
OAPEN Foundation, Annual Report 2012

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Introduction

The OAPEN Foundation is dedicated to Open Access publishing of academic books. OAPEN works with publishers to build a quality controlled collection of Open Access books, mainly in the area of Humanities and Social Sciences, and provides services for publishers, libraries and research funders in the areas of dissemination, quality assurance and digital preservation.

OAPEN (Open Access Publishing in European Networks) was developed as a 30 month targeted project co-funded by the EU in its eContentplus-program. The goal of the project was to achieve a sustainable publication model for academic books in Humanities and Social Sciences and to improve the visibility and usability of high quality academic research in Europe.

OAPEN Foundation

OAPEN Foundation was founded by the University of Amsterdam (UvA), the University of Leiden (UL), the University library of Utrecht University (UU), the Netherlands Academy of Sciences (KNAW), the National Library of the Netherlands (KB) and Amsterdam University Press (AUP). These institutes act as Participants in the foundation and are committed to provide financial support. The Participants form a Council that meets once every year. The Council elects the members of the OAPEN Board from its circle. The OAPEN Board can appoint one person from outside the Council in the board. In addition, the Board can establish an Advisory Board.

Board and Participants

On December 31 the Board consisted of the following members:

- Bas Savenije (president) – KB
- Henk Wals (treasurer) – KNAW
- Jan-Peter Wissink – AUP
- Kurt de Belder – UL
- Margo Bargheer – University Library of Göttingen University

The remaining Participants are represented by Anja Smit (UU) and Frank Huysmans (UvA).

Advisory Board

OAPEN's Advisory board consists of members of the former OAPEN consortium and representatives from stakeholders in scholarly communication, such as publishers, libraries, research councils and scholars. The Advisory board is chaired by Caroline Sutton, director of Co-Action Publishing and current president of the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA).

Funding

OAPEN Foundation is funded by the Participants and by NWO. NWO provides a yearly subsidy to match the financial support from the Participants through the University Library of the UvA, which acts as official recipient of the subsidy from NWO. The total funding from the Participants and NOW amounts to 240.000 euro yearly, for a period of three years, from April 1, 2011 until March 31, 2014.

Objectives

The objectives of OAPEN Foundation as stated in the bylaws are:

- To stimulate Open Access publishing of academic books
- To further develop OAPEN as a platform for Open Access books
- To develop a sustainable business model for OAPEN

Activities in 2012

OAPEN Library

Publishers

At the start of 2013 there are 47 publishers contributing over 1200 publications to the OAPEN Library. Fifteen new publishers were added in 2012, the majority through the new collaboration with FWF (see below). The total number of publications increased with around 25%.

Austrian Science Fund (FWF)

The Austrian Science Fund (FWF) is Austria's central funding organization for basic research. The FWF-E-Book-Library is an open access repository for all stand-alone publications funded by the FWF. FWF has agreed to deposit all Open Access books funded by FWF in the OAPEN Library. In the winter of 2012, OAPEN and FWF have started the process to harvest the FWF titles into the OAPEN Library. At this moment, the FWF collection contains over 160 titles from ten publishers.

Usage

In 2012 much attention was given to usage statistics. In 2011 only the usage of the website itself could be measured, which only accounts for 15% of the total usage: the rest of the visitors find the books in the OAPEN Library through other channels. Usage is now measured at the level of each separate title, which allows OAPEN to report to each participating publisher.

2012 saw an enormous increase in usage of the OAPEN Library. The total number of book downloads was 610.000, more than three times the amount of downloads in 2011. The total number of visits in this period was 431.000, coming from 311.000 unique visitors.

Open Access dissemination

Digital dissemination is a central part of OAPEN's services, based on metadata conversion and data exports for aggregators, intermediaries and libraries. OAPEN maintains daily data feeds in five formats to enable integration of the OAPEN collection into Library catalogues. In 2012 two major aggregation agreements were implemented:

- In the summer of 2012, the final details of exchanging metadata with OCLC were completed. Since then, the titles of OAPEN also part of WorldCat;
- In December 2012, the exchange of metadata with Europeana was set up. This will result in the integration of the OAPEN titles into Europeana within the first months of 2013.

Directory of Open Access Books

The Directory of Open Access Books was launched in April, with just over 20 publishers and about 750 books. DOAB is a discovery service for peer reviewed books published under an Open Access license. DOAB provides a searchable index to the information about these books, with links to the full texts of the publications at the publisher's website or repository. The service was launched in a Beta version to enable feedback from users and to further develop the service.

To find out about user needs and expectations DOAB organized a survey and hosted an online discussion on Open Access books and DOAB services with publishers, academics, librarians, and participants from the wider Open Access and publishing community. In November DOAB won the award for "Best New Product" from The Charleston Advisor. According to the journal, DOAB 'shows that the Open Access movement is as alive and well for books as it is for journals.'

By the end of 2012, DOAB had 35 publishers with information about more than 1250 books. More publishers are awaiting approval to make use of the service. The aim is to schedule the official launch at a major conference in the summer of 2013.

Projects

On-going projects

OAPEN is involved in two on-going projects, OAPEN-UK and OAPEN-NL. Both projects are set up as pilots involving academic publishers and funders to publish a limited number of monographs in Open Access. The effects of Open Access on usage, sales and impact are then measured by comparing the OA books with a similar group of traditionally printed books. In total, thirteen publishers have contributed around 80 books to both pilots. These books have now all been made available through the OAPEN Library.

OAPEN-NL

In 2012 OAPEN-NL selected all the OA books for the pilot, 50 out of 66 applications from 8 publishers, and made them available in OA through the OAPEN Library. The project will run on for another year to monitor usage and sales, and result in a final report in October 2013 and a closing seminar organized with SURF during the Open Access week.

In October 2012, a workshop was organized to discuss the preliminary results of the OAPEN-NL pilot and to introduce a new work package Implementing CrossMark (see below). Although the results are not final yet, it is clear that OA has a positive effect on discovery and usage and that so far there is no evidence of a negative effect on sales.

New projects

Implementing CrossMark within the OAPEN Library

As part of the on-going pilot projects, OAPEN and JISC Collections have agreed to use the on-going OAPEN pilots (OAPEN-NL and OAPEN-UK) to explore the use of CrossMark for OA books. CrossMark is introduced by CrossRef as an 'identification service', to provide users current information about the status and origin of academic publications. The goal is to work with publishers to collect and provide the information that helps ensure the integrity of OA publications and to improve transparency and quality assurance of publications in the OAPEN Library. The project started in December 2012 and will result in the first implementation of CrossMark for monographs and Open Access content.

Europeana Cloud

In 2012, OAPEN became a partner in the successful application for a new Europeana project, Europeana Cloud. Europeana Cloud is designed to establish a cloud-based system for Europeana and its aggregators and will provide a new infrastructure and a new platform - Europeana Research. The official start of the project will be in March 2013.

DILOH (Digital Library for Open Humanities)

OAPEN became a partner in DILOH, which is run by CLÉO (Centre for Open Electronic Publishing) and is a project to digitize 15.000 books over a 7 year period and make these books available in Open Access through OpenEdition, the publication platform for HSS publications based in France.

In November OAPEN and OpenEdition reached an agreement to collaborate to support each other's activities in the area of Open Access Book publishing. OpenEdition will support OAPEN's system of quality assurance and introduce it to OpenEdition publishers. OAPEN will promote the OpenEdition platform and introduce the DILOH project to OAPEN publishers.

Going for Gold

OAPEN participated in the development of a new project proposal for Open Access monograph publishing, which was initiated by UCL Library with a number of LERU members.

Going for Gold is a 3-year research infrastructure development project which is designed to create shared Gold Open Access publishing infrastructures for research universities in Europe. The product of the publishing infrastructure will be Gold Open Access monographs in HSS.

Going for Gold is a collaboration of 15 universities and a number of publishers from 8 European countries. OAPEN is a key partner to provide the central infrastructure and services. The proposal will be submitted for funding in 2013.

Promoting OAPEN and raising awareness for Open Access Monographs

An important part of OAPEN's activities has to do with promoting Open Access as a publishing model for Monographs and promoting OAPEN as a dedicated platform for OA books. This was mainly done through flyers, regular newsletters, taking part in Book Fairs and talking at conferences. This year more attention was given to social media.

In 2012 the promotion included the launch of DOAB, through a press release and subsequent newsletters and presentations at conferences. DOAB also conducted an online survey, hosted an online discussion and published a report about its research.

Book Fairs

OAPEN was present at the London International Book Fair (April) and the Frankfurt Book Fair (October). OAPEN shared a stand with Amsterdam University Press at the Frankfurt Book Fair, where it represented both OAPEN and DOAB. Ferwerda gave a talk at the PIAM meeting (see below) and OAPEN hosted the meeting for the Association of European University Presses.

Articles

Ronald Snijder wrote two articles based on OAPEN research data that were accepted for publication in 2013:

- 'Do developing countries profit from free books? - Discovery and online usage in developed and developing countries compared' – accepted for publication in the Journal of Electronic Publishing (May 2013)
- 'A higher impact for Open Access monographs: disseminating through OAPEN and DOAB' – accepted for publication in Insights (March 2013)

Conferences

OAPEN was invited to give talks and presentations at twelve different conferences. A selection is given below:

- DFG-Workshop "Open Access für wissenschaftliche Monografien" (April, Göttingen): The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) held a dedicated workshop on Open Access monographs in the German context, hosted by Göttingen State- and University Library. OAPEN took part with two presentations:
 - OA Monographs in an international perspective (Ferwerda)
 - Research on Open Access monographs – a short review (Snijder)
- Open Access Scholarly Publishing (COASP 2012, September, Budapest): Ferwerda organized and chaired a session on OA books. One section focussed on how stakeholders see Open Access books: 'Results from the DOAB and OAPEN', with Caren Milloy presenting findings from OAPEN-UK and Janneke Adema reporting on an online discussion on DOAB. A panel discussion focused on the requirements for Open Access books and on the potential role of OASPA in establishing standards for Open Access book publishing.
- Internet Librarian (October, Monterey, USA): Snijder gave a presentation about the OAPEN Library, titled "Starting a New Library in the Google Age".
- PIAM, interagency meeting IGO presses (October, Frankfurt): Ferwerda was invited to talk at the yearly Publishers Interagency Meeting held before the Frankfurt Book Fair.
- Charleston conference (November, Charleston, USA): Ferwerda took part in a session about Open Access Book publishing with case studies from Utah State University, the University of Michigan and OAPEN.
- ALPSP Open Access seminar (November, London): Ferwerda was invited to give an overview of Open Access monograph publishing, titled 'Open Access eBooks, the next big thing?'

OAPEN conference 2013 in collaborations with JISC Collections

OAPEN and JISC Collections decided to join forces to organize a major conference titled 'Open Access Monographs in the Humanities and Social Sciences'. The conference aims to raise awareness of open access, to increase understanding of key challenges and to identify where international common policies and frameworks could support the adoption of open access monograph publishing in the humanities and social sciences.

The two-day international conference is intended for all stakeholders in scholarly communications, including European research funders, senior institutional managers, publishers, learned societies, librarians and researchers.

The conference was announced just before Christmas and will be held in the British Library, London, July 1 and 2.