What is the role of academic libraries in Open Science?

Demmy Verbeke
1. guidance
2. lead by example
3. provide infrastructure
4. finance infrastructure
guidance: variety of tools

Louise Bezuidenhout & Johanna Havemann (2021), The varying openness of digital open science tools
Geoffrey Bilder, Jennifer Lin & Cameron Neylon (2020), The Principles of Open Scholarly Infrastructure
guidance: types of OA

- Open publishing
  - non-profit
  - for-profit
- Open archiving
  (mostly non-profit)
repeat over and over again:

OA does **not** necessarily imply author-facing costs (APC or BPC)

OA does **not** necessarily mean more and more read&publish deals
guidance: advise on cost

- R&P deals are rarely truly cost-neutral in the present and financially unsustainable in the long run
- R&P deals come at a huge administrative cost
- R&P deals are inequitable: inability to read is exchanged for inability to publish, putting up author paywalls in place of reading paywalls
- R&P deals lead to market consolidation: the big get bigger and stronger, the small are marginalized even more
- R&P deals shift subscription budget of libraries to funding OA without altering business structure
- R&P deals risk hoovering up all of the library budget, and thus threaten funding for OA publishers who have never worked with the paywall business model
- we are making profit-driven OA publishing the most user-friendly
- we are undermining our own negotiation position next time around
- we are funding the further for-profit take-over of scholarly communication
Library funding for open access at KU Leuven

As main buyers of scholarly literature, research libraries have always provided essential economic support for sustaining the market of academic publishing. With the switch to open access (OA) libraries are now faced with transitioning this support from the demand (subscriptions) to the supply (publications) side. The way in which this is currently done, in general, risks strengthening the preponderance of the for-profit approach to scholarly communication. We therefore believe that it is essential to apply library budgets to foster a greater diversity. That is exactly the purpose of the Fund for Fair Open Access, set up by KU Leuven Libraries in 2018, which is exclusively devoted to stimulating the development of non-profit and community-led initiatives. This is achieved by library memberships to sustain open scholarship infrastructure, by supporting diamond OA programmes and by subsidizing OA books published by Leuven University Press. In this article, we will demonstrate the accomplished successes of the fund and share some insights we have gathered along the way, such as our decision to cease financing article processing charges, even in a Fair OA business model.

Keywords
library funding; non-profit; community-led; OA business models; Fair OA
The KU Leuven Open Science Day is an annual event where KU Leuven researchers from all career stages share knowledge and exchange examples of how they implement Open Science principles in their research. It offers a platform where researchers can inspire, learn from each other and discover how their research can benefit from these principles. The proceedings offer a record of the presentations, panel sessions, and posters, which demonstrate how KU Leuven researchers embed Open Science practices during the different stages of their research.

The KU Leuven Open Science Day is organized by KU Leuven Libraries in collaboration with the Research Coordination Office and the Information & Communication Technology & Systems Office (ICTS) and under the auspices of the KU Leuven Open Science task force.
lead by example

Leah Budke et al. (2022), KU Leuven Libraries Artes and Digital Scholarship
Images as Open Data

What

KU Leuven Libraries offers the available data that was created through digitization of public domain library materials to the public as open data. More specifically, this concerns the consultation copies of those items from the KU Leuven Libraries collection that date from before 1901.

Everyone interested may download and freely use these images.

Guidelines

› Check the judicial status of a collection item in the Limo description.

KU Leuven BiblioTech 2023 Hackathon

Where humanities and data meet

In March 2023, KU Leuven Libraries, the Faculty of Arts and the Humanities and Social Sciences will organise a Hackathon. The objectives of this initiative are twofold. Firstly, to strengthen the digital humanities DHS community at the university, and secondly, to put the library’s rich digitised collections in the spotlight.

Popular repositories

- Portraits-Collection-Dataset
  - Full dataset from the Portraits Collection offered as open data for digital humanities research and other creative engagement

- Glass-Diapositives-Egyptology-Dataset
  - Full dataset from the collection of glass diapositives Egyptology offered as open data for digital humanities research and other creative engagement

lead by example
provide infrastructure
for example: two-pronged approach in Leuven

1. some budget exclusively reserved for mission-aligned initiatives <www.kuleuven.be/open-science/fairoafund>
2. specific libraries in the network that are willing and able, redirect discipline-specific collection budget for the same

financial support for OS initiatives and grants for OA books published by Leuven University Press

- not only publications, but all kinds of open scholarship infrastructure
- focus on collective funding (e.g. Diamond OA programs) beyond the level of individual articles/books/authors

inspired by the principles set out by the Fair Open Access Alliance

- transparent ownership structure
- controlled by the scholarly community
- copyright retention
- any fees paid are low, transparent, and in proportion to the work carried out

Demmy Verbeke & Laura Mesotten (2022), Library Funding for Open Access at KU Leuven
examples: OA journals and publishers

For the full overview, see: https://www.kuleuven.be/open-science/what-is-open-science/scholarly-publishing-and-open-access/open-access-kuleuven/fair-oa-initiatives
examples: Open Scholarship infrastructure

currently support for 30+ mission-aligned OS publishers, infrastructures and initiatives

For the full overview, see: https://www.kuleuven.be/open-science/what-is-open-science/scholarly-publishing-and-open-access/open-access-kuleuven/fair-oa-initiatives
redirect library budget: shift from spending on product to spending on production cost

BUT also

• stimulate the development of innovative, mission-aligned, and community-led initiatives
• encourage the diversity of business models in the market of academic publishing
We do not rise to the level of our goals, instead we fall to the level of our systems. We must strive to create better systems and infrastructures at our institutions that are not barriers to transformation. We can continue to be victims of our systems or an architect of them.

John Dupuis (2016), The Sci-Hub story so far: Main event or sideshow?
Demmy Verbeke (2022), Libraries and Diamond Open Access

all too often: investing in for-profit approaches to Open Science comes first, investing in other approaches only happens when there is money left over
should be: invest first in cost-effective approaches that respect the values and independence of researchers, and only then consider costly approaches that do not share scholarly values and erode academic freedom

in other words: stop being “wallets with a serious case of Stockholm Syndrom”
in other words: stop playing the victim and become an architect
Louise Bezuidenhout & Johanna Havemann (2021), The varying openness of digital open science tools
<https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.26615.2>

Geoffrey Bilder, Jennifer Lin & Cameron Neylon (2020), The Principles of Open Scholarly Infrastructure
<https://doi.org/10.24343/C34W2H>

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6586631>

John Dupuis (2016), The Sci-Hub story so far: Main event or sideshow?
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<https://101innovations.wordpress.com/workflows>

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<http://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.565>

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<https://scholarlytales.hcommons.org/2022/04/13/libraries-and-diamond-open-access>