Opportunities and challenges for OA books

As seen through an “infrastructure lens”

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Agenda

OAPEN & DOAB

Challenges

Opportunities
OAPEN Library and DOAB

• OAPEN Library:
  • Launched in 2010
  • Repository of 24,000+ open access books
  • Hosting, distribution, and preservation
  • Dashboard
  • 400+ OA book publishers

• Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB)
  • Launched in 2012
  • International hub for peer reviewed open access books
  • 60,000+ OA books indexed
  • 600+ OA book publishers
OA book usage

• OAPEN usage, latest 12 months:
  • 12 million+ downloads (COUNTER conformant)
  • Worldwide usage, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe
  • Growing usage year on year

• How?
  • Connecting with DOAB; search engines; aggregators; libraries
  • Metadata conversions
Challenge: diversity

Diversity of book publishers and business models:

- Many publishers: ranging from large to small
- Diversity in cultures:
  - Disciplines
  - Countries
  - Languages
- Global differences: “global north” & “global south”
- Range of business models: from diamond OA to commercial
- Prestige
Challenge: supply chain, keeping track

OA books are part of supply chains:

- Optimised for sales, not free content
- Metadata from diverse sources and through different providers
- Still relative minor % of all titles

Funders find it hard to keep track:

- Funding data is not always available
Opportunities

Many platforms are available and are developing:

- Publisher’s platforms
- Aggregating (OA) book platforms
- Also: Zenodo, preprint platforms

More visibility, leading to more impact
Opportunities

More attention to OA for books from:

• Researchers
• Publishers
• Funders
• Aggregators and vendors

Barriers are being removed:

• Financial
• Technical
• Cultural
Conclusion

OA for books is developing
- Growing number of books, platforms, usage...

Room for improvement?
- Scattered landscape
- Supply chains are non optimal

Much progress has been made in the last decade!

Questions?
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Thank you!