

OAPEN Management Report 2022

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

OAPEN Executive Director is Niels Stern.

On 1 January 2022 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

During 2022 the OAPEN Advisory Board was set up consisting of the following members:

- 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
- Carsten Buhr, Managing Director, De Gruyter
- 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 67,000 OA books from more than 600 publishers. Thus, DOAB has become a global hub for OA books.

Reporting period

At the time of writing this report (March 2023), the OAPEN Library counts nearly 27,000 OA books of more than 400 academic publishers, making it the largest in the world. With more than 12 million downloads annually spread across the Globe, OAPEN clearly meets a growing need.

For OAPEN and DOAB, 2022 was a decisive year in financial terms as we were worried about how the library community would interpret that we had reached our SCOSS (The Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services) target in 2021. Together with the SCOSS team we were careful in our communications, phrasing it along these lines: *reaching the SCOSS target was great but only the beginning of becoming financially sustainable through institutional investments in our open infrastructures for academic books*.

All the valuable support we receive from libraries and consortia needs to be sustained through continued support – otherwise we will not be able to uphold our operations. We have therefore been very pleased to see that almost all those libraries who had to decide about continued support of OAPEN and DOAB in 2022, have decided to maintain their contribution. We thank all our supporting libraries for their contributions in 2022. We know that library budgets are often tight, that resources are prioritised carefully, and commitments often only made for one year. Although one-year contributions make long-term technical investments less easy, we are grateful that 208 institutions believe that investing in open infrastructures for books is important and that OAPEN and DOAB are deemed trustworthy recipients of their support.

During the UKSG 2022 Annual Conference we officially launched the OAPEN Dashboard service - a new analytics service for our library members, publishers and funder partners to help them gain a deeper understanding of the usage of open access books. The Dashboard service includes data for the entire OAPEN Library. The OAPEN Dashboard includes unique features and functionalities that allow its users to gain a better sense of the uptake of open access books globally, regionally and locally. Next to this, users can also look at usage by discipline or apply other filters. For libraries, the Dashboard can be used to gain insights into both institutional usage (based on IP-ranges) and geolocational usage. While libraries are accustomed to measuring usage based on their IP-ranges, insights into geolocational usage offers another unique functionality helpful for understanding the uptake of open access books. Due to their free nature, readers are to register and authenticate themselves prior to accessing these books. This enables students, researchers, and readers generally to use these books from home, a local coffee place, or a coworking environment. With this Dashboard, libraries can gain insights into the regional usage of open access books, capturing on- and off-campus usage – setting their preferred radius ranging from 20 to 500 kilometres.

This year we have worked on improving the metadata feeds aimed at libraries and publishers. The MARCXML feed – which is based on the MARC21 standard – is used primarily by libraries. The MARC21 standard contains many options to describe publications, and thus it is quite helpful that the National Acquisitions Group (NAG) and the Southern Universities Purchasing Consortium (SUPC) have created

guidelines for standardised MARC21 records for print books, eBooks and eTextbooks. By following this standard, content providers can better support academic libraries. We have now made sure that our MARCXML metadata feed adheres to this standard. Apart from the MARCXML feed we have also updated our ONIX feed. ONIX for Books is an XML format for sharing bibliographic data describing both traditional books and eBooks. Just like MARC21, this standard is very comprehensive. It is also quite rigorous: there are many checks on the content. In order to make sure our metadata better fits with this standard, we have made several small adjustments to how related ISBNs or funding data are displayed.

We have also been working with EBSCO to integrate our collection into the GOBI service. The GOBI platform supports libraries with the acquisition of e-books. Books from the OAPEN Library collection are now visible on the bibliographic record in GOBI, helping libraries see if an OA version of a book is available. GOBI users can find lists of OA eBooks broken out by publisher on the DRM-free and Open Access section of Spotlight Lists in GOBI.

In November/December 2022, we organised the Annual Meeting for Supporting Libraries. This annual event served to gather input, ideas and feedback from our library community. In total, more than 40 participants took part in this annual exercise, contributing to the shaping of our organisation and technical roadmap.

The year 2022 earmarked the start of the first DOAB-OAPEN working group. Following library input and discussions, the DOAB-OAPEN Library Working Group for Metadata was created. This library working group involving experts from various libraries around the world worked on addressing key issues and challenges that open access books face in relation to metadata. More on the working group and the progress it made in 2022 was shared during our Annual Meeting for Supporting Libraries and can be found [here](#).

In 2022 the OA Books Toolkit was further developed. The toolkit has been picked up by institutions around the world, found by users from over 170 countries. In 2022, we have added a search function on the homepage to improve findability and an article on open educational resources (OER) has been added. Also, almost all OAPEN Open Access Books Toolkit 30+ articles are now licensed under Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 licence. Furthermore, in 2022, we have added a section with author success stories: ten new interviews have been added in the section: Author success stories. This collection of case studies features a group of authors who explain in their own words how publishing their book open access has benefited their work. The authors come from different disciplinary and geographical backgrounds and have published with a range of publishers; they explore different reasons why open access was a successful choice for them.

OAPEN is a founding member of OPERAS (<https://www.operas-eu.org>) and represented in the OPERAS Executive Assembly and national node in the Netherlands. OPERAS is on the ESFRI roadmap towards becoming an ERIC and OAPEN is part of the OPERAS-PLUS project which seeks to strengthen OPERAS as a research infrastructure and preparing it to become an ERIC.

Financial continuity

The OAPEN Foundation closed the 2022 financial year with a positive result of € 103.024. From this result an amount of € 100.000 is added to a contingency fund and € 3.024 is added to the general reserves. This makes the size of our financial reserves € 190.400. 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 (<https://openscholarlyinfrastructure.org/>). These principles are generally recommended to be followed which OAPEN strives to do. One of the principles related to sustainability reads:

- **Goal to create contingency fund to support operations for 12 months** – a high priority should be generating a contingency fund that can support a complete, orderly wind down (12 months in most cases). This fund should be separate from those allocated to covering operating risk and investment in development.

OAPEN follows this principle by setting aside revenue each year to build its contingency fund. The exact size of the contingency fund should be established by the OAPEN Board of Directors on a yearly basis. The contingency fund should cover at least 12 months of operational costs for OAPEN. In 2022 OAPEN has added € 100k to the contingency fund.

Administrative organisation

The Board of Directors has decided to work towards a new governance model, to become effective during 2023. In this new structure the Board of Directors will be replaced by a Supervisory Board and the Executive Director by a Managing Director.

The preparation of this transition has been ongoing in 2023 and is expected to be implemented during the first half of 2023.