

OPENING THE FUTURE

Essential Information

Are you assessing open access book publishing initiatives in your library?

OPENING
THE FUTURE

Opening the Future helps you make informed investment decisions by ticking all the boxes

✓ Works with existing acquisition infrastructure

Supports Diversity, Equity & Inclusion goals ✓

✓ Builds your library collection with perpetual access

Benefits authors and institutions without dedicated OA funds ✓

✓ Authors and institutions don't have to pay expensive BPCs

Complies with funder mandates for monograph publishing ✓

✓ Supports small independent University and mission-driven presses

Sources and disseminates research openly and globally ✓

Summary of the OtF model

Opening the Future funds BPC-free open access book publishing while also broadening your own collection through an affordable subscription to closed content.

We're reshaping how knowledge dissemination is funded and accessed, by leveraging the collective contributions of academic libraries worldwide. Your Opening the Future membership funds participating presses to publish new OA monographs, while your library benefits from access to closed content, and no single institution bears a disproportionate burden. For a modest annual fee your library gets DRM-free, unlimited access to a closed-access selection of the press' backlist, with perpetual access after three years. The membership revenue is used by the press solely to produce new frontlist OA monographs, moving towards an affordable, sustainable model for academic publishing and creating a collection of OA books that are open for the world.

Through investing in OtF, your local collection grows while funding future OA books at a fraction of the price usually required by publishers to cover Book Processing Charges for a single OA book.

Publishing the frontlist OA titles is a rolling process with no thresholds to meet: as soon as they have accrued enough membership funds to produce a title the press publishes the next book in line, and so on.

Be part of something special. Join over 100 Universities around the world already committed to Opening the Future.

Opening the Future in a nutshell

Library subscribes to backlist package of *non*-OA books offered by publisher at special discounted price



Books in the subscription package remain non-OA. MARC & KBART records available, & COUNTER compliant stats.

Publisher makes backlist package of *non*-OA books available to members



Perpetual access granted after three years membership.

Publisher uses subscription money to publish new OA books



Frontlist books are published as OA, available to everyone

Value for money

The highest tiered membership fee for one year's access to **50** backlist titles is somewhere in the region of **10%** of the cost of a **single** average BPC! *

* This does depend on what you call an average BPC but, in any case, even the largest libraries might pay only approx. €1350 / £1150 / \$1600 a year depending on which Press package they choose, for access to an average of 50 books. Financially-speaking it's very cost effective – and you retain perpetual access after 3 years' membership. Plus your subscription fees simultaneously fund new OA books.

Benefits...

- 1** The backlist/frontlist combination provides a unique dual-route to participation for acquisition librarians. Many institutions do not have dedicated OA funds, particularly for monographs: the fact that the backlist remains a subscription means that these libraries are able to justify the expenditure on books to which they would otherwise not have access. At the same time, every year of membership grows their (open) collection too.
- 2** Libraries preferring to pay with their OA budgets are able to justify this expenditure because the new frontlist titles are openly accessible. This also allows institutions that have access to block grants for OA (e.g. Wellcome) to use this pot to fund the purchase.
- 3** When the revenue target is met and the entire monograph frontlist is openly accessible, future membership fee rates can be lowered. If the revenue target is exceeded, the surplus can go towards funding infrastructure projects devoted to enhancing open book dissemination.
- 4** Publishing the OA titles is a rolling process with no threshold to be met: as soon as they have the funds to produce a title the press will publish the next book in line OA, and so on. Membership/subscription funds are directed purely towards ensuring that future press outputs are OA.

Benefits continued

- 5** Backlist access to titles is via Fulcrum (or Project MUSE or other platforms depending on the press). Authentication supported includes IP range, OpenAthens, Shibboleth, and referring URL, and the books are seamlessly integrated with any other holdings in the library. The platforms offer COUNTER-compliant stats, MARC & KBART.
- 6** Backlist books are provided in PDF format. Library members/patrons have unlimited concurrent access, DRM-free for the duration of membership. At the expiry of the three years, libraries own the package in perpetuity but have the option to renew membership and subscribe to another package of different titles or switch to an OA Supporter Membership without the backlist.
- 7** Titles included in the packages are chosen based on usage or relevance. They are often subjects that amplify underrepresented voices, explore marginalized communities, or address regions and topics often overlooked in mainstream academic publishing.
- 8** No catches and no hidden fees – trust and transparency is the only way this will work for everyone. Members are not asked to pay more on top of their annual fee to access ‘more’ or ‘better’ titles. Packages don’t suddenly change; there is no bait and switch.

Useful blog posts

How can I persuade my institution to support collective funding for open access books?

These 3 blog posts contain practical advice for libraries building a case for financial support of OtF and programmes like it. Click the links below:

[Part 1: Background, available models, BPCs vs collective funding](#)

[Part 2: Case Studies, practical steps you can take at your own library](#)

[Part 3: Building assessment criteria for collection development policies](#)

How to sign up

Your library can become a subscribing member through trusted partner Lyraasis, a non-profit library organisation in the USA.

Email them for more details on

membersupport@lyraasis.org