

Open access publication of monographs and other longform works is an emerging movement, offering many opportunities to scholars looking to publish their research. With several major funding agencies now requiring longform open access publication, the impact of this is only set to grow. For those looking to publish their monograph open access there are new opportunities in what is possible, but there are also challenges that authors must consider.

Guidance and support on publishing open monographs can be found at the Open Access Oxford website <https://openaccess.ox.ac.uk>, including case studies of Oxford authors who have published open books and a checklist of 10 steps for an author to consider.

The Open Monograph project welcomes researchers and academics who are interested in open monographs, or who have already published an open monograph, to get in touch with us. We are keen to learn about any challenges faced, as well as discuss the benefits of making work openly available. Your questions and input will be valuable to us. We also encourage librarians and administrators who have knowledge of open monograph work in your area to contact us. If you are interested in the libraries subscribing to a particular open monograph scheme, do get in touch and we can assess whether it is right for Oxford University. Please contact the Open Monograph Project Officer at: david.watson@bodleian.ox.ac.uk, or the Open Access team at: openaccess@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

Benefits of Open Monograph publication



More exposure for your work

Monographs are expensive, and print runs can be limited. If your work isn't behind a paywall it will get more exposure, higher citation rates, and greater impact. Open access books are downloaded on average ten times more frequently than non-open access books and cited 2.4 times more often. ¹



Greater Accessibility

Researchers, academics, practitioners, and the public who do not have access to research libraries will be able to access and apply your work - this is especially significant for those researchers and academics in developing countries.



Greater influence

By making research and scholarship more widely available, open access can contribute to the public good and help advance academic progress, and means that taxpayers will not end up paying for research twice.



More control over your work and licencing

Making your monograph open access can also give you increased editorial control and increased customisability. When you retain the copyright to your work, you have greater control over how it is used and how you can reuse your own published research.



More opportunities for innovation

Open monograph publishing is still a relatively new field, meaning you can experiment with innovative publishing models and technologies. There are many new publishers in the field who are eager to try new innovations, and an e-first publishing focus means that the text can be enriched in a way that is not possible with hardcopy.



Compliance with grant rules

An increasing number of funders now have open access policies that impact long form work – these include the UKRI, the Wellcome Trust and the European Commission Horizon Europe research funding programmes. Details on these policies and how to meet them can be found on the Open Access oxford website <https://openaccess.ox.ac.uk>



Challenges of Open Monograph publication



Prestige

Many researchers have concerns about the prestige of publishing their monographs open access. There are sometimes misconceptions that open monograph publication is akin to self-publishing. However, publishers should apply the same rigorous standards and procedures for both open access and non-open access titles, from editorial processes such as peer review, to production processes including design and typesetting. OA publishers will still typically produce a hardcopy version for sale.

There are many different publishers that publish books OA, from new OA presses and university presses, to large well established traditional publishers such as OUP.



Third party copyright

It is possible that you will want to include work created by other people in your monograph that will be protected by copyright. For example, images, quotations or figures from other publications. It is essential that you lawfully use any third-party material in your publication, and that you correctly attribute the author and copyright holder in line with requirements in copyright law and with any licences that apply to the material. This can be managed in different ways, from requesting permissions to reuse this material, relying on the fair dealing exception, or changing or redacting certain images from the OA version of the work.



Cost of Publication

Although open access books are free for the readers, they are not free to produce. The publishers will still want money in order to make a book OA. Fortunately there are a variety of different publishing models that different publishers offer, some of which do not require the author to pay - including but not limited to:

Book Processing Charge or BPC - A fee is charged by the publisher in order for the ebook to be made open access.

Library Consortium - Libraries pledge a fee towards making a collection of books open access, covering some or all of the costs between them. Once enough libraries have confirmed participation and the target amount is achieved, the collection is made open access.

Author deposit (the 'Green route') - the accepted manuscript is deposited into a repository and made open access, however at the moment many publishers limit this for longform works.

If open access is required by a funder policy, there may be a fund which you can access to pay for this open access, and if you know you will be publishing OA you can request OA funding in the initial grant request.