

OAPEN Management Report 2021

OAPEN - an acronym for Open Access Publishing in European Networks - was developed in the period 2008 - 2011 as an EU project by six university publishers from six countries and the University of Amsterdam and Leiden University, led by Amsterdam University Press (AUP). Since July 2011, OAPEN has been operating successfully as an independent foundation.

Target

The foundation's goal is threefold:

- stimulating open access for scientific books;
- the further development and expansion of the OAPEN platform, by enlarging and broadening the collection of open access books and by developing services for scientific publishers and libraries;
- developing a model for the sustainable continuation of the activities of the foundation in an international context.

Board and management

On 1 January 2021 the board of OAPEN consisted of the following persons:

- Bas Savenije, chair
- Reinier Groen, treasurer
- Kurt De Belder, secretary
- Antia Wiersma, member

A number of changes took place during the year. As a result, the composition as of 31 December 2021 was as follows:

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

In December 2021 the Board decided to set up an Advisory Board in 2022 and agreed on a list of candidates for the Advisory Board.

Eelco Ferwerda retired as director at the end of 2020. At 1 January 2021 Niels Stern became director.

At the time of writing this report (March 2022), the OAPEN Library counts nearly 20,400 open access (OA) books of approximately 390 scientific publishers, making it the largest in the world. With more than 11.6 million downloads annually, OAPEN clearly meets a growing need. The importance of OA is growing and both in the Netherlands and in Europe (within the EU and Science Europe) consideration is being given to how academic books can become part of OA policy.

Activities

The OAPEN Library contains freely accessible academic books. OAPEN works with publishers and science 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 overview of open access books modelled after DOAJ (*Directory of Open Access Journals*). The main goals of DOAB are to improve the findability of open access books that have undergone 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 the data of more than 50,500 OA books from more than 560 publishers. Thus DOAB occupies a central position in the OA book landscape.

Reporting period

As open infrastructures selected by SCOSS (The Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services) OAPEN and DOAB attracted more support from institutions and consortia across the globe in 2021. We were able to reach an important funding milestone for our organisation, reaching our SCOSS funding target halfway through 2021. The SCOSS funding campaign has been helpful for kickstarting and building connections with the library community, while the financial support of these 89 institutions from 14 countries directly contributes to the development of our services and sustained operations. In 2021, we saw our total library supporter base nearly double to 165 libraries. This continued support remains crucial for the further development of our services.

The second phase of the OPERAS project, in which the DOAB platform was redeveloped and migrated to an open infrastructure based on DSpace, was successfully completed in February.

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. On 30 June 2021, the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) Committee announced that OPERAS would be added to the ESFRI Roadmap 2021 (<https://www.esfri.eu/latest-esfri-news/new-ris-roadmap-2021>). This was a major milestone in the process towards OPERAS becoming an ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium).

In November 2021, 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.

During this meeting we also introduced the first DOAB-OAPEN library working group. This new and informal group will be implemented in 2022. Through this body, we will be collaborating with experts from the library community to advise and work with us on better embedding open access books within the library ecosystem: addressing key issues and challenges that open access books currently face.

In collaboration with UKRI (*UK Research and Innovation*), the report "UKRI Gap Analysis of Open Access Monographs Infrastructure" was published, see <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5771945>.

Together with SCOAP3 - The Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics: Enabling open dissemination of global research outputs in High-Energy Physics – OAPEN created the SCOAP3 for Books collection, consisting of open access key textbooks and monographs in particle physics and neighbouring fields

Financial continuity

The OAPEN Foundation closed the 2021 financial year with a positive result of € 142,611. This makes the size of our financial reserve € 87,375. Our policy for the financial reserve is to strive for a reserve that is sufficient to cover the costs for one year.

The measures taken in recent years are bearing fruit and fully justify confidence in the sustainable future of the organisation and its activities.

Administrative organisation

The Board of Directors has decided to work towards a new governance model, to become effective in the beginning of 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 is started in 2021 and is on schedule for a formal transition on 1 January 2023.