The OBC Publisher’s Toolkit and working towards a new ‘Information Hub’

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The OBC ‘Toolkit for small and scholar-led publishers’ was launched in 2023. A resource to help relevant wanting to set up an OA press or publishers wanting to improve the way they operate. Currently has 14 sections, covering the core dimensions of setting up and running an OA publisher. Aims to embody the principle of ‘scaling small’.

“scaling small involves the creation of infrastructures that allow many presses to thrive at multiple scales, instead of taking up a competitive model in which some presses grow stronger in expense of others, or by usurping others (Barnes and Gatti 2019). What is needed here is an investment in and maintenance of robust open source public infrastructure that allows this diversity to exist, instead of outsourcing the necessary digital processes to commercial entities or platforms”

Janneke Adema & Sam Moore (2021), Scaling Small; Or How to Envision New Relationalities for Knowledge Production
Concrete
Includes case studies in each section, to highlight how presses make choices, why and sometimes what compromises they have to make.

A guide of guides
A range of high quality resources already out there – part of what the tool does is to help users navigate existing information.

Realistic
Recognising that small publishers operating under constraints – can’t do everything.

Flexible
Understands there is not one way to do OA publishing – e.g. ‘questions to guide good practice’ rather than required standards.

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toolkit.openbookcollective.org
## Toolkit for Small and Scholar-led Open Access Publishers

### 01. About the toolkit

The Toolkit for Small and Scholar-led Open Access Publishers is a resource to help relevant publishers wanting to set up a press.

- Created 8 months ago
- Updated 7 months ago

### 02. Key resources and sources

There are number of existing resources that provide insights about how to start and/or run an Open Access publisher, covering...

- Created 8 months ago
- Updated 8 months ago

### 03. Starting a new publisher

### 04. Brand building and

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**A look at the toolkit**
A key task in our project is building a new ‘Information Hub’

Including materials for publishers, but also libraries and infrastructure providers

Using the principles we used in the Toolkit (scaling small, realistic, flexible, concrete etc)

Avoiding replicating existing resources (e.g. DOAB Authors Toolkit)

A few topic ideas include: what resources can I provide to my faculty? How can I convince skeptical library colleagues of the value of open access? What are the different/best ways for a library to ingest open metadata? How can I access funding for open access projects? How can I set up print on demand in for my library press?
Next steps: We need your input

• What further resources still need to be developed to better support African OA book publishing?
• Where should these resources be hosted/collection?
• What would you need to feel you could trust these resources?
• How could we promote the resource in the networks you have and/or national context you work in?
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