

Introducing...

Kevin Sanders

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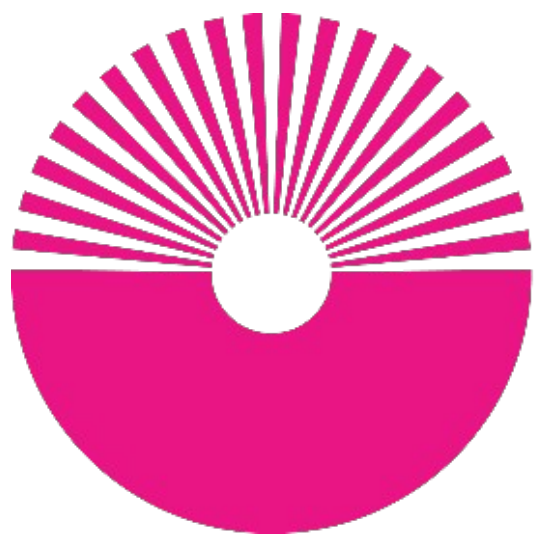


**OpenBook
Collective**

**Open Book
Futures are
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**OpenBook
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The case against Book Processing Charges

Expensive

€12,000 - €14,000 for larger commercial presses

€5,000 - €7,000 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

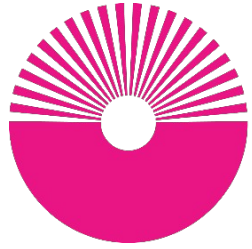
Likely to only be affordable by academics in wealthier national contexts

Lacking imagination

Reproduces a 'thin' version of OA: Open Access not a baseline necessity but a 'benefit'

Entrenches business as usual

A failure of imagination, including of infrastructural possibilities



OpenBook Collective

Aims

Raise new
revenue
streams for
OA publishers
& SPs

Support a
model of OA
book
publishing not
reliant on
BPCs

Build a new
community of
authors,
publishers,
service
providers,
librarians

Make it easier
for librarians
to subscribe
to OA
membership
schemes

Ethos

Open
infrastructure

Not for profit
(a charity, in
the process of
being
registered)

Community
led

Supporting
bibliodiversity



Why open access?

- OA books as a group show a higher geographic diversity of usage and reach more countries, i.e. they have a greater proportion of usage in a wider range of countries
- OA books have increased access and usage for underserved populations and low or middle income countries, including a high number of countries from Africa
- OA books as a group have ten times more downloads than non-OA books and more than double the number of citations
- there is higher (at least 2.7-fold) usage (via downloads) of OA books across every stratum in our sample. That is for every type of book, every discipline and each of the three years of publication in the sample, OA books show more usage than their non-OA comparison groups. This holds for every month after publication and for alternate categories such as imprints
- books that contain the name of a country or region in their title generally show increased usage in that country or region. This effect is clearest for Latin America and Africa and is greater for OA titles
- anonymous downloads are generally around double that of logged downloads. This means reporting that relies on institutional identification will be substantially undercounting the usage of OA books.

Neylon, C., Ozaygen, A., Montgomery, L., Huang, C.-K. (Karl) ., Pyne, R., Lucraft, M., & Emery, C. (2021). More readers in more places: the benefits of open access for scholarly books. *Insights: The UKSG Journal*, 34(1), 27. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.558>



Why Open Book Collective?

“Open access book publishing stands at a crossroads: one avenue leads to the monopolisation of open access by large commercial publishers and for-profit intermediaries, with infrastructures and funding systems set up to serve those businesses and their approaches; the other opens **up a more diverse, scholar-led, community-owned, and not-for-profit publishing ecosystem that enables smaller and more community-focused presses to thrive and multiply.**” COPIM. (2019). About us. <https://www.copim.ac.uk/about-us/>

- Sustainability: **scaling small** and collaboration
- **Community-driven**
- **More inclusive options to publish open access** for long-form scholarship
- Increase **bibliodiversity**
- **Small-medium sized publishers**
 - Scholar-led Presses
 - New University Presses
 - Independent Presses

Common misconceptions:

I or my funder must pay to publish an OA book

- False. There are many ways of funding OA book publication including...
- Subscription models (Open Book Collective, Opening the Future, individual publisher schemes)
- Hybrid publication models
- Library/grant supported publication
- Books that are OA without BPC are often called 'Diamond OA'

OA books are lower quality

- False. There are several high quality Diamond OA publishers, such as those approved for membership by the OBC. These must meet high criteria for standards such as peer review, production quality and metadata. Look also for memberships: DOAB, OASPA.
- A study by Deville et. al (2019) showed no significant difference in acceptance rates between OA and closed access book publishers



No-one will find my OA book; OA publishers are less discoverable

- Changing. Historically, discoverability has been an issue for OA books due to lack of consistent high quality metadata. Open Book Collective/Open Book Futures is working to change this.



OA books means electronic books only

- False. Many OA book publishers use hybrid models, including all the OBC publishers





“meson press publishes research on digital cultures and networked media. Our open access publications challenge contemporary theories and advance key debates in the humanities of today.”

- Publishing, STS, technology
- Peer review
- Diamond open access
- Print on demand

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Digitale Kulturen und Kritik nach ihrem Ende

Laura Hille und Daniela Wentz¹

Die Geschichte dieses Bandes hat ihren Ursprung in einem Text. Im Jahr 2016 wurde auf verschiedenen Blogs und in Online-Zeitschriften, die sich mit digitaler Kultur befassen, der Artikel *The Silicon Ideology* von Josephine Armistead geteilt. In Anlehnung an den mittlerweile klassisch zu nennenden Text *The Californian Ideology* von Richard Barbrook und Andy Cameron (1995/1996), in dem die Autoren ein Bild der kalifornischen Tech-Industrie und ihrer neoliberalen und gegenkulturellen Geschichte zeichneten, fordert Armistead in ihrem Aufsatz eine Aktualisierung dieser kulturellen Analyse. Besonders wichtig und alarmierend erscheinen Armistead die zeitgenössischen politischen Verbindungen besagter Tech-Industrie zur neuen Rechten bzw. Alt-Right und einem faschistischen Neoreaktionismus. Ihrer Argumentation folgend kann die „Silicon Ideology“ aus unterschiedlichen Gründen so verstanden werden, dass sie faschistische, neo-reaktionäre, technodeterministische, Alt-Right-Politiken und -Praktiken fördert. Es ist nicht verwunderlich, dass Armistead ein Pseudonym ist und die Identität der Autor:in bis heute nicht bekannt wurde. Trolling, Doxing und andere Formen der digitalen Belästigung sind Teil der Realität, mit der Forscher:innen und Journalist:innen konfrontiert sind, wenn sie sich kritisch etwa mit der Alt-Right oder bestimmten Gruppen von 4chan auseinandersetzen. Im Zuge der Trump-Wahl, des Aufschwungs der Alt-Right und der Verbreitung von Medien wie *Breitbart News* und *Infowars* schien es uns deshalb notwendig, diesen dunklen Teil unserer zeitgenössischen digitalen Kultur aus einer medien-theoretischen Perspektive aufzuarbeiten und sich mit diesem spezifischen historischen und ideologischen Erbe zu befassen, das nicht nur in missbräuchlichen Memes wie „Pepe the Frog“ oder der misogynen sogenannten „Gamer-Gate“-Kontroverse von

¹ Wir danken Anna Kalinina für ihre herausragende Unterstützung.

Academics are an inherent part of our community

- Academics are not [...] passive players in the move towards OA. They do have choices, to an extent, about where they publish and how they invest their research time, and can also be working with librarian colleagues to evidence and promote the academic rigour, standards and value of OA. They can organise with fellow academics and scholar-publishers in the compilation and presentation of such data (Fathallah 2022, 16)

Open Book Futures: Key OBC areas of focus

Expansion of outreach both within Anglophone contexts & beyond

Grant giving pilot, via Collective Development Fund, to build publishing capacity

Platform enhancements + new OBC Info Hub



Resources to explore

[The Open Book Collective](#)

[Open Book Collective documentation site](#)

[Our organizational model, including membership criteria](#)

[The COPIM project: Community-Led Open Publishing Infrastructures for Monographs](#)

[The Open Book Futures Project \(COPIM successor\)](#)

[Thoth](#)

Fathallah, J. (2022). Open Access Monographs: Myths, Truths and Implications in the Wake of UKRI Open Access Policy. *LIBER Quarterly: The Journal of the Association of European Research Libraries*, 32(1). <https://doi.org/10.53377/lq.11068>