Values

- A commitment to **bibliodiversity**;
- **Collaboration** and **resource-sharing** over competition;
- **Networked community-building** over profit-driven centralisation;
- Dedication to **open infrastructures** vital for OA book publishing.

Aims

- **Sustainable funding model**: the OBC generates new revenue streams for OA publishers and OA service providers helping them move away from book processing charges and increase their volume of OA books;
- **Easier ways to support OA publishing**: the OBC makes it simpler and quicker for librarians to compare and support OA initiatives and to manage memberships and renewals;
- **Stronger OA communities**: the OBC is designed to serve the needs and interests of all the members involved in the collective, as well as the broader OA community.

What is the OBC?

The Open Book Collective is a UK-based charity comprised of OA publishers, OA service providers, and libraries that work to collectively bring about a fairer, more sustainable model of open book publishing.

Through the OBC’s online platform, librarians and other supporters can find, assess and pay to join membership packages offered by a diverse range of OA publishers and OA service providers.

Supporters receive a range of benefits from the publishers and service providers they support, as well as from the OBC itself. This includes the opportunity to become involved in the governance of the Collective.

How does it work?

Libraries and other supporters select the membership programmes they want to pay to join

Publishers and service providers receive membership income from the OBC, less fees

Publishers and service providers offer membership programmes via the OBC

The OBC platform generates quotations and consolidated contracts, and collects membership programmes revenue and processing fees

Libraries receive public recognition of support for OA publishing, as well as annual reports and other benefits offered by publishers/service providers
OBC fees

The OBC is a charity, operating on a not for profit basis. Fees and charges for OA publisher/service providers and libraries/other supporters cover running costs and provide broader support to the broader OA book publishing ecosystem.

Libraries/other supporters
The OBC charges a 5% service fee to libraries/other supporters. The service fee is added to the advertised cost of the chosen membership package(s).

Publishers/service providers

+ Simplified workflow: the OBC offers a single procurement process, integration with third party payment arrangements, and consolidated contracts.

+ Aggregation: the OBC acts as a membership package aggregator and discovery portal.

+ Due diligence: the OBC undertakes scrutiny of all initiatives offering membership packages, including their peer review practices, governance procedures, and business models.

+ Relevance: the OBC provides institutions with easy to use information about how membership packages are relevant to them - their students, their researchers, their strategic priorities.

Benefits

For libraries/supporters

ANNUAL COSTS & REVENUE FOR PUBLISHERS & SERVICE PROVIDERS

The OBC retains processing fee from library/supporter (£50) plus:
12.5% of the membership fee in Year 1
10% of the membership fee from Year 2

Costs = £125 (Yr 1), £100 (Yr 2+)
Revenue = £875 (Yr 1), £900 (Yr 2+)

EXAMPLE
For membership programme fee of £1000 per year

Membership fee + 5% OBC processing fee

Costs = £1050 (£1000 + £50)

ANNUAL COSTS FOR LIBRARIES & OTHERS SUPPORTERS

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Publishers/service providers

+ Simplified workflow: the OBC manages invoicing, contracting, and payment flows, making membership programmes possible for even small publishers/service providers.

+ Outreach: the OBC undertakes outreach work on behalf of publishers/service providers to a global community of potential supporters.

+ Reducing BPCs: the OBC is a means for publishers to generate new income streams, helping them transition away from using book processing charges and to increase their output of OA books.

+ Robust OA infrastructures: the OBC delivers new financial resources to the service providers of OA book publishing.

Running costs & the OBC Development Fund
The majority of the income received by the OBC is used to cover day to day running costs. However, around a quarter* of OBC income is allocated to the OBC Development Fund. In line with its charitable objectives, this fund supports OA publishing initiatives in their development and growth. Any organisation involved in OA book publishing may apply to this fund, even if not an OBC member.

For publishers/service providers

*50% of income retained by the OBC from membership programme payments is allocated to the Fund. All other income, including service fees paid by libraries/other supporters is used to cover OBC running costs.

In all but Year 1, the OBC retains 10% of the income paid by a library/supporter to support a membership programme.

In Year 1 of a newly supported membership programme 12.5% of revenue is retained. This slightly higher fee reflects the increased labour involved in generating new subscriptions.

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