

# Pure OA Publishing: without BPCs or nonOA backlists

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# Collective Library Funding Models

- Legacy publishers – with nonOA content/backlist
  - MIT/Michigan
  - Opening the Future
- Pure OA publishers – only OA content
  - Scholar-led presses
    - Open Book Publishers, punctum, Language Science Press, ....
  - New University Presses
    - Lever Press, White Rose Press, Scottish Universities Press

# OpenBook Publishers



Knowledge is for sharing

<https://www.openbookpublishers.com>

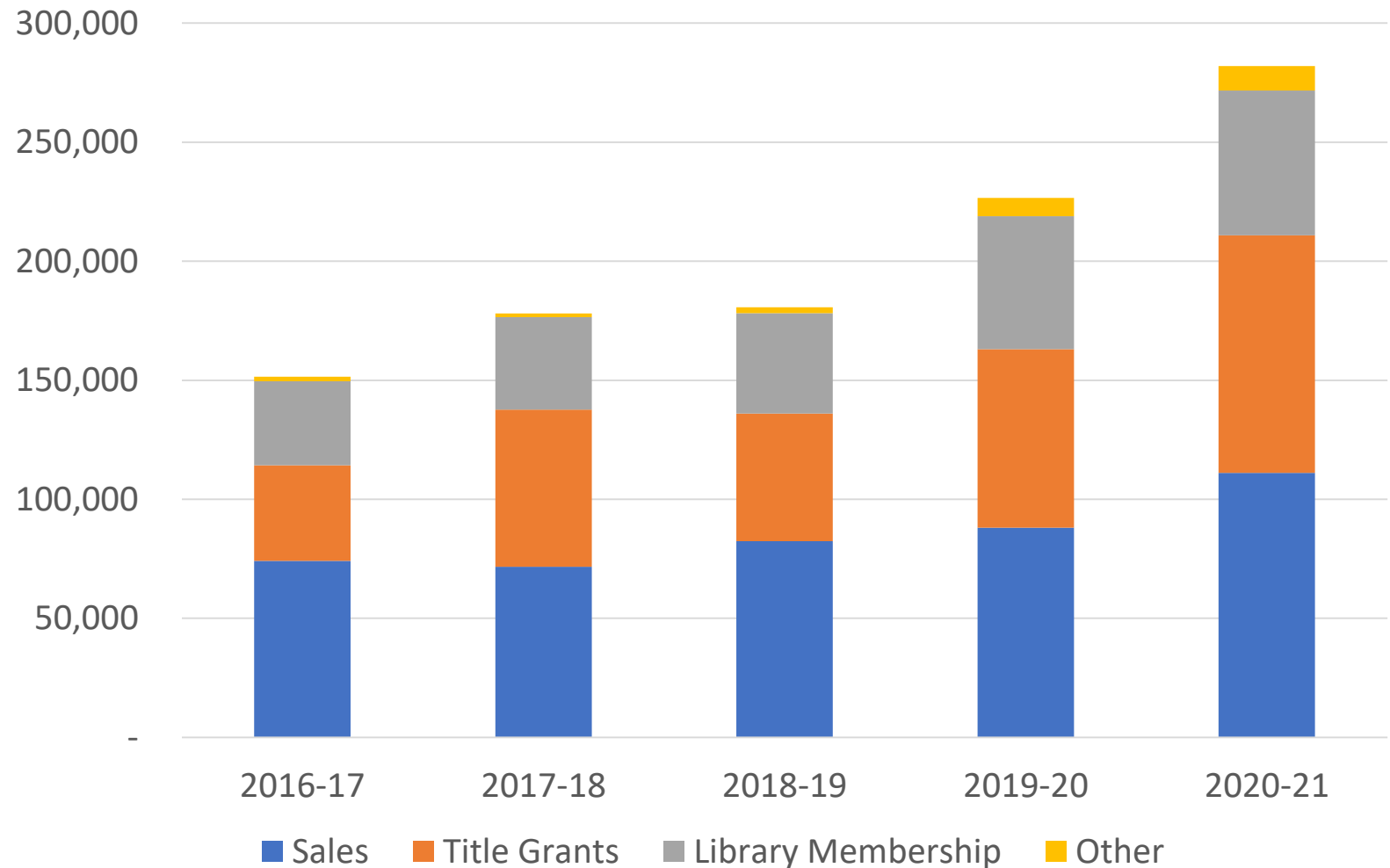
- Founded 2008
- Scholar-led
- Non-profit, Community Interest Company
- 240+ titles published, 40+ new titles per year
- Printed and digital editions of all titles
- Rigorous peer-review
- No BPC charges

# OBP Revenue

Three main sources:

- Sales
- Title Grants/Donations
- Library Membership
  - over 230 libraries

Publishing Revenue by Source



# OBP Library Membership

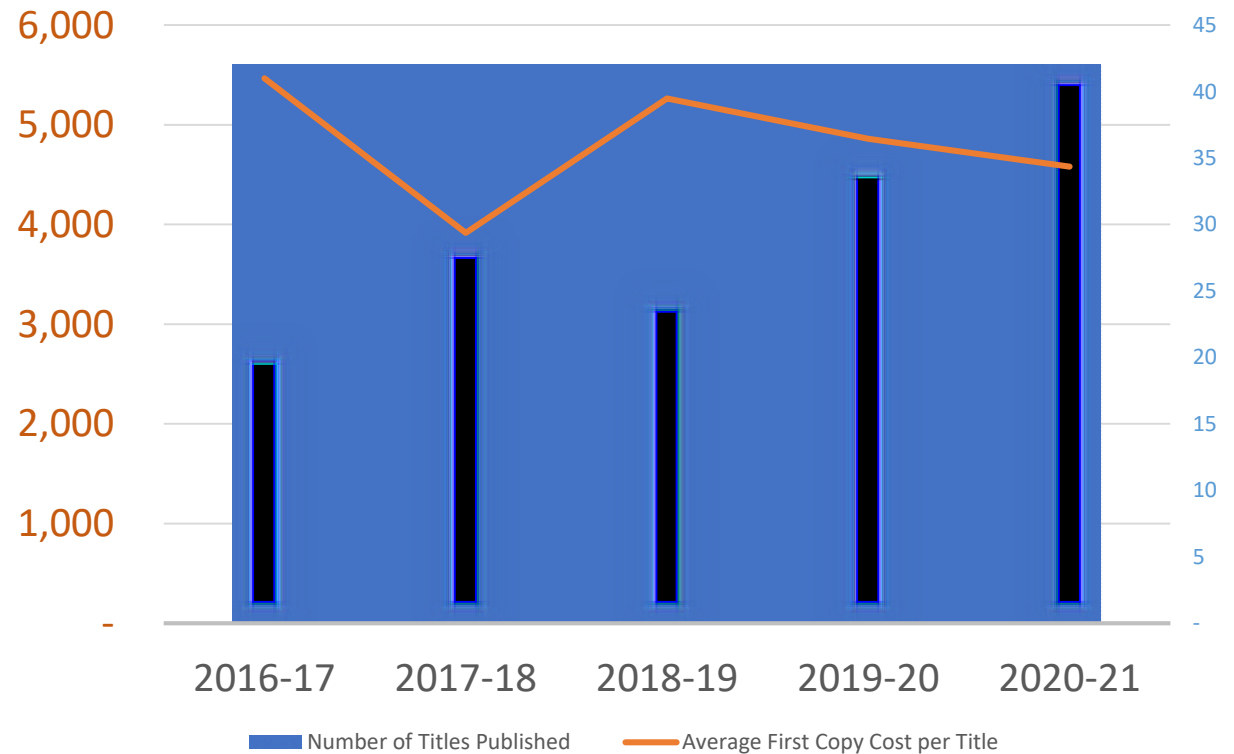
- Tiered membership: £300/£500/£700 pa
- Primarily supporting the OBP publishing programme
- Also
  - discounts provided for university members on purchases
  - provision of usage statistics
  - provision of MARC records
  - ability to download e-books to own digital collections/learning environments
- Over 230 libraries supporting, providing about £60k pa in revenue

# OBP 'First Copy' Costs

## Standard publishing costs

Proofreading and indexing	£2,000
Typesetting	£900
Cover design	£150
Generating digital editions & website maintenance	£250
Distribution and retailing	£200
Marketing	£500
Overheads (office rent, utility bills, and general administration)	£1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,000</b>

Average 'First Copy' Costs and Number of Titles Published



# Collective Library Funding Models: Difficulties and dangers in scaling

- Establishing and maintaining collective funding programs are costly, for both publishers and libraries
- Become increasingly inaccessible for new or small initiatives
  - First mover advantage
- Platform consolidation and control by large (commercial) entities
  - Not conducive to innovation or diversity in publishing practices
- Focus on the product (books) not the process (infrastructure)

To successfully scale we need to create and sustain community-owned non-profit infrastructure to support a diverse and open OA book publishing ecosystem.



## – Scaling Small

<https://www.copim.ac.uk/>

- Objective: to create open and community-owned infrastructure to support small OA book publishers and sustaining biblio-diversity
  - Creating a platform to facilitate collective library funding (Open Book Collective)
  - Creating programs for transition to OA for existing publishers (OtF)
  - Creating Open Dissemination Service for OA books (Thoth)
  - Creating shared preservation processes for OA books
  - Establishing best practices for governance in community owned infrastructure
  - Investigating and facilitating experimental book publishing practices
- International partnership of universities, publishers and infrastructure providers
- Funding from UKRI (RE RED Fund) and Arcadia



OBC website nearing completion  
Launch: May/June

## Core functions

- acting an intermediary between OA book publishers/service providers and supporters (mostly libraries)
  - making it easier for supporters to fund OA initiatives through library membership programmes
  - making it easier for OA book publishers/service providers to offer library membership programmes
- supporting OA book publishing more broadly, by providing financial and in kind support to OA initiatives  
OA infrastructures for book dissemination/production

## Core values

- the care and curation of high-quality academic books;
- a commitment to bibliodiversity;
- collaboration and resource-sharing over competition;
- networked community-building over profit-driven centralization;
- horizontal working relationships over exclusive hierarchization; and
- growing and safeguarding open accessibility to, and reuse of, academic books for global readers without technical or economic barriers.

# Conclusion

- Many different non-BPC funding models for OA books exist, and are developing
- To avoid both BPCs and consolidation and control of OA book publishing by largest publishers requires open and community owned infrastructure
- Universities and funders need to recognise and engage in the process of **funding the eco-system around OA book publishing**, rather than just OA books themselves
  - This is a different funding process – not buying the book itself, but sustaining the infrastructure providing the books.