Reinier Groen, treasurer
- Kurt De Belder, secretary
- Antia Wiersma, member
- Charles Watkinson, member
- Lidia Borrell-Damián, member

With Niels Stern as Executive Director.

On 1 June 2023 new articles of association and bylaws were adopted by the Board of Directors changing the governance structure by introducing a Supervisory Board, consisting of

- Kimmo Tuominen, Chair
- Reinier Groen, member and audit committee
- Kurt De Belder, Vice-Chair
- Antia Wiersma, member and audit committee
- Charles Watkinson, member
- Lidia Borrell-Damián, member
- Bas Savenije (resigned from the Board in September 2023)

With Niels Stern as Managing Director (statutory director / Board of Directors).

On 1 January 2023 the OAPEN Advisory Board consisted of the following persons:

- Dirk Pieper, Deputy Director, Bielefeld University Library
- Natalia Grygierczyk, Director, Radboud University Press
- Claire Redhead, Director, OASPA
- Regula Graf, Scientific Officer, Swiss National Science Foundation
- Wendy Queen, Director, Project MUSE
- Marin Dacos, National Open Science Coordinator, French Ministry of Science
- Brian Hole, CEO, Ubiquity Press
- Agnès Ponsati, Director, CSIC - Unit of Information Resources for Research, Director (Spanish National Research Council)
- Cameron Neylon, Professor of Research Communications, Curtin University, Co-lead COKI

## Activities

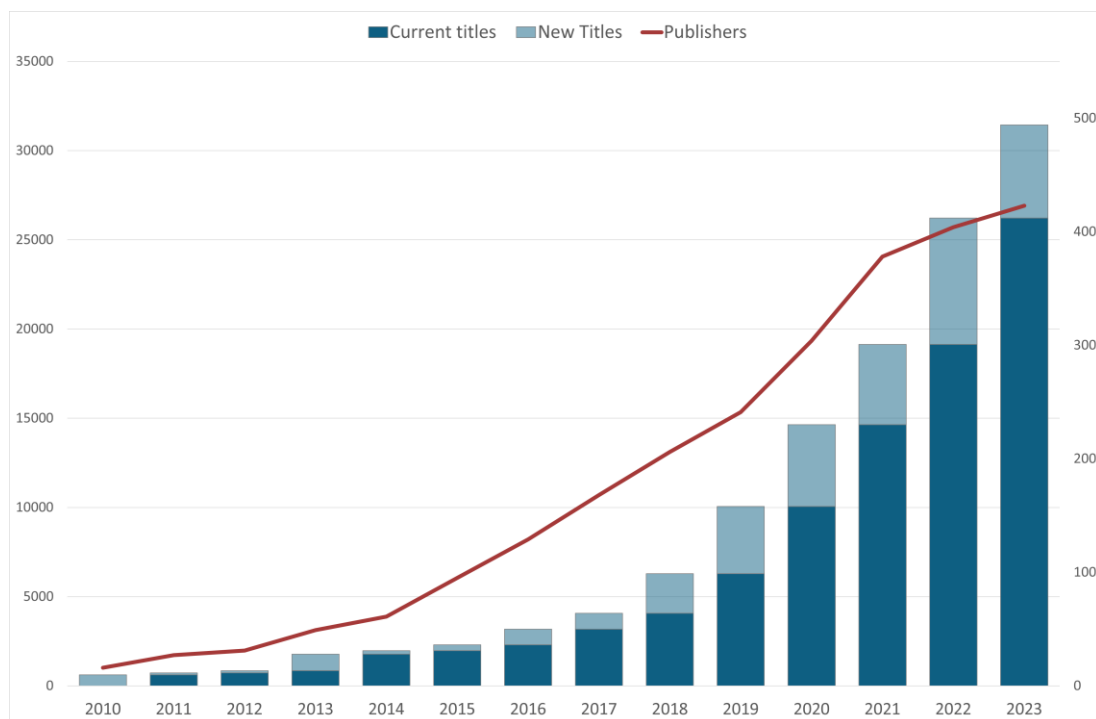
The OAPEN Library contains freely accessible academic books. OAPEN works with publishers and research funders to build a quality-controlled collection of open access books. In addition, OAPEN provides publishers, libraries and science funders with deposit, quality control, metadata enhancement, dissemination and digital preservation services.

In 2012 OAPEN launched DOAB (*Directory of Open Access Books*), an index of open access books inspired by DOAJ (*Directory of Open Access Journals*). The main goals of DOAB are to improve the discoverability of open access books that have been subject to peer review and to provide an authoritative list of publishers of open access books. DOAB has grown strongly since its inception in 2012 and now contains open data of more than 80,000 OA books from more than 700 publishers. Thus, DOAB has become a global hub for OA books. The OAPEN team also manages and operates DOAB, however since DOAB is an independent foundation (Stichting DOAB) it has its own governance structure and is directed by an Executive Board consisting of the OAPEN Managing Director and the Associate Director of OpenEdition in France.

## 2. Reporting period

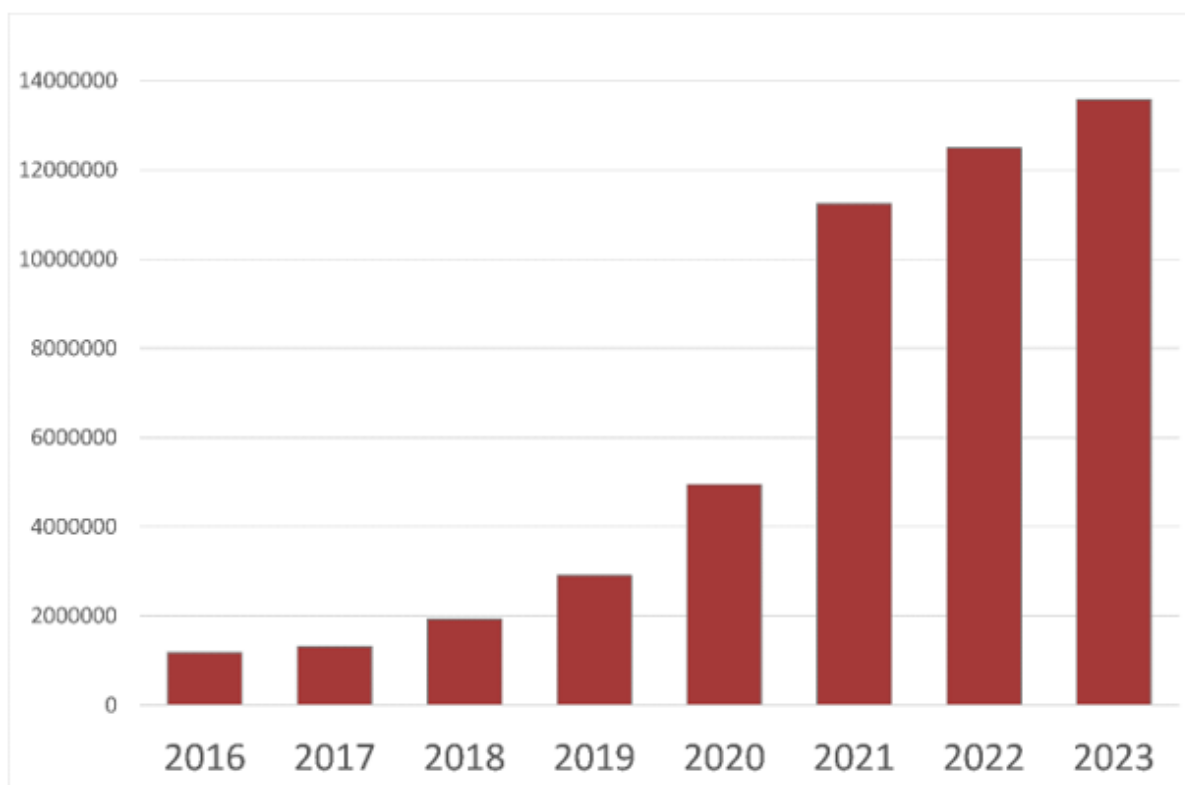
### OAPEN Library

All books and chapters in the OAPEN Library are available for direct download without any cost or registration requirements for the user. In 2023, we added over 5,000 publications to the OAPEN Library, increasing the size of the complete collection to almost 32,000 open access books. As of December 2023, the OAPEN Library publisher community consisted of almost 440 publishers.

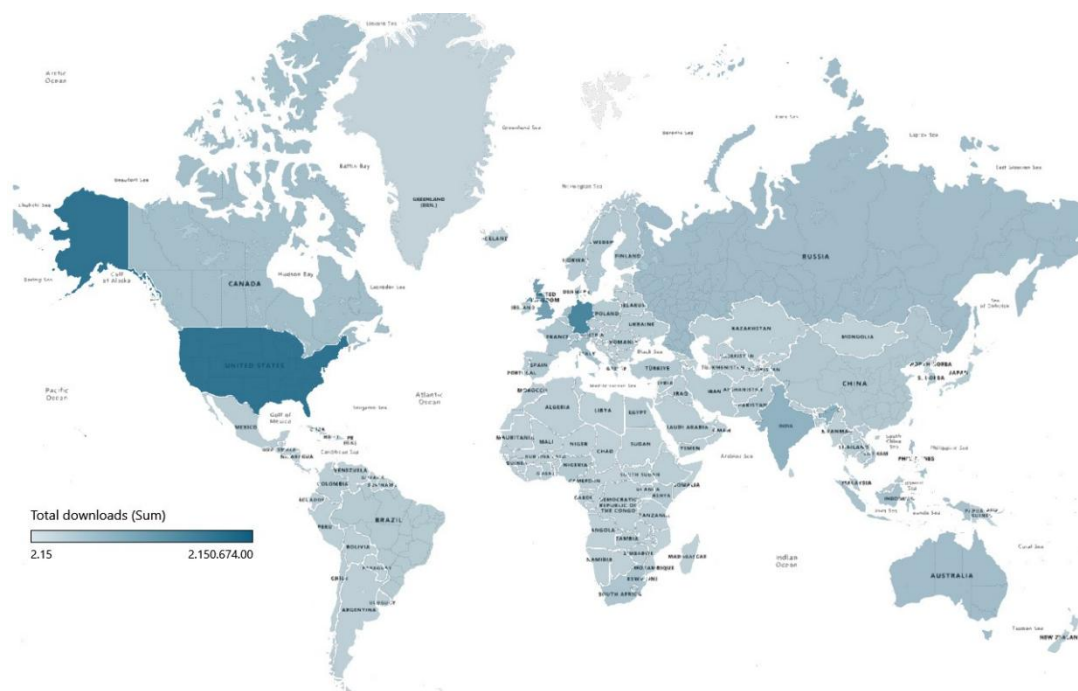


## Number of downloads

The OAPEN Library is widely accessed by users globally. In 2023, we saw an increase in the number of COUNTER-conformant downloads, reaching to well over 13 million during this 12-month period. COUNTER usage is based on the [COUNTER](#) Code of Practice which provides users with comparable, authoritative, standards-based data.



## Global Reach of Downloads



## Library Interaction with the OAPEN Library

Analysing data we receive from Clarivate, one of the discovery systems that enables libraries to activate the OAPEN Library collection in their catalogues, over 1,300 libraries accessed the OAPEN Library in 2023. Additionally, we saw full-text and abstract downloads from the OAPEN Library by over 1,000 libraries for a collective of more than 500,000 downloads throughout 2023. While this does not capture all the download and access information from all libraries and systems that use the OAPEN Library, it demonstrates a continued, strong engagement by our primary stakeholders and the value that OAPEN provides for increasing the discoverability and accessibility of OA books.

## Most downloaded books

The OAPEN Library continues to see impressive COUNTER-conformant download statistics of similar books to 2022, but it's also fantastic to see different books make the list in 2023, as well as seeing a variety of publishers and presses. Top 10 most downloaded books:

1. Russkij jazyk konca XX stoletija (89,358): <http://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/26277>
2. Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) Using R (42,529): <https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/51463>
3. The Malleus Maleficarum and the construction of witchcraft: Theology and popular belief (30,908): <http://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/35002>
4. Systematic Reviews in Educational Research (30,382): <http://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/23142>

5. International Relations (29,564): <http://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/22471>
6. The Palgrave Handbook of Critical Menstruation Studies (26,380):  
<https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/41299>
7. Frankenstein (26,258): <http://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/31387>
8. How the World Changed Social Media (23,947):  
<http://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/32834>
9. Primary and Secondary Education During Covid-19 (20,927):  
<https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/50965>
10. Structural Health Monitoring Damage Detection Systems for Aerospace (18,856):  
<https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/50942>

## Research funders and collections

The OAPEN Library hosts various collections on behalf of research funders. This helps funders manage their compliance and allows us to provide bespoke information that helps them assess the value of their policy. In 2023, the number of books included in research funder OA book collections managed by the OAPEN Library grew significantly, now including well over 3,000 OA books.

At the beginning of 2023, we started [a new collaboration](#) with the German Research Foundation DFG (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*) and we are including their OA books in a dedicated funder collection in the OAPEN Library.

## OAPEN Open Access Books Toolkit

The [OAPEN Open Access Books Toolkit](#) is a free-to-access resource that aims to help authors better understand open access for books, increase trust in open access book publishing, provide reliable and easy-to-find answers to questions from authors, and to provide guidance on the process of publishing an OA book. It is guided by a global, multi-stakeholder Editorial Advisory Board. The academic community and scholarly communications organisations helped us create this public resource for academic book authors and researchers.

In Q2 and Q3 of 2023 the Editorial Advisory Board reviewed the content and updated 17 articles, including re-writing articles so that they no longer fall under copyright. Consequently, the entire content of the Toolkit has been made available under a CC-BY license. In August 2023, Niels Stern collected feedback on the usability of the Toolkit from among participants in the National Open Science Festival in Rotterdam.

## Community engagement and communication

### Communication activities

Normally we promote OAPEN and DOAB jointly towards publisher, library, and funder stakeholder groups and the wider scholarly community sharing our services, activities, and projects. We attend many external events and conferences (online and in person), post blogs, send newsletters, and are active on social media. You can find below a full list of the conferences and events at which we had a presence in 2023.

Last year, we published a total of twelve blogs, including our first blog in French to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of DOAB. We sent eight newsletters: three OAPEN newsletters (1,684 subscribers), two DOAB newsletters (2,190 subscribers), two Library Supporter newsletters, and one Publisher

newsletter. OAPEN X (formerly Twitter) followers reach over 7,250 and DOAB X followers reach over 5,725.

## Conferences and events

OAPEN team members participated in a total of 23 events last year: 12 online and 11 in-person. This included panel discussions, seminars, webinars, annual meetings, and conferences. Prevalent themes encompassed: increasing the visibility of open access books, improving equity and bibliodiversity in open access book publishing, services for libraries, the OAPEN OA Books Toolkit, and the different projects we're involved in.

OAPEN and DOAB view presence at conferences and events, often presenting or speaking at them, as an integral part of supporting the shared mission to increase the discoverability of OA books and continue building trust in OA book publishing. Additionally, it allows us to connect with our different stakeholder groups, in particular those who support us financially, as well as providing us with the opportunity to create new relationships and collaborations.

You can find a complete list of conferences and events attended in 2023 by the team in Appendix 1, with links to recordings or materials from the sessions.

## Library Community

While enjoying continuing support from across the US, Europe, and Australasia, our supporting library community expanded through growth from consortia. We partner with several organisations that enable us to receive more support from libraries to strengthen and develop our infrastructure services for all our stakeholders. One such organisation is the Open Book Collective (OBC), of which, Niels Stern serves as the Vice-Chair for the [Board of Stewards](#) and represents service providers on the membership committee. Through our collaboration with the OBC, we welcomed new supporting libraries into the fold, stretching from the United States of America (US) to New Zealand. Additionally, we continually receive sign-ups from UK institutions through our partnership with Jisc and Lyrasis, notably the Virginia Academic Library Consortium (VIVA) and the Orbis Cascade Alliance.

In total, we have 17 library consortia and two library collaborations supporting us, including (in no particular order) the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA), Irish Research Library Consortium (IReL), Sikt consortium (Norway), Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN), Council of Australian University Libraries (CAUL), FinELib (Finland), Bibsam (Sweden), Elektron (Belgium), Swiss Library Service Platform (SLSP, *Konsortium der Schweizer Hochschulbibliothek*), Det Kgl Bibliotek (Denmark), Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (BSB), Lower Saxony Consortium, Sachsenkonsortium, Friedrich-Althoff-Konsortium (FAK), Konsortium Baden-Württemberg (KBW), California Digital Library (CDL), and the Spanish National Research Council (CISC).

Our third Annual Meeting for Supporting Libraries was held at the beginning of December and the modest group of participants allowed for a higher level of engagement, providing us with considerable insight into the use of social media, how libraries prefer to engage with us, what they want to see more of, and how we could be more global.

The Library Working Group on Metadata that we established in 2022 as an outcome of the 2021 Annual Meeting for Supporting Libraries, continued to meet twice throughout the year. The group enables us to collaborate with experts from the library community to identify and address challenges for open access books and our services. One such challenge addressed in 2023 was OAPEN MARC records. We were

[fortunate to collaborate](#) with Jeff Edmunds (Digital Access Coordinator, Penn State University Libraries), on MARC21 records for libraries. Jeff explains the collaboration [in a short video](#), and in our 2023 Annual Meeting for Supporting Libraries, he expanded on what it means [in more detail](#).

We heartily acknowledge and send our thanks to all our supporting libraries and are grateful for their new or continued contributions to our work, facilitating the dissemination of OA books and building trust in OA book publishers and publishing.

## Expanding our communities

In 2023 OAPEN continued to accelerate its library and publisher outreach activities. A vital component of increasing engagement on a global scale is through DOAB's Trusted Platform Network, which allows the Directory to benefit from the quality assurance activities of these platforms to enhance the range of and discoverability and usage of open access books. Current platforms include OAPEN Library, OpenEdition, Project MUSE, and SciELO Books. JSTOR joined as a trusted platform partner 2023 and MOUs have recently been signed with the African Platform of Open Scholarship (APOS), Fulcrum (University of Michigan Press) and Thoth Open Metadata.

In addition to maintaining existing networks, we continuously seek to grow partnerships beyond the European and North American contexts. The expansion of our team to include Jordy Findanis and Danny Kingsley supports OAPEN's commitment to engage more actively with publishers, libraries, universities, and infrastructure providers beyond Europe and North America, e.g. in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa.

## Participation in groups and forums

In 2023, OAPEN participated in the following groups and forums:

- CERN/NASA Accelerating the Adoption of Open Science Working Group on Sustainable & Interoperable Open Infrastructure
- Crossref books interest group
- Netherlands Enterprise Agency Stakeholder Board
- OA Switchboard Books Working group
- OABN (OPERAS SIG)
- OAeBU Advisory Board
- OAeBU Technical Advisory Committee
- OASPA OA books interest group
- Open Book Collective Board of Stewards
- Open Book Collective membership committee
- OPERAS Common Standards SIG
- OPERAS Executive Assembly
- OPERAS national node for the Netherlands
- OPERAS STB (Services and Technology Board)
- OPERAS-PLUS
- OMP-DOAB/OAPEN Integrations Working Group
- POSI Posse
- SCOSS Family
- Think.Check.Submit committee



## Open Access Books Network

Once again, OAPEN provided one of the three coordinators for the [Open Access Books Network](#) (OABN). Our mailing list grew to 340+ members, Humanities Commons members grew to 440+, and X (formerly Twitter) now has 1,400+ members. On top of that, we published 17 blogs, many in our successful 'Publisher Spotlight' series of deep dives into the platforms publishers use to publish their OA books.

The first half of 2023 saw the [PALOMERA series launch](#), followed by three engagement sessions with publishers, libraries, and infrastructure providers. We [heard from the Open Book Collective](#) (OBC) and what it aims to achieve and teamed up with Jisc to run a [three-part series](#) of webinars leading up to the implementation of the new UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) policy for OA books called 'Collective funding models for Open Access books'.

Then, over the summer, the OABN took some time to [learn more](#) about their community, what works well, and what could be improved by conducting a "(not a) survey" of its members and are using this to [inform their development](#) and future activities. Shortly after the European summer, the OABN also celebrated three years of operations.

## Publications

- Ferwerda, Eelco, Ronald Snijder, and Niels Stern. 2023. 'Open Access to Books – the Perspective of a Non-Profit Infrastructure Provider'. *The Journal of Electronic Publishing* 26(1). doi: [10.3998/jep.3303](#). – An overview of the development and activities of OAPEN in the first ten years; the underlying technical approach behind the platforms; the current role of OAPEN and DOAB and outlook.
- Snijder, Ronald. 2023. 'Books in a Bubble: Assessing the OAPEN Library Collection'. *JLIS.It* 14(2):75–92. doi: [10.36253/jlis.it-498](#). – Three-dimensional visualisations tell a complicated story in a simple way: how well does the collection of the OAPEN Library meet the needs of its stakeholders: readers, libraries, funders and publishers?
- Snijder, Ronald. 2023. 'Measured in a Context: Making Sense of Open Access Book Data'. 36(1):20. doi: [10.1629/uksg.627](#). – Open access book platforms have been available for over a decade, each with their own usage data. To provide context, a new metric – the Transparent Open Access Normalized Index (TOANI) score – aims to provide a simple answer to the question of how well an individual open access book or chapter is performing.
- Stern, N. and J. Rooryck. 2023. 'PALOMERA 1st Policy Brief: Alignment beyond PALOMERA (1.5)'. Zenodo. doi: [10.5281/zenodo.8402385](#). – Both at the national and institutional levels, a coherent approach to open access for academic books is lacking. PALOMERA has established a Funder Forum as an informal community of practice for funders to address OA books.
- Stern, Niels and Ronald Snijder. 2023. 'Guest Post – Towards Global Equity for Open Access Books'. *The Scholarly Kitchen*. Retrieved 19 June 2023. (<https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2023/06/14/guest-post-towards-global-equity-for-open-access-books/>). – DOAB celebrated its tenth anniversary and has grown substantially. The next challenge is being more globally inclusive, something DOAB will continue to prioritise in the coming years.

## The OAPEN Lab / OAPEN Research

Apart from an infrastructure providing services, OAPEN is also a place to do research on open access books and to experiment. We have started several research projects, which will – hopefully – lead to interesting results.

### Wellcome deposit service

We have started to explore the possibility of OAPEN being the deposit point for researchers and publishers associated with Wellcome, a global charitable foundation for health research. The deposit service will be working with the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) Bookshelf. This would enable Wellcome and UKRI to take advantage of OAPEN as a well-known service provider, while using NCBI for their XML expertise.

### Affiliation data

We will be looking into providing affiliation data based on VIAF (Virtual International Authority File). This service combines multiple name authority files into a single OCLC-hosted name authority service. It matches and links widely used authority files maintained by national libraries, and thus is a reliable source of finding affiliations of our authors and editors.

### Metadata integration: Thoth, Open Monograph Press

To further enhance the ingestion of books into OAPEN and DOAB, we are discussing ways to make this more efficient. With the support of Public Knowledge Project( [PKP](#)), an “OMP-DOAB/OAPEN Integrations Working Group” was formed to seamlessly integrate the Open Monograph Press platform with OAPEN and DOAB using ONIX. Furthermore, together with the technical team of the Thoth platform, we are investigating a similar process, based on the SWORD protocol.

### Edited volumes and chapter information

Lastly, we have started to investigate possible ways to make chapter metadata for edited volumes available. There are several aspects to consider: acquiring the metadata and understanding the best ways to make it available to libraries, aggregators, and search engines.

## New technical features and functionalities

In 2023 we worked on new features and functionalities.

### BIC to Thema

Both OAPEN and DOAB use the BIC subject category scheme – launched originally in 1997 – which, at the time of writing this report, was officially deprecated in February 2024. Therefore, we needed to change to its successor: Thema. This new classification aims to be global in scope and is managed by EDItEUR. The consequences for us are twofold: an update of our infrastructure and the updating of all our book and chapter descriptions in the OAPEN Library and DOAB: over 110,000 records. After the preparations in 2023, the new classification will be available in the first half of 2024.

### MEMO – Metadata Export Module for Open access books

We see an increasing demand for selections of titles based on many different criteria. Furthermore, the users of these titles might have specific metadata requirements. For instance, EBSCO requires a bespoke

XML output, while the SCEL project uses MARC and KBART. To cater to these needs, we have developed a flexible export module and are in the process of deploying it in 2024.

## Recommender service

The large collection of the OAPEN Library allows us to use text mining techniques to create a privacy-friendly recommendation service. In cooperation with students at the Stevens Institute of Technology and Eric Hellman of the Free Ebook Foundation we have been working on a recommendation service that does not rely on privacy violation but instead uses the contents of the publications, and – like MEMO – we are implementing this new service in 2024.

## Adding a wing to the Palace Project

The [Palace Project](#) is a platform that provides equitable access to digital knowledge, while bolstering the relationship between libraries and patrons, protecting patron privacy, and enabling libraries to serve all their digital content in a single app. OAPEN supports this project by providing titles. We have selected 10,000 recent open access books from the OAPEN Library written in English or Spanish and made these available through the Palace platform in 2023. The next step is to work on a process to deliver *all* of the OAPEN titles to the Palace Project.

## Projects

OAPEN and DOAB are involved in several projects. Read more about them below.

### PALOMERA

PALOMERA (Policy Alignment of Open Access Monographs in the European Research Area (ERA)) is a two-year project funded within the framework of Horizon Europe. OAPEN actively participates in the PALOMERA project as scientific coordinator, member of the project management team, and as WP4 lead. In 2023, OAPEN led the partner work on the structure and implementation of the [PALOMERA Knowledge Base](#), which gathers hundreds of OA-book policy related documents across the European Research Area. In the long term, the Knowledge Base (a DSpace 7 instance, hosted by LYRASIS) will be managed by OAPEN. The Knowledge Base will be further enriched with research carried out in the context of the PALOMERA project. Towards the end of the project in 2024, essential research findings will be published in the [OAPEN OA Books Toolkit](#), which will serve as the public interface of the Knowledge Base.

During the first year of the PALOMERA project, OAPEN was also responsible for establishing the Funder Forum, a trusted forum for representatives of funding agencies in ERA countries, where they can freely share their perspectives, plans, but also challenges while developing or implementing open access policies for academic books. The two Funder Forum meetings organised in 2023 (May and November) gathered more than 40 representatives from Research Funding Organisations (RFOs) in 20 countries. The meetings were considered successful and fruitful and as such it served as a foundation for future meetings, the next one already planned for May 2024. This also encouraged the project partners to formulate the recommendations of [the first policy brief](#), suggesting that research funders would agree on a support mechanism for the continuation and future coordination of the Funder Forum.

Based on the evidence collected in the Knowledge Base and information provided by the funders by the end of the project (December 2024) two types of recommendations will be developed: (1) high-level and actionable, SMART-guided recommendations offering a shared vision for open access to a typology of

academic books and book publication processes, aligned across disciplinary and national contexts; (2) Recommendations tailored to the diversity of the academic book stakeholders: Research Performing Organisations (RPOs), Research Funding Organisations (RFOs), national open science policymakers, libraries, research institutes, academic researchers, learned societies, private foundations offering book subsidies, infrastructure providers, as well as commercial and institutional publishers.

## OA Book Usage Analytics for Diverse Communities – a demonstration project

2023 was a busy year for the Book Analytics Dashboard (BAD) project! In February, we began a series of focus groups which gave publishers the opportunity to view, use, and give suggestions and feedback on the template demo dashboard directly to the project team. We reported our [top findings from the BAD focus groups](#) in April, and then set to work on the feature requests that we discovered, as well as directly applying our findings into our work around sustainability and modelling different pricing possibilities.

At the Frankfurt Book Fair in October, we officially launched the Book Analytics Service (as the specific service offered by the BAD project). We began conversations with many different publishers interested in participating, and these exchanges continue today with some publishers now at the onboarding stage. In preparation for Frankfurt, we completely refreshed the supporting [documentation](#) and launched the service's [key information page](#) (including service levels and pricing structure). We've since published a summary: [Everything you need to know to get started with the Book Analytics Service](#) which brings together many key points and links we shared with publishers during our meetings at the Fair.

## Open Book Futures (OBF)

OAPEN/DOAB are part of [Open Book Futures](#) (OBF), a project funded by Research England and the Arcadia Fund, that aims to promote community-led and bibliodiverse initiatives within open access book publishing. This three-year project – a continuation of the COPIM project (2020-2023) – gathers an international community of researchers, librarians, universities, OA book publishers, and infrastructure providers. OBF will continue to build on the pioneering outputs of COPIM and significantly accelerate and expand the work of the Open Book Collective (OBC), which makes it easier for academic libraries to financially support small- and medium-sized OA publishing and infrastructure initiatives (including DOAB); the Thoth metadata management and dissemination platform; the Opening the Future revenue model; the Experimental Publishing Compendium; and the Thoth Archiving Network.

By supporting these important initiatives and particularly through our collaboration with the OBC and Thoth, we are collectively engaging with OA publishing in new and innovative ways. Workshops were held in 2023 to scope two key project deliverables, the Collective Development Fund, which will be issuing grant funding to support publishers, infrastructure providers, and other relevant entities to build capacity within OA publishing, and the OBC Information Hub, which will offer key resources on funding models, accessibility, copyright and licensing, metadata management, preservation/archiving, governance best practices and much besides.

While striving to underpin and strengthen existing networks, we are also, importantly, committed to accelerating our outreach efforts further with publishers, libraries, universities, and infrastructure providers in national and linguistic contexts beyond Europe and North America. To address local and global inequalities, DOAB and OBF are aligned in efforts to ensure 'a fairer, more sustainable future for Open Access book publishing', in the words of the project's principal investigator Joe Deville.

## OPERAS-PLUS

OAPEN is taking an active part in [OPERAS-PLUS](#), a 36-month project funded by the Horizon Europe framework Infra-Dev that runs from September 2022 to July 2025. Since OPERAS entered the ESFRI Roadmap in 2021, this grant supports OPERAS in its preparatory phase to become operational as an ERIC in 2028. Specifically, OPERAS-PLUS aims to strengthen the OPERAS governance structure, to develop OPERAS national nodes, as well as OPERAS' portfolio of services. It further aims to maximise OPERAS' impact in the European Research Area (ERA) and beyond. OPERAS-PLUS brings together a consortium of 13 partners from 12 countries and is coordinated by Michael Kaiser from the Max Weber Stiftung (Bonn, Germany).

## SCELC & OAPEN Pilot Project

The [SCELC & OAPEN Pilot Project](#) working group has completed the 3rd reporting observations document. This pilot is a collaborative effort to amplify the usage of open access resources in SCELC member libraries. The goal of the project is to jumpstart the integration of open access ebooks and provide a data driven analysis for the expansion and continual investment by SCELC. It will be accomplished by customising feeds of OAPEN's OA books to participating SCELC libraries, analysing the usage statistics and trends, and using feedback from participants. The project will conclude in July 2024.

## Financial continuity

For the public institutions supporting OAPEN it is important that OAPEN is an open and transparent organisation following generally accepted principles on governance, sustainability, and insurance. Such principles are formulated in the [Principles of Open Scholarly Infrastructure](#) (POSI). They are a set of best practice guidelines aimed at open infrastructures to enable them to be governed sustainably and properly cater to the community they're built to serve. As OAPEN and DOAB are governed separately, self-audits were conducted for each that were shared internally and with their governing bodies.

The self-audits identified three main areas that we as organisations needed to address in more detail. These were: Governance, Sustainability, and Insurance. One significant result was creating the ability to generate a surplus and a contingency fund that would cover twelve months of operational costs, for both OAPEN and DOAB, enabling them to become more resilient organisations. We were also able to announce OAPEN's [guarantee of independence](#), confirming that we can't be sold or acquired.

Full details of the results of the audits can be found on our website. Please see our OAPEN & DOAB [POSI self-audit](#) from May 2023 and our contributions to Principles of Open Scholarly Infrastructure (POSI) [version 1.1](#): Reflections from adopters.

As per our POSI self-audit we have begun setting aside revenue – when possible – to build a contingency fund for OAPEN. The exact size of the contingency fund should be established by the OAPEN Supervisory Board on a yearly basis. The contingency fund should cover at least 12 months of operational costs for OAPEN.

The OAPEN Foundation closed the 2023 financial year with a positive result of € 166,875. From this result the Supervisory Board has decided to allocate an amount of € 160,000 to the OAPEN contingency fund and € 6.875 is added to the general reserves.

The Hague, 23 May 2024  
Stichting OAPEN

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N.S. Stern  
Managing Director