

# How can we support authors with requirements for open access to books?

## Authors:

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At the [Researcher to Reader Conference in February 2023](#) we ran a workshop to explore how stakeholders such as publishers, funders, research organisations, and suppliers can better support authors with requirements for open access to books.

We have come up with a list of actions stakeholders can take to help improve support.

We will share this summary and updates as a minimum:

- On the R2R forum for those that attended the conference and wish to stay abreast or involved in more detailed discussions.
- With the OA Books Toolkit where we hope some additional guidance can be hosted.
- With UK Research and Innovation as they are preparing to activate their open access books policy.
- With Jisc who provide support for research organisations in this space.

The most popular suggestion was for pooled agnostic guidance on some key topics including: funding for OA books, understanding copyright, general open access awareness, the process of making a book open access, self promotion of books, and understanding metrics.

It may be possible to host guidance or a film on the [OA Books Toolkit](#) and the workshop organisers will liaise with the OA Books Toolkit to discuss what is possible.

The table below shows a summary of the key actions we will attempt to progress along with a number of suggestions for further discussion.

Suggested actionees (we may not have the right or only possible actionee):

ALL = All stakeholders can help  
 BUFDG = British Universities Finance Directors Group  
 FU = Funders  
 Jisc = Jisc  
 LS = Learned Societies  
 OASPA = Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association  
 PU = Publishers  
 RO = Research organisations  
 WO = Workshop organisers

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Action Plan</b>	<b>Further Discussion points</b>
<p>It must be easier for authors to obtain information about funding available to fund their books.</p>	<p>WO - Liaise with OA Books Toolkit to include some updates.</p> <p>WO - Discuss possibility of cross stakeholder working group to come up with agnostic guidance and training session on funding of OA books.</p> <p>ALL - Help authors be aware of requirements to identify opportunities for funding as early as possible.</p> <p>Explore other models, waivers, and green options.</p>	<p>Respond to perceived pressure to prioritise funded publications.</p> <p>Can we identify other funding sources e.g. philanthropic funds or crowd funding?</p> <p>Discuss possibilities for open access book arrangements like open access article arrangements that exist for some publishers.</p> <p>Discuss reasons and mechanisms for post publication flip to OA.</p>

		Possible author survey on motivation for OA to books e.g. authors might be concerned about royalties, brand, perceptions of green routes, and publishing format.
Authors need to be able to understand the copyright requirements that come with any funding and publishing agreements including re-use of third party materials.	<p>WO - Liaise with OA Books Toolkit to include some updates.</p> <p>WO - Discuss possibility of cross stakeholder working group to come up with agnostic guidance and training session on third party rights and other topics to reduce confusion.</p> <p>FU/PU/RO - ensure that communications and terms are clear and consistent. Ideally work together to use consistent wording where appropriate. Avoid jargon. Easy to understand and short.</p> <p>LS - Could help with advertising and testing resources.</p> <p>ALL - Help authors be aware of requirements to identify opportunities for copyright and licencing as early as possible.</p> <p>Jisc - Consider New Sherpa tool for books.</p>	<p>‘Someone’ could write an OA book on publishing an OA book.</p> <p>Watch the <a href="#">Palamera policy alignment project to</a> inform future discussion.</p> <p>Revisit standard dictionaries such as the <a href="#">EuroCRIS Open Access glossary</a> and try to agree on common understanding for key terms.</p>
Authors need to be aware of the extra work and time required in preparing a book for publication and dealing with open access requirements.	<p>WO - Liaise with OA Books Toolkit to ensure this is emphasised.</p> <p>WO - Discuss possibility of cross stakeholder working group to come up with agnostic guidance and training session on general understanding of OA benefits, policies, mandates, support available and practicalities of the work involved.</p>	Suggestion of a film trailer ‘OA don’t be afraid’
Authors need support from their organisations. Research Organisations	WO - Liaise with OA Books Toolkit to see if additional information can be provided.	

<p>may not have sufficient expertise or established case history to support the authors as fully as they would like.</p>	<p>WO - Discuss possibility of cross stakeholder working group to come up with agnostic guidance and training session on general understanding of OA benefits, policies, mandates, support available and practicalities of the work involved.</p>	
<p>Value Added Tax can increase the cost of making books open access.</p>	<p>OASPA - Discuss with Jisc to see if anything can be done to remove or reduce this additional cost.</p> <p>BUFDG - are also discussing and may be able to provide some information.</p>	
<p>Authors should be able to understand benchmarking and metrics.</p>		<p>There should be common standards for definitions and presentations that facilitate understanding. The Data Trust Project may be useful.</p> <p>Does the usage data indicate quality?</p> <p>Visibility is important to the author and to their institution for reputation.</p>
<p>Authors should have good guidance on self promotion that helps them market their book to their audience.</p>	<p>WO - Will discuss with OA Books Toolkit.</p> <p>WO - Discuss possibility of cross stakeholder working group to come up with agnostic guidance and training sessions that include self promotion.</p>	<p>Create an agnostic toolkit to help authors self promote publications.</p> <p>Discuss what they are expected to do early in the process. Possibly tie in with contract discussions.</p>