Developing a roadmap for OA monographs in Europe: key outcomes from a Knowledge Exchange survey and workshop

Graham Stone, Jisc, on behalf of Knowledge Exchange

Knowledge Exchange

DFG German Research Foundation

Jisc (United Kingdom)

Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education

SURF (Netherlands)

CSC IT Centre for Science (Finland)

CNRS Centre national de la recherche scientifique (France)

Six national organisations within Europe, responsible for the national and international development of infrastructure & services to support the use of ICT within HE & Research
Knowledge Exchange mission & objectives

“To enable open scholarship by supporting an information infrastructure on an international level”

• **Compare and inspire** strategies, policies and operational practice
• **Improve partners’ performance** sharing practice and lessons learnt and exploring beneficial cooperation
• **Explore new developments** in the area of Higher Education and Research infrastructures and services
• **Facilitate networks** of experts to exchange views and provide recommendations on desired developments
• **Commission studies** in areas of mutual interest
• **Advise and influence** peer organisations, national and international policy bodies and the EC
Current activities

Open Scholarship (OS)
   a) Economy of Open Scholarship models and concepts
   b) Economy of Open Scholarship Use cases and storytelling
   c) Open Scholarship and Research(er) Evaluation

Open Access (OA)
   a) Monographs
   b) Monitoring
   c) Preprints
The Evolving Landscape of OA Monographs

• October 2017. Knowledge Exchange published the biggest landscape study yet on the conditions and potentials for Open Access books
• The brief for this project contained two main objectives:
  – Analyse existing information about OA monographs in relation to OA policies, funding streams and business models
  – Establish information gaps or areas where Knowledge Exchange could contribute to the development of OA monographs
• Addressed developments among publishers, funders and libraries in the KE countries
  – Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, UK, Finland and France, also Norway and Austria
• Provides an overview of current OA monograph policies, funding streams and publishing models
A landscape study on open access and monographs

“Main OA policies do not include monographs but initiatives in favour of OA monographs are expected to accelerate in the next few years”
A landscape study on open access and monographs

“
A significant driver towards mandating OA books will be where it may in the future be linked to research assessment
”
A landscape study on open access and monographs

"The chief obstacle in moving forward towards OA for monographs is re-routing of funding.

The key will be support from university administrators, including top-level librarians"
Community survey on OA monographs

- To help identify the next steps to support the transition to OA Monographs
  - Conducted between April and May 2018
  - The survey was analysed by Jisc Collections on behalf of KE
  - The results were used to help suggest themes for a follow-up workshop
Overview of responses

• 233 valid responses
• 25 countries
• Majority from Europe
  – Further regional analysis was not possible
  – Strong bias to the UK, but this has not skewed the European results
• Responses from:
  – Academic libraries
  – Universities
  – Authors
  – Publishers
Status of OA monographs

- Academics have positive attitude towards OA monographs:
  - Don't know: 9.23%
  - Almost always true: 13.42%
  - Generally true: 46.98%
  - Mixed: 20.23%
  - Generally untrue: 8.05%
  - Almost always untrue: 6.04%

- Clear policies on what’s expected:
  - Don’t know: 15.44%
  - Almost always true: 27.52%
  - Generally true: 27.52%
  - Mixed: 20.13%
  - Generally untrue: 6.04%

- Enough funding available:
  - Don’t know: 8.05%
  - Almost always true: 22.73%
  - Generally true: 29.53%
  - Mixed: 39.60%
  - Generally untrue: 8.05%

- Good co-ordination between organisations:
  - Don’t know: 9.40%
  - Almost always true: 24.16%
  - Generally true: 34.90%
  - Mixed: 17.45%
  - Generally untrue: 10.74%

- Publisher offers are available for authors who want to publish open access monographs:
  - Don’t know: 18.79%
  - Almost always true: 33.56%
  - Generally true: 24.16%
  - Mixed: 10.07%
  - Generally untrue: 10.07%

- Support for innovative models and experiments:
  - Don’t know: 16.78%
  - Almost always true: 42.28%
  - Generally true: 20.81%
  - Mixed: 9.40%
  - Generally untrue: 8.72%

- Workable plan on how to achieve open access for monographs:
  - Don’t know: 9.40%
  - Almost always true: 22.82%
  - Generally true: 34.90%
  - Mixed: 24.16%
  - Generally untrue: 4.70%
## Priorities for future development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main priorities</th>
<th>% Prioritised</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Better collaboration between different groups (e.g. authors and libraries, publishers and funders)</td>
<td>45.07%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Better infrastructure for publishing and distributing OA monographs</td>
<td>54.23%</td>
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<td>Better international co-ordination around OA monographs</td>
<td>27.46%</td>
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<td>Changes in author attitudes</td>
<td>46.48%</td>
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<td>Clearer mandates</td>
<td>36.63%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding to support innovative projects</td>
<td>36.63%</td>
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<td>Improved discovery mechanisms for OA monographs</td>
<td>37.32%</td>
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<td>Increased political engagement with OA monographs</td>
<td>37.32%</td>
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<td>More awareness of how other countries are managing the transition, in order to learn from the.</td>
<td>42.36%</td>
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<td>More funding for individual monographs</td>
<td>49.30%</td>
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<td>OA monographs incorporated into academic reward structures</td>
<td>53.53%</td>
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<td>Stricter enforcement of mandates</td>
<td>38.73%</td>
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</tbody>
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Measure Names
- Very unimportant
- Quite unimportant
- Neutral
- Quite important
- Very important
OA monographs stakeholder workshop

- 8-9 November 2018, Brussels
- We invited various stakeholders, including EC representatives to discuss the results of KE’s previous work and brainstormed on how monographs could be solidly established as a open format for scholarly knowledge dissemination
- Workshop included:
  - Introductory talks
  - Funders panel
  - Workshops on author engagement, policy, technical infrastructure and monitoring
Towards a roadmap for OA monographs

- In May 2019, we published the report of the Brussels workshop, written by Janneke Adema
- Report provides an overview of the event
- Each workshop formulated recommendations and action plans
Stakeholder recommendations (1)

- For funders
  - Importance of policy intervention to encourage change
  - Sustainable policies allowing diverse publishing options
  - Funding of infrastructure and platforms
  - Networked action at a European level

- For authors and universities
  - Highlighting the importance of the monograph
  - Acknowledge the fears around OA
  - Recognise the need to balance mandating and incentivising
Stakeholder recommendations (2)

- For publishers
  - Need for transparency
  - Alternative (non-BPC) models

- For libraries
  - Potential for more active role in financing publication of OA monographs
  - Also in their long-term sustainability

- For technology providers and platforms
  - Common technical requirements
  - Dialogue between stakeholders to define standards
  - Robust governance of infrastructures

- For citizens
  - Emphasize societal impact and the value outside of academia
Impact and future plans

• The workshop and reports have helped to fulfil Knowledge Exchange’s mission and objectives, particularly to:
  – Facilitate networks of experts to exchange views and provide recommendations on desired developments
  – Commission studies in areas of mutual interest
  – Advise and influence peer organisations, national and international policy bodies and the EC
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- Janneke Adema for writing the final report

- [http://www.knowledge-exchange.info/event/open-access-monographs](http://www.knowledge-exchange.info/event/open-access-monographs)
Questions are very welcome!

More information:
www.knowledge-exchange.info

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