OPENING THE FUTURE

Essential Info 2024

updated Feb 2024

Are you assessing open access book publishing initiatives in your library?

OPENING THE FUTURE

Opening the Future helps you make informed investment decisions by ticking all the boxes

✅ **Works with existing acquisition infrastructure**

Supports Diversity, Equity & Inclusion goals ✅

✅ **Builds your library collection with perpetual access**

Benefits authors and institutions without dedicated OA funds ✅

✅ **Authors and institutions don't have to pay expensive BPCs**

Complies with funder mandates for monograph publishing ✅

✅ **Supports small independent University and mission-driven presses**

Sources and disseminates research openly and globally ✅

Summary of the OtF model

Opening the Future funds BPC-free open access book publishing while also broadening your own collection through an affordable subscription to closed content.

We're reshaping how knowledge dissemination is funded and accessed, by leveraging the collective contributions of academic libraries worldwide. Your *Opening the Future* membership funds a press to publish new OA monographs, while your library benefits from access to closed content, and no single institution bears a disproportionate burden. For a modest annual fee your library gets DRM-free, unlimited access to a closed-access selection of a publisher's backlist, with perpetual access after three years. The membership revenue is used by the publisher solely to produce new frontlist OA monographs, moving towards an affordable, sustainable model for academic publishing and creating a collection of OA books that are open for the world.

With OtF, your local collection grows and funding future OA books demonstrably costs a fraction of closed monographs. Publishing the frontlist OA titles is a rolling process with no thresholds to meet: as soon as they have accrued enough membership funds to produce a title the press publishes the next book in line, and so on. Be part of something special. Join over 90 Universities around the world already committed to Opening the Future.

Opening the Future in a nutshell

Library subscribes to backlist package of *non*-OA books offered by publisher at special discounted price

Publisher makes backlist package of *non*-OA books available to members

Publisher uses subscription money to publish new OA books

Icons by Flaticon.com

Perpetual access granted after three years membership.

Books in the subscription package remain non-OA. MARC & KBART records available, & COUNTER compliant stats.

Frontlist books are published as OA, available to everyone

Backlist packages available

CEU PRESS

200
5 x packages of 50 multi-user eBooks, in perpetuity

- Central & Eastern European History
- Political Science of the region
- Editors' Choice selection
- Librarian's Selection of the above three
- East Meets West – **new for 2024** with a focus on post-soviet Russia

also available: several non-backlist OA Supporter packages

ceup.openingthefuture.net

Value for money

The highest tiered membership fee for one year's access to **50** CEU Press titles is somewhere in the region of 10% of the cost of a **single** average BPC!*

*This does depend on what you call an average BPC but, in any case, even the largest libraries pay only approx. €1260 / £1050 / $1425 a year, which includes access to up to 50 books. Financially-speaking it's very cost effective – and you retain perpetual access after 3 years' membership.
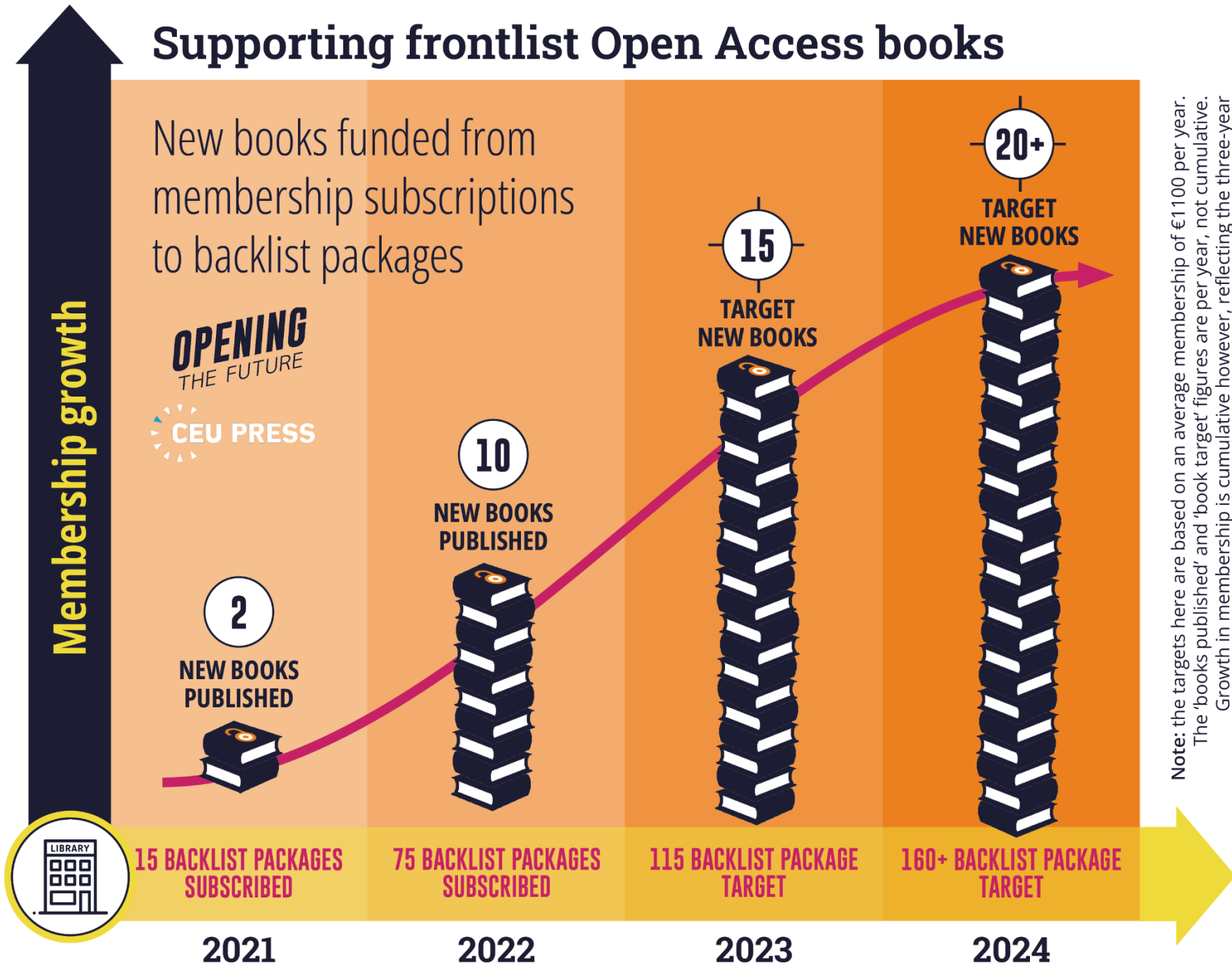
Benefits...

1 The backlist/frontlist combination provides a unique dual-route to rationalisation for acquisition librarians. Many institutions do not have dedicated OA funds, particularly for monographs: the fact that the backlist remains a subscription means that these libraries are able to justify the expenditure on books to which they would otherwise not have access. At the same time, every year of membership grows their (open) collection too.

2 Libraries preferring to pay with their OA budgets are able to justify this expenditure because the new frontlist titles are openly accessible. This also allows institutions that have access to block grants for OA to use this pot to fund the purchase.

3 When the revenue target is met and the entire monograph frontlist is openly accessible, future membership fee rates can be lowered. If the revenue target is exceeded, the surplus can go towards funding infrastructure projects devoted to enhancing open book dissemination.

4 Publishing the OA titles is a rolling process with no threshold to be met: as soon as they have the funds to produce a title the press will publish the next book in line OA, and so on. Membership/subscription funds are directed purely towards ensuring that future press outputs are OA.

Benefits continued

5 Backlist access for CEU Press titles is via Project MUSE, a leading not-for-profit platform in scholarly humanities publishing. Authentication supported includes IP, Shibboleth, and referring URL, and the books are seamlessly integrated with any other holdings on the MUSE platform. Backlist access for LUP is provided through their own trusted platform. Both offer COUNTER-compliant stats, MARC & KBART.

6 Backlist books are be provided in PDF format. Library members/patrons have unlimited concurrent access, DRM-free for the duration of membership. At the expiry of the three years, libraries own the package in perpetuity but have the option to renew membership and subscribe to another package of different titles or switch to an OA Supporter Membership without the backlist.

7 Titles included in the packages are based on recent download/usage figures in order to ensure they are relevant, current, and represent good value-for-money. One package has been curated by an independent panel of subject expert library colleagues.

8 No catches and no hidden fees – trust and transparency is the only way this will work for everyone. Members are not asked to pay more on top of their annual fee to access 'more' or 'better' titles. Packages don't suddenly change; there is no bait and switch.

Example: CEU Press Press progress

Supporting frontlist Open Access books

Membership growth

New books funded from membership subscriptions to backlist packages

OPENING THE FUTURE

CEU PRESS

2
NEW BOOKS PUBLISHED

10
NEW BOOKS PUBLISHED

15
TARGET NEW BOOKS

20+
TARGET NEW BOOKS

LIBRARY

15 BACKLIST PACKAGES SUBSCRIBED

75 BACKLIST PACKAGES SUBSCRIBED

115 BACKLIST PACKAGE TARGET

160+ BACKLIST PACKAGE TARGET

2021

2022

2023

2024

Note: the targets here are based on an average membership of €1100 per year. The 'books published' and 'book target' figures are per year, not cumulative. Growth in membership is cumulative however, reflecting the three-year commitments from libraries. Icons by Flaticon.com.

Useful blog post

How can I persuade my institution to support collective funding for open access books?

copim.pubpub.org/pub/3cjxkovk/release/3

How to sign up

Your library can become a subscribing member through trusted partners Lyrasis and Jisc, or through the Press OtF website:

Central European University (CEU) Press

ceup.openingthefuture.net/packages

It's the same price either way - Jisc handles the invoicing for UK libraries, Lyrasis for N. America and the Presses for Rest of World.

Questions, newsletter & feedback

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