

Minutes of the UUK OA monograph group, meeting 4

Date: Friday 9 March

Time: 2pm – 4pm

Location: Jisc, London

In attendance: Alison Jones (Oxford University Press), Chris Banks (Imperial), Graham Stone (Jisc), Helen Snaith (HEFCE), Janneke Adema (Coventry University), Lara Speicher (UCL Press), Maja Maricevic (British Library), Martin Eve (Open Library of Humanities), Roger Kain (SAS) Ros Pyne (Springer Nature), Rupert Gatti (Open Book Publishers), Susan Bruce (Arts and Humanities Alliance).

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the fourth UUK OA Monograph meeting. Apologies were received from Allison McCaig (ARMA) David Prosser (RLUK), Gary Grubb (AHRC), Hannah Hope (Wellcome), Nicola Ramsey (Edinburgh University Press), Nigel Vincent (BA), Richard Parsons (SCONUL), Rick Rylance (SAS) and Rupert Gatti (OPB).

2. Minutes and matters arising (Annex A)

Members were invited to approve the minutes from the previous meeting held on Thursday 9 November. The minutes were approved by the members present.

The Chair provided an update on Item 4 from the minutes of the previous meeting ('REF environment indicators'). The minutes noted that the UUK OA monographs working group did not wish to include data on open access monographs as part of the Environment return for the REF 2021. Members recognised that collecting relevant and robust data at this time may be burdensome to universities.

The Chair, who is a member of the Forum for Responsible Research Metrics (FFRRM) and also Chair's the FFRRM's sub-group on REF indicators, noted that the FFRRM sub-group had developed a number of principles to govern gathering data for the REF Environment statement. Two of these are robustness and burden. These align with the reasons why the OA monographs group could not recommend OA indicators.

3. Developments since the last meeting.

The Chair noted that it was an important moment in the open access landscape given recent activities around OA monographs. The Chair invited members of the group to provide an update on recent activities.

LS provided an update on the biennial [University Press \(UP\) Redux conference](#) that took place on Tuesday 13 – Wednesday 14 February. Run by the [Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers \(ALPSP\)](#) the conference is hosted by a different UP every two years. In 2016 it was hosted by [Liverpool University Press](#) in association with the [Academic Book of the Future Project](#); this year it was hosted by UCL Press, and curated by

Lara Speicher. The event hosted 250 delegates with representation from all types of publishers and presses and from funders, libraries and service providers. It was noted that presentations from America in particular highlighted the differences in approaches to publishing monographs, with more models for innovation in the US. For example, [Lisa Bayer \(University of Georgia Press\)](#) highlighted the different levels of subsidy available to American UPs. Digital innovation is also supported in the US by the Mellon Foundation.

Steven Hill's presentation on OA monographs also referred to HEFCE's intention to move towards a requirements for open access monographs for the REF 2021. This was announced in December 2016 in the [REF 2021 consultation document](#). HEFCE has since published a [blog](#) confirming that policy requirements are still up for discussion. Defining what is in and what is out of scope has not yet been decided. A consultation with the sector will take place in due course although a timeline has not been confirmed for this. [Research Professional](#) have also reported on the [development of HEFCE's open access monograph policy](#), including a [follow-up](#) to Hill's blog. The Bookseller have likewise reported on this, and have since conducted an interview with Hill.

Members also noted that there was a wide spectrum of views on open access expressed amongst publishers at the conference. The views of many UPs are driven by institutional requirements of their own press.. A take home message from the conference is that there is a degree of urgency around OA monographs as people are concerned about implications for the REF2027.

All slides and audio recordings from the conference are available [online](#). Reviews are also available via the [Scholarly Kitchen](#).

The Chair invited Martin Eve to provide an overview of the Westminster HE Forum Seminar '[The next steps for delivering open access - implementation, expansion and international trends](#)' which took place on Tuesday 20 February 2018. ME noted that there was a wide audience of librarians and publishers in attendance at the event who already have a good understanding of open access.

The group noted that communication across the research sector is an issue, and that there are a lot of discussions going on that are taking place in restricted circles. This should be avoided when fostering a dialogue with the HE sector. Members noted that the term 'advocacy' should be replaced with 'dialogue'. Discussions with the sector need a two-way process in which parties can learn from one another.

It was also noted that the BL are currently working with an independent research organisation to look at hosting outputs (including journals, books and other outputs) open access. The idea is that the BL would work with museums and galleries to make outputs OA via a joint repository.

Jisc is also continuing its work with University Presses, providing support with governance and licenses. They are looking at hosting a workshop around OA monograph discovery.

The Chair noted that conversations with Professor Adam Tickell (Chair of the Open Access Co-ordination Group) have taken place since the group met last November. The Chair noted that Professor Tickell was supportive of the sub-group's plans to take a dual approach for

consultation activity and to initiate a dialogue with the sector. Discussions are still ongoing in regard to funding for engagement events scheduled to take place later in the year.

4. Items outstanding

4.1 Synthesis report

At the last meeting a draft synthesis report was circulated to members of the group. LS and HS have taken on board feedback and have made edits to the report. The final version was shared for last comments from the group. The purpose of the report is to use to start a dialogue with stakeholders, and to demonstrate some of the activity that is currently going on in the sector. It is written in an accessible way to help people who start from little knowledge of open access. **Comments should be sent to HS by Friday 16 March.**

The group noted that it would be useful to include top level findings and to repeat the purpose of the paper on a cover page.

Members were invited to share ideas on how this report can be communicated to the sector and how to reach key stakeholders. Suggestions/recommendations included: ALPSP, the BL, UK-SGEU, the BA, RLUK, RE, AHA, DASSH, AUP (formerly AAUP). The report will also be shared at the next AHA meeting (scheduled to take place in May 2018) and at the next meeting of Learned Societies for Arts and Humanities. It could also be shared with Research Fortnight, The Bookseller, Research Professional, the THE and the TLS.

4.2 Dialogue with the sector (Annex C)

The Chair noted that there are two components to the funding paper (Annex C) circulated prior to the meeting. The first part looks at consultation activity for 2018; the second looks at hosting one or two events to foster a dialogue with the sector. By the end of the calendar year the UUK OA monograph group should be in a position to provide UKRI with an evidence base on how to move the monograph agenda forward. This will come from two areas:

1. Funding of open access monographs;
2. OA monograph event to enable an open dialogue with the sector.

Members of the group noted that the term dialogue should be used rather than advocacy. There needs to be an open discussion around the impediments and obstacles of OA with the sector.

The next Arts and Humanities Alliance meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 21 May. This will provide SB with an opportunity to start a discussion on what people would like to address at the OA monograph event. It was also noted that DASSH hold their annual meeting in November, which will provide the group with another opportunity to talk about OA monographs.

First, a summer event coordinated by the UUK OA monograph group will be scheduled for early July 2018. The event will be targeted at learned societies, subject associations and members of DASSH. Learned Societies will be invited to send one ECR and a senior academic to ensure a good representation across career stages. The aim of the event is to initiate a dialogue to understand what is happening in institutions and what attitudes are amongst academics to OA monographs. The event will include presentations from people who have had a positive experience of publishing open access monographs, and these will be used as case studies to share good practice.

It was noted that restricting the conversation to just about open access may be limiting. OA needs to be located in innovative forms of publishing – there are academics who are keen to look at new approaches.

It is envisaged that the consultant appointed to carry out the data analysis will also attend the event provide an interim statement of findings at the event.

In regard to disciplines, we need to ensure that we are including representation from the social sciences at the events. It is also worth looking at which fields publish the most monographs. Simon Tanner's report could provide information for disciplines and for publishers.

The next OA monograph meeting will be scheduled for mid to late July. A decision will be made at the next meeting whether or not we hold a second event at the end of 2018 (and if there is a budget available for this activity).

Actions

- Allocate budget
- Confirm venue and location
- Agenda
- Draft of attendees to invite
- Event briefing and post on Eventbrite
- Send out invitations
- Ensure that representation from relevant fields are invited to the event – see Simon Tanner's report for UOAs that publish a high volume of monographs.

Secretariat note June 2018:

Due to limited availability during the July period, the OA monograph event will now be held on Tuesday 11 September 2018. The event will be held at the British Academy, London.

4.3 Funding Paper (Annex C)

The working group (in alphabetical order: David Prosser (RLUK), Graham Stone (Jisc), Helen Snaith (HEFCE), Janneke Adema (Coventry University), Nigel Vincent (BA), Ros Pyne (Springer Nature), Rupert Gatti (OPB)) have drawn together a proposed activity for funding (excluding the dialogue activity discussed above). The funding paper outlines the approach to this activity. Broadly, the paper proposes that a data analysis of current academic library budgets should be carried out in order to provide an evidence based analysis of purchasing patterns of institutional library budgets in the UK, and to review the accessibility of monographs that were submitted to Panels C and D in the last REF.

The Chair invited feedback from members of the group. It was noted that there should be greater emphasis on the fact that a set of recommendations will be produced from the consultancy work. These recommendations will be targeted at policy makers, funders, authors and institutions and will suggest how OA monographs can move forward. It will also recommend future activities. The group offered the following comments:

- Current national and international spending should be captured, with results disaggregating these spends.
- There should be a greater emphasis on the data gathering strand of the work with a stronger focus on the nature of the new work being proposed. Some of the qualitative work around stakeholder and academic attitudes has already been carried out. The group agreed that this strand would look at select interviews and the consultant would attend the academic event scheduled for July. The balance between these two strands should be refined.
- Concerns were raised over the availability of the evidence. For example, WorldCAT won't have any information on costs and library catalogues may not give us the complete set of data. Some aspects of this activity will require data from publishers, which may be difficult to attain.
- Some aspects of this activity requires discussions with publishers. Perceptions of OA are also a significant barrier. There are already difficulties with the CC-BY-NC licence, so we may struggle with a CC-BY requirement.
- Members also noted that we should be looking at the front end of the process in order to understand the advantage in disciplinary terms. We should be clear on the advantages of publishing open access for monographs – are we in a position to measure this? We may also want to consider having an objective that seeks to capture the 'bland' everyday stories about publishing open access.

The paper will be submitted to the OACG, scheduled to meet on Wednesday 28 March. A steering group, with representation from funders and key stakeholders will be set up, and terms of reference drawn up. The SG will then work towards refining a tender document, which will be shared with the UUK OA monograph group.

The Chair asked for recommendations for SG members from the group. Research England, the AHRC and the BA will all have representation on the SG. It was also suggested that the group include representation from SCONUL, RLUK, and a publisher. An economist may also be useful.

It was noted that we should also be communicating our activities outside the group. A running blog was suggested. In the continuing dialogue of blogs we could say something about commissioning a piece of work to inform the policy, and that we are taking a multi-stakeholder perspective.

5. Next steps

The funding paper will be taken to the OACG scheduled for Wednesday 28 March 2018. The group will be notified of the outcomes.

The Chair and the Secretariat will have further discussions in regard to funding the event scheduled for early July. An event will be scoped and communicated to the sector via Eventbrite.

A steering group will be appointed to take forward the consultancy work. A tender document will be drawn up and issued via UK SBS. A consultant will be appointed in Spring 2018.

The next meeting of the UUK OA Monographs group will take place mid-late July.

ACTION: Canvas dates for the next meeting.
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