

## What is it?



A simple, sustainable model for funding OA monographs: small financial contributions from multiple academic libraries pay for new OA publications. In return, the libraries receive DRM-free access to packages of 50 monographs from the CEU Press backlist, with perpetual access after three years.

# Opening the Future with Central European University Press

Increasing library collections  
and supporting open access

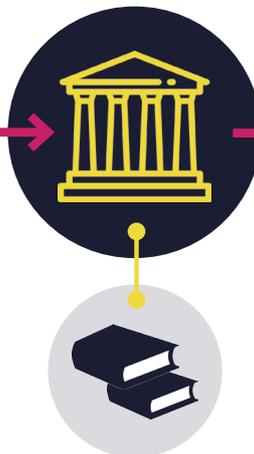


## How does it work?

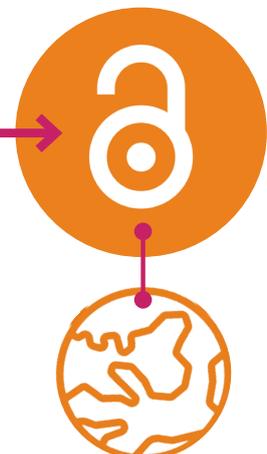
Library subscribes to package of *non*-OA books from a choice of three different packages, each containing 50 backlist books.



We make the chosen backlist package of *non*-OA books available to members, via the Project MUSE platform.



We use the membership subscription fees to publish new OA books that are freely available to anyone.



Annual fees are very affordable. Libraries are banded according to their size, as recognised by our partners LYRASIS and Jisc.

Package access is available to subscribing library only. Books in the backlist subscription package remain *non*-OA.

New frontlist OA books are made available to everyone via DOAB, OAPEN, ORL & MUSE.

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## Why OA and why now?

As the reality of the Covid virus dawned early in 2020 and campuses worldwide went into lockdown, publishers, including the CEU Press, rushed to open their publications by removing paywalls. Usage of books soared and it seems clear that there is an opportunity to reassess scholarly communication in the book publishing world.

***So why launch an initiative like this now, when library budgets are under so much pressure?***

The pandemic has exposed how vital OA is to the future of scholarly communications. *Opening the Future* is designed to be affordable, to yield excellent value per book, and to reduce overall costs to the library community.

See overleaf  
to read the  
benefits for  
subscribing  
library  
members



- 1.** The model has a number of characteristics in its favour, including pleasing library economics. For example, if an annual membership of €800 (approx \$950 USD) gives access to 50 backlist titles, and funds a further 25 OA per year, that yields a total of 75 books per year that are accessible (and growing every year).
- 2.** Being a member is better value than buying the same titles individually. For example, with €800 a library might be able to buy 4 – 6 eBooks on multi-user licences; for *Opening the Future* members the cost to a library would be only €32 (approx \$39 USD) per OA book once we reach our subscription targets.
- 3.** At the expiry of their three-year membership, libraries will own the titles in perpetuity.
- 4.** When the revenue target is met and the entire monograph frontlist is openly accessible, future membership fee rates can be lowered.
- 5.** If the revenue target is exceeded, the surplus can go towards funding infrastructure projects devoted to enhancing open book dissemination, or publishing more OA books.
- 6.** No catches and no hidden fees - we believe the books in the packages speak for themselves. Members won't be asked to pay more on top of their annual fee to access 'more' or 'better' titles. Access to titles won't suddenly change; no bait and switch.
- 7.** Titles included in the packages are selected based on recent download/usage figures in order to ensure they are relevant, current, and represent good value-for-money.

For libraries without dedicated OA funds the backlist subscription gives them access to relevant books. Plus, every year of membership grows the (open) collection. And libraries with OA budgets can also support this consortial membership scheme.



I am delighted to see the development of new models working to make open access for books a reality. Emerging out of COPIM this programme is advantageous to libraries, whether they already have CEU Press books or not, and all funds raised will go towards making the frontlist open. Scaling the model is expected through the creation of a hub where libraries will be able to select programmes from a number of reputable academic presses.

**Paul Ayrís**

*Pro-VC UCL Library Services & CEO UCL Press*