

OPEN ACCESS BOOK COLLECTIVE

England & Wales · Charity number 1206287

Details

Other names OPEN BOOK COLLECTIVE

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [14118614](#)

Registered 2023-12-19

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Bdb Pitmans Llp
One Bartholomew Close
London
EC1A 7BL

Phone 020 8191 2026

Email info@openbookcollective.org

Website <https://openbookcollective.org/>

Activities

Objects: THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS ARE TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL BY SUCH MEANS AS THE TRUSTEES THINK FIT, INCLUDING BY INCREASING ACCESS TO RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC MATERIALS THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF OPEN-ACCESS BOOKS AND INFRASTRUCTURES.

Activities: Bringing together open access publishers, publishing service providers, librarians, and other supporters to collectively bring about a fairer, more sustainable model of open book publishing, to increase the volume and diversity of academic knowledge available for free, to anyone.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Canada
- Cyprus
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Italy
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Northern Ireland
- Norway
- Portugal
- Scotland
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United States
- Zimbabwe
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-10-31	£374,547	£282,347	-	-
2024-10-31	£273,963	£180,745	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Joseph Edward Deville	Chair	2022-05-19
AMANDA DE SOUZA RAMALHO		2022-09-08
DR DEMMY RONALD VERBEKE		2023-09-08
DR JOHN RUPERT JAMES GATTI		2023-09-08
Dr Lidia Uziel PhD., MLIS		2022-05-19
Dr Reggie Raju		2022-09-08
Kevin John Sanders		2025-12-03
NIELS SAABY STERN		2022-09-08
Zoe Wake Hyde		2025-12-03

OPEN ACCESS BOOK COLLECTIVE

England & Wales - Charity number 1206287

Accounts

Registered number
14118614

Open Access Book Collective

Accounts

31 October 2025

Open Access Book Collective Accountants' Report

Report to the directors on the preparation of the unaudited statutory accounts of Open Access Book Collective for the year ended 31 October 2025

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the accounts of Open Access Book Collective for the year ended 31 October 2025 which comprise of the Profit and Loss Account and the Balance Sheet from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at <https://www.accaglobal.com/gb/en/about-us/regulation/rulebook.html>

This report is made solely to the Board of Directors of Open Access Book Collective, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the accounts of Open Access Book Collective and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the Board of Directors of Open Access Book Collective, as a body, in this report in accordance with the requirements of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants as detailed at <http://www.accaglobal.com/factsheet163>. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Open Access Book Collective and its Board of Directors as a body for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that Open Access Book Collective has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory accounts that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit of Open Access Book Collective. You consider that Open Access Book Collective is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the accounts of Open Access Book Collective. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory accounts.

Cambridge Tax and Accounting Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Brookfields
2A Water Lane
Histon
Cambridge
CB24 9LR

14 January 2026

Open Access Book Collective Directors' Report

Report of the directors of Open Access Book Collective for the year ended 31 October 2025

1. Introduction

This is the third OBC Directors' report and the second since the OBC was registered as a charity by the Charity Commission of England and Wales on 19 December 2023:

<https://doi.org/10.21428/41ca814e.caf1d303>

This report provides an overview of core OBC activities, as well as its governance and financial position. A fuller report, including details of the work of our Publisher and Service Provider Members, is published

<https://openbookcollective.pubpub.org/pub/open-book-collective-2024-to-2025-annual-report>

2. Governance & Staffing

The Open Book Collective remains established as a charitable Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) and a UK registered charity. It is governed by the OBC Board of Stewards, which are elected by members and act as the charity's Trustees. During the period, there were no changes to the membership of the Board.

The OBC did not convene an Annual General Assembly of Custodians (AGAC) during this financial year. The second AGAC took place on 11 September 2024:

<https://openbookcollective.pubpub.org/pub/tjbb7k24>

The third AGAC is scheduled to take place on 3 December 2025. This reflects an updated financial year and our aim eventually to be able to move the AGAC towards the start of a calendar year, while meeting the requirements that these meetings should occur no more than 15 months apart.

During the period, the board met 4 times, as follows:

- 8 January 2025
- 9 April 2025
- 25 June 2025
- 10 September 2025

The period also saw some staffing changes, with Kevin Sanders leaving the organisation at the end of September and the OBC welcoming Caroline Ball as its new Community Engagement Lead in October. Current OBC employees include:

- Caroline Ball: Community Engagement Lead
- Francesca Corazza: Product Manager

Francesca and first Kevin and then Caroline continued to act as the OBC Secretariat, which supports the OBC's Committees and governance functions. Many thanks to Caroline, Francesca and Kevin for all their work.

Thanks also to our colleagues seconded from partner organisations to the OBC, as part of the Copim Open Book Futures project. This includes Livy Synder (punctum), who leads much of our engagement in North America, Izabella Penier (Lancaster University), who leads our publisher and service provider engagement, and Judith Fathallah (Lancaster University), who leads our research work and work on the Collective Development Fund. Thanks also to Arturo Garduño Magaña who is a contractor who joined the OBC during this period, serving as our Metadata Management Associate.

3. New Members

The OBC ended the 2025 financial year with a total of 18 Publisher and Service Provider Members, with 88 Library Members acting as supporting institutions. During the period, 5 new Publisher Members joined. 17 new library members joined, of which the following 16 have consented to be publicly acknowledged:

New Library Members

- Francis Crick Institute (01/04/2025)
- Institute of Arts, Design and Technology (18/12/2024)
- James Madison University (07/11/2024)
- London School of Economics & Political Science (06/02/2025)
- London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (24/03/2025)
- MIT Libraries (17/03/2025)
- Trinity College Dublin (18/12/2024)
- University of Anglia Ruskin (24/06/2025)
- University of Essex (28/07/2025)
- University of Exeter (05/02/2025)
- University of Nottingham (06/02/2025)
- University of Southampton Solent (28/07/2025)
- University of the Arts London (01/04/2025)
- University of Warwick (06/10/2025)
- University of Wolverhampton (28/07/2025)
- University of York (06/01/2025)

New Publisher Members

- Arc Humanities Press (16/05/2025)
- Edizioni Ca' Foscari (10/01/2025)
- LSE Press (08/11/2024)
- Sidestone Press (28/02/2025)
- Verlag Barbara Budrich (05/02/2025)

4. Outreach & outputs

In this reporting period, the OBC expanded its library outreach, with a focus on strengthening engagement with existing supporters, while also shifting our emphasis from individual institutions to engagement with library consortia.

An important part of this work was a comprehensive Consortia Mapping Project led by OBC staff, which informed a structured approach to engagement across regions. During this period, the OBC was pleased to welcome support from IReL, the consortium of Irish university libraries. IReL became the second consortium to support the OBC, joining California Digital Library (CDL). Additional discussions were held with a number of further consortia, including in Canada, the US, and Scandinavia, with the aim to build support from these organisations in future.

Another key development was the establishment of the General Library Custodian Forum, to function as a regular meeting space for OBC's library supporters and wider sector stakeholders. The Forum, together with the launch of an OBC listserv mailing list, creates opportunities for information exchange, feedback, and collaboration across the library community.

Regionally, targeted outreach was carried out across the UK and Ireland, Europe, North America, and the Global South. In the UK and Ireland, engagement was strengthened through Research Libraries UK and IReL networks, alongside follow-up work with universities showing high author affiliations with OBC publishers. Across Europe, outreach materials were translated into Italian, Spanish, and French, and new collaborations developed in Germany, the Netherlands, and the Nordic region.

In North America, OBC's work focused primarily on consortial partnerships, with proposals and presentations to a range of library colleagues at US institutions which emphasised the local impacts of the work of OBC Publisher and Service Provider Members and how the OBC's work aligns with institutional missions, strategies and priorities. OBC also contributed to a series of international events in Africa and the Middle East. This including joining, remotely, the Forum for Open Research in MENA (Middle East and North Africa) and co-organising a workshop on sustainable OA book publishing at the University of Cape Town Libraries, as part of the 2nd Global Summit on Diamond OA.

Throughout the year, the OBC has had a strong presence at major sector events, including the Charleston Conference in the US, where OBC was featured in a well-attended panel alongside representatives from punctum books, the American Library Association, and the City University of New York. OBC representatives also spoke at UKSG, RLUK, ACRL, AsSIST, OA Tage, OASPA, and the National Open Access Summit in Nigeria, among others. These events were complemented by workshops co-organised with partners including Thoth Open Metadata, OAPEN, AG Universitätsverlage, and the Association of African Universities, and contributions to webinars hosted by NAG, OIPA/IOAP, and IOAP.

Collaboration with Thoth Open Metadata has enhanced the use of author affiliation and usage data in outreach, providing tailored impact evidence to strengthen the case for support in institutional and consortial contexts. OBC continued to coordinate closely with other partners within the Open Book Futures project, including Lancaster University, punctum books, Open Book Publishers, and Jisc, to align engagement with broader sector initiatives.

International and Regional Conferences

- **Charleston Conference** (November 2024) - Panel: *Delivering Open Access for Books by Default: The Role of Community-led Funding Models and Infrastructures* - speakers: Eileen Joy (punctum books), Emily Drabinski (ALA), Lidia Uziel (UCSB/OBC), Jill Cirasella (CUNY). Poster Presentation by Livy Snyder.
- **2nd Global Summit on Diamond OA** (9-10 Dec 2024) - Workshop: *Open Monograph Publishing: Towards Sustainable Open Access Book Publishing in the Global South Context* - organised by OBC with partners including African Minds, AAU, UCT Libraries, OAPEN, DOAB, punctum books and Thoth Open Metadata.
- **UKSG Annual Conference** (31 Mar - 2 Apr 2025) - *Scaling Sustainability: The Open Book Collective and Community-led OA* - Joe Deville. Part of breakout session: *It's nice, but is it sustainable? Rethinking sustainability for Diamond OA infrastructures*.
- **RLUK Annual Conference** (Mar & Apr 2025) - Roundtable: *Building an Open Monographs Future* - Kevin Sanders (with Andrew Barker and Silke Davison [OAPEN/DOAB]). Roundtable: *Building an Open Monographs Future: How the Library Community Can Help Create a More Equitable OA Ecosystem* - Kevin Sanders with colleagues from York, Oxford, Lancaster and Sussex.
- **ACRL Conference** (2-5 Apr 2025) - OBC exhibition stand.
- **Association of European Academic Presses Conference** (23 May 2025) - Workshop: *Scaling Small - Horizontal Collaboration Based on Open Values and Interoperability to Sustain Open Workflows in OA Book Publishing* - Kevin Sanders.
- **Edinburgh Open** (4 Jun 2025) - *Choosing Open Access for Books: Author Agency and the Open Book Collective* - Judith Fathallah & Kevin Sanders.
- **Association of University Presses Annual Meeting** (9 Jun 2025) - Panel: *Sustaining Open, Community-Governed Infrastructures: Global Reflections and Perspectives* - Joe Deville.
- **AsSIST-UK Biennial Conference** (18 Jun 2025) - *STS and the Practical Politics of Scholarly Publishing: Lessons from Infrastructuring the Open Book Collective* - Joe Deville.
- **DIAMAS / Max Weber Institute** (June 2025) - Webinar: *Open Book Collective: Collectively Funding Diamond OA Books* - Joe Deville.
- **Forum for Open Research in MENA (FORM)** (July 2025) - Webinar: *Making Space on the Shelves: Open Access Books in Open Science* - Kevin Sanders and Kira Hopkins.

- **NAG Webinar Series** (25 Jun 2025) - *Beyond Buying Books: Rethinking Content Acquisition in Unstable Times* - Kevin Sanders.
- **Bodleian Libraries Event** (25 Jun 2025) - *Choosing Open Access for Books: An Author Journey* - Judith Fathallah.
- **AFLIA Conference** (21 May 2025) - Workshop: *Community-led Open Publication Infrastructures for Monographs* - led by Josiline Chigwada (OBC grant recipient).
- **OA Tage** (18 Sep 2025) - *Barriers to Collective Funding of Diamond Open Access in Six European Countries* - Joe Deville. *Tending Community-led Diamond OA Ecologies for Books: A Rewilding of the OA Landscape as a Commons* - Kevin Sanders & Kira Hopkins. Workshop: *Scaling Small in Practice - Horizontal Collaboration on Open Values and Interoperability* - OBC with Thoth, OAPEN and AG Universitätsverlage.
- **OASPA Annual Conference** (September 2025) - OBC featured in panels and discussions on governance and Diamond OA sustainability.
- **National Open Access Summit** (6-7 Oct 2025) - *Open Access Books: If Not Now, Then When?* - Joe Deville.
- **Mercian Collaboration Conference** (10 Sep 2025) - OBC information stand and advocacy activity - Joe Deville and Kevin Sanders.

Articles, reports and publications

- **Deville, J., Findanis, J., & Stern, N.** (2024). "How Should We Evaluate Open Access Book Publishing?" *KATINA Magazine* (A2.3).
<https://katinamagazine.org/content/article/open-knowledge/2024/how-should-we-evaluate-open-access-book-publishing>
- **Collective Funding Models for Open Access Books: Librarians' Experiences and Barriers to Participation Across Six European Contexts** (Oct 2025). Lead author: Judith Fathallah.
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17339946>
- **Open Book Collective 2024–2025 Annual Report: A Year of Important Progress** (Oct 2025). OBC Team.
<https://openbookcollective.pubpub.org/pub/open-book-collective-2024-to-2025-annual-report>

5. Collective Development Fund

In late November 2024, the Open Book Collective announced the first recipients of awards from the Collective Development Fund. In early November 2025, the OBC announced some of the awardees from the second round of funding, with additional awardees to be announced shortly. The first and second rounds of funding are based on financial support from our two funders, Arcadia and the Research England Development Fund, as part of the Copim Open Book Futures project. Funds for subsequent awards are funded by an optional 5% fee paid by our publisher and service provider members from revenue received via the OBC. The fund is designed to support projects that build capacity for open access publishing capacity, in line with the OBC's charitable objectives. It supports projects that are able to demonstrate their alignment with one or more of 3 priority areas:

Significant milestones for the Collective Development Fund during the period included:

- 1 Creating and supporting infrastructures and/or workflows for the distribution, cataloguing and/or preservation of Open Access scholarly books
- 2 Building and sustaining networks and advocacy for the support of OA scholarly books and infrastructure
- 3 Projects building capacity for scholarly OA book publishing

The Collective Development Fund does not support direct costs associated with publishing individual texts - sometimes referred to as Book Processing Charges. We aim to allocate at least 30% of funding in each round to projects benefitting work in Lower and Middle Income Countries (LMICs), as defined by the World Bank. Grant awards assessed via external reviews and the proposals and reviews are assessed by a panel including both our Stewards and Members.

In the first round, we made awards to three projects:

- 1 **Fostering Academic Self-Reliance in Nigeria through Open Access Books:** Establishing Bookhub, a sustainable platform to empower Nigerian scholars and educators to create, produce, and disseminate high-quality open access books, as well as fostering new collaborations across Academic Publishing Centres in Nigeria's six geopolitical zones.

Awardee: Federal University of Technology, Minna

Amount: £15,000

Press release:

<https://openbookcollective.pubpub.org/pub/announcing-obcs-first-collective-development-fund-award-fostering-academic-self-reliance-in-nigeria-through-open-access-books>

- 2 **Enhancing Open Access Book Publishing at Chinhoyi University of Technology Library:** Establishing Zimbabwe's first open access university press at Chinhoyi University of Technology in Zimbabwe. Building open access publishing capacity, and publishing a series of new high-quality open access books.

Awardee: Chinhoyi University of Technology

Amount: £15,000

Press release:

<https://openbookcollective.pubpub.org/pub/announcing-obcs-second-collective-development-fund-award-enhancing-open-access-book-publishing-at-chinhoyi-university-of-technology-library>

- 3 **The Community Publishing Garden:** Creating a model of participatory exchange for publishing practitioners and community members to better serve the forms of knowledge emerging from grassroots communities.

Awardee: Radish Press

Amount: £7,500

Press release:

<https://openbookcollective.pubpub.org/pub/announcing-obcs-third-collective-development-fund-awardthe-community-publishing-garden>

We have held reporting calls with all awardees for updates on progress and during this reporting period published interim updates from all awardees.

In January 2025, we launched the second Call. We received 13 full applications, of which 6 were advanced to full review. All 6 were from and/or for projects doing significant work in Lower and Middle Income Countries (LMICs). The final decision-making panel met in August 2025. Details of the successful awards were announced after the conclusion of this financial year. Nonetheless, we include the two projects that have so far been announced, at the time of writing; details of the other successful projects will be announced shortly.

- 1 **Empowering Ethiopian Research Universities: A Multifaceted Approach to Overcome Open Access Barriers in Scholarly Publishing:** Tackling barriers to OA in Ethiopia via policy development, establishing an open access institutional repository at Haramaya University, and drafting national OA policy guidelines to institutionalize best practices.

Awardee: Haramaya University

Amount: £7,500

Press release:

<https://openbookcollective.pubpub.org/pub/announcing-obcs-second-collective-development-fund-award-for-2025-26-empowering-ethiopian-research-universities-a-multifaceted-approach-to-overcome-open-access-barriers-in-scholarly-publishing>

- 2 Knowledge Accessible to the Community: CLACSO as a Platform to Democratize Scholarly Publishing in Latin America and the Caribbean:** Providing structured training opportunities in the fundamentals of Diamond OA, and creating working spaces that allow knowledge dissemination through an easily accessible and sustainable virtual platform.

Awardee: CLACSO

Amount: £12,000

Press release:

<https://openbookcollective.pubpub.org/pub/announcing-obcs-second-collective-development-fund-award-for-2025-26-knowledge-accessible-to-the-community-clacso-as-a-platform-to-democratize-scholarly-publishing-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean>

6. Funding & financial position

The OBC was supported through the present period by the Copim Open Book Futures project. The project covers the large majority of OBC's current financial costs and will do until the end of the project on the 30 April 2026.

During the period, a major focus has been on developing a clear roadmap for full financial sustainability, independent of grant funding. This included commissioning Research Consulting to undertake research on our value proposition and to develop different sustainability scenarios. This review confirmed that the OBC can readily sustain itself into the near to medium term at current staffing levels (circa 2.5 Full Time Equivalent) without the need for grant funding and is on track for full break-even and sustainability by 2029, if we are able to continue increasing support for our collective offering to approximately 200 libraries regularly supporting our Members.

We have also pursued grant funding opportunities during the period. The OBC was a partner on a submission by the Association of African Universities to the Invest in Open Infrastructure (IOI) fund for Network Adoption. This bid made it to the final shortlist, but was unfortunately ultimately unsuccessful.

We look forward to providing further updates about the development of the OBC in next year's report.

Prof. Joseph Deville

OBC Managing Director and Trustee

Approved by the board on 14 January 2026

Open Access Book Collective
Profit and Loss Account
for the year ended 31 October 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Turnover	39,726	44,476
Other income	334,821	229,487
Grants and donations	(45,520)	(1,369)
Gross profit	<u>329,027</u>	<u>272,594</u>
Staff costs	(118,445)	(113,343)
Other charges	(118,382)	(66,033)
Profit	<u>92,200</u>	<u>93,218</u>

Open Access Book Collective**Registered number:****14118614****Balance Sheet****as at 31 October 2025**

	2025 £	2024 £
Current assets	285,412	307,248
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(52,506)</u>	<u>(33,182)</u>
Net current assets	<u>232,906</u>	<u>274,066</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	232,906	274,066
Accruals and deferred income	<u>(10,871)</u>	<u>(144,231)</u>
Net assets	<u>222,035</u>	<u>129,835</u>
 Capital and reserves	 <u>222,035</u>	 <u>129,835</u>
	Number	Number
Average number of employees	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

The company is a private company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England. Its registered office is One Bartholomew Close, London, EC1A 7BL.

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro entity provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and FRS 105, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the Micro-entities Regime. The accounts have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Prof. Joseph Deville

Director

Approved by the board on 14 January 2026

Open Access Book Collective
Detailed profit and loss account items
for the year ended 31 October 2025

This schedule does not form part of the statutory accounts

	2025 £	2024 £
Turnover		
Fees from institutions	18,341	20,127
Fees from providers	21,385	24,349
	<u>39,726</u>	<u>44,476</u>
Other income		
Donations from providers to development fund	18,341	20,387
Grants	312,360	208,408
Interest receivable	4,120	692
	<u>334,821</u>	<u>229,487</u>
Grants and donations		
Collective Development Fund	<u>45,520</u>	<u>1,369</u>
Staff costs		
Wages, pensions and social security costs	117,776	112,640
Payroll overheads	669	703
	<u>118,445</u>	<u>113,343</u>
Other charges		
General administrative expenses:		
Admin	381	494
Bank charges/(cashback)	30	(172)
Conferences/events	16,454	6,628
Equipment	1,664	-
IT Costs	3,873	1,391
Legal and accounting	15,848	13,336
Network engagement	15,077	10,000
Report on collective funding models	180	-
OBC board translations	5,093	1,404
Platform development	11,860	20,000
COPIM Wordpress design	3,800	-
Consultancy fees	16,200	-
Video production	11,810	-
Travel and subsistence	15,617	13,821
Exchange losses/(gains)	495	(869)
	<u>118,382</u>	<u>66,033</u>
	<u>118,382</u>	<u>66,033</u>

Open Access Book Collective
Detailed balance sheet items
as at 31 October 2025

This schedule does not form part of the statutory accounts

	2025	2024
	£	£
Current assets		
Trade debtors	2,135	94,840
Other debtors: Loan to OJC (Open Journals Collective)	5,000	-
Cash at bank	278,277	212,408
	<u>285,412</u>	<u>307,248</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	13,049	2,776
Platform providers	39,184	27,291
Other creditors	273	3,115
	<u>52,506</u>	<u>33,182</u>
Accruals and deferred income		
Deferred income	<u>10,871</u>	<u>144,231</u>
Capital and reserves		
Profit and loss account	<u>222,035</u>	<u>129,835</u>
Profit and loss account		
Brought forward	129,835	36,617
Profit	92,200	93,218
	<u>222,035</u>	<u>129,835</u>

OPEN ACCESS BOOK COLLECTIVE

England & Wales - Charity number 1206287

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Registered number
14118614

Open Access Book Collective

Accounts

31 October 2024

Open Access Book Collective Accountants' Report

Report to the directors on the preparation of the unaudited statutory accounts of Open Access Book Collective for the period ended 31 October 2024

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the accounts of Open Access Book Collective for the period ended 31 October 2024 which comprise of the Profit and Loss Account and the Balance Sheet from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at <https://www.accaglobal.com/gb/en/about-us/regulation/rulebook.html>

This report is made solely to the Board of Directors of Open Access Book Collective, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the accounts of Open Access Book Collective and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the Board of Directors of Open Access Book Collective, as a body, in this report in accordance with the requirements of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants as detailed at <http://www.accaglobal.com/factsheet163>. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Open Access Book Collective and its Board of Directors as a body for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that Open Access Book Collective has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory accounts that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit of Open Access Book Collective. You consider that Open Access Book Collective is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the period.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the accounts of Open Access Book Collective. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory accounts.

Cambridge Tax and Accounting Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Brookfields
2A Water Lane
Histon
Cambridge
CB24 9LR

8 January 2025

Open Access Book Collective Directors' Report

Report of the directors of Open Access Book Collective for the period ended 31 October 2024

Introduction

The period documented by this report covers the period since the confirmation (on 19 December 2023) that the application by the Open Book Collective (OBC) to be registered as a charity by the Charity Commission of England and Wales was accepted:

<https://doi.org/10.21428/41ca814e.caf1d303>

The 31 October 2024 end date of the period was chosen as it aligns with the reporting requirements for the Copim Open Book Futures project:

<https://copim.pubpub.org/open-book-futures-project>

Governance & Staffing

The Open Book Collective remains established as a charitable Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) and a UK registered charity. It is governed by the OBC Board of Stewards, which are elected by members and act as the charity's Trustees. During the period, two Stewards stepped down from the Board. Cheryl Ball stepped down as one of our OA Expert Stewards due to other work commitments, and Andrea Hacker, another of our OA Expert Stewards, did not renew her term due to her institution, Bern University, becoming an OBC member, meaning she could not have remained an 'independent' representative. We offer our sincere thanks to Cheryl and Andrea for their contributions to the OBC.

The period saw the OBC convene its second Annual General Assembly of Custodians. This took place on 11 September 2024:

<https://openbookcollective.pubpub.org/pub/tjbb7k24>

During the meeting, members voted to elect and re-elect Stewards to the board. Results of this election included the following:

- Holly Limbert (Derby University): Elected, acting as an independent OA Expert
- Reggie Raju (University of Cape Town Libraries): Re-elected, acting as an independent OA Expert, having previously representing the Service Provider Caucus
- Amanda Ramalho (SciELO Books): Re-elected, acting as an independent OA Expert

During the period, the board met 4 times, as follows:

- 10 January 2024
- 10 April 2024
- 26 April 2024
- 09 October 2024

Staffing remains unchanged during the period. OBC employees include:

- Francesca Corazza: Product Manager
- Kevin Sanders: Open Access Engagement Lead

Francesca and Kevin continued to act as the OBC Secretariat, which supports the OBC's Committees and governance functions. Many thanks to both Kevin and Francesca for all their work.

Thanks also to our colleagues seconded from partner organisations to the OBC, as part of the Copim Open Book Futures project. This includes Livy Synder (punctum), who leads much of our engagement in North America, Izabella Penier (Lancaster University), who leads our publisher and service provider engagement, and Judith Fathallah (Lancaster University), who leads our research work and work on the Collective Development Fund.

New Members

The OBC ended the 2024 financial year with a total of 79 Library Members, acting as supporting institutions, with a total of 14 Publisher and Service Provider Members. During the period, the following members joined the Open Book Collective:

New Library Members

- Bath Spa University (08/08/24)
- Bern University (27/11/23)
- Birmingham City University (11/06/24)
- Brock University (23/02/24)
- Flinders University (20/03/24)
- Goethe-Universität Frankfurt (23/01/24)
- McMaster University (14/12/23)
- National Library of Finland (12/05/23)
- National Library of Scotland (15/07/24)
- National Library of Sweden (01/02/24)
- Oxford University, Bodleian Libraries (16/01/24)
- Philips Universität Marburg (05/12/23)
- Rollins College (04/04/24)
- Royal Danish Library (08/11/23)
- Technische Universität Berlin (07/02/24)
- Tilburg University (1/12/23)
- Université de Montreal (25/04/24)
- University of Basel (04/01/24)
- University of Bergen (22/11/23)
- University of Bristol (02/06/23)
- University College London (10/07/24)
- CDL (14/06/24)
 - University of California, Berkeley
 - University of California, Davis
 - University of California, Irvine
 - University of California, Los Angeles
 - University of California, Merced
 - University of California, Riverside
 - University of California, San Diego
 - University of California, San Francisco
 - University of California, Santa Cruz
 - University of California, Office of the President (UCOP)
- University of Edinburgh (08/05/24)
- University of Groningen (08/08/24)
- University of Leeds (24/09/24)
- University of Leicester (27/02/24)
- University of Loughborough (12/07/23)
- University of Montreal (24/04/24)
- University of Southampton (11/09/24)
- University of St.Gallen (07/11/23)
- University of Texas at Austin (25/07/24)
- University of Western Ontario (26/10/23)
- University of Western Australia (11/05/23)
- University of Wollongong (12/06/23)
- Utrecht University (05/07/24)
- York University, Canada (22/02/24)
- Villanova University (20/03/24)
- Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (03/10/23)
- Zurich University (12/12/23)

New Publisher Members

- University of London Press (24/01/24)
- Leuven University Press (10/01/24)
- University of Westminster Press (24/01/24)

New Service Provider Members

- Public Knowledge Project (04/09/24)

Outreach & outputs

A significant part of the OBC's work is engaging with the scholarly community, with a particular focus on academic publishers and university libraries. As part of the Open Book Futures project, colleagues working to support the OBC contributed to a range of events and outputs, in which they explored issues related to the OBC's aim to support a fairer, more sustainable future for OA book publishing. We have also refined our social media engagement work, including maintaining our presence on Mastodon, launching on Bluesky, and deprioritising posting on X.

A sense of the broad ambitions of this work is provided in the first report to supporters, published on 29 February 2024. We will repeat this report next February.

<https://doi.org/10.21428/41ca814e.3db1e0a1>

Since February, the OBC has been involved in numerous other outreach activities. These include:

Events & conference papers

- 11 Jan 2024 - Open Access and Global South Scholars: Needs, Experiences, Barriers; Lancaster University, Southern Women Academic Network:
<https://doi.org/10.21428/41ca814e.b423d75c>
- 22 Jan 2024 - OBC Information Hub and Collective Development Fund scoping workshop; punctum, White Horse Press, Mattering Press, African Minds, Westminster University Press, University of London Press, Leuven University Press, DOAB/OAPEN, Thoth, OBP, meson press, mediastudies.press
- 7-9 Feb 2024 - Towards Sustainable Open Access Book Publishing in the African Context; University of Cape Town Library, University of Cape Town Press, African Platform for Open Scholarship, Association of African Universities, Lancaster University, punctum books, DOAB/OAPEN, Thoth, OBC, Mattering Press:
<https://doi.org/10.21428/41ca814e.c8fbbc53>
- 13 Mar 2024 - Introducing the OBC to IReL members (Irish Library Consortium)
- 17 Apr 2024 - Evaluating Evaluation Criteria for OA Book Publishers. Project Muse, OpenEdition. African Platform for Open Scholarship, SciELO Books, DOAB, Opening the Future, JSTOR, Thoth, AG Universitätsverlage, University of Georgia Press/AUPresses Fulcrum:
<https://katinamagazine.org/content/article/open-knowledge/2024/how-should-we-evaluate-open-access-book-publishing>
- 24 Apr 2024 - How To Facilitate Horizontal Collaboration Between Community-Led Infrastructures for Equitable and Bibliodiverse Futures for Open Access Books? OPERAS conference, Zadar, Croatia. Lucy Barnes, Niels Stern, Rupert Gatti, Toby Steiner, Kevin Sanders.
- 01 May 2024 - Bridging Altruism to Strategy in OA Book Publishing – How Libraries Can Close Funding Gaps to Support a Bibliodiverse Global Shared Collection, University of Delaware Publishing, University of Arizona Libraries, University of Alberta, Iowa State University Digital Press.
- 03 Jul 2024 - Evaluation and Assessment of Diamond Open Access Book Initiatives: Challenges and Opportunities. Deville, Joe; Sanders, Kevin; Stern, Niels; Trentacosti, Giulia. LIBER 2024 Pre-conference workshop:
<https://openbookcollective.pubpub.org/pub/liber-2024/release/1>

- 12 Sep 2024 - Sustainable Community-Led Open Access Beyond the BPC, Joe Deville. Association of Learned Society Publishers Annual Conference and Awards 2024
- 16 Sep 2024 - Can Scaling Small Scale? Lessons Learned From Building Community-led Infrastructures for Open Access Book Publishing; Contributors: Deville, Joe; Adema, Janneke; Barnes, Miranda; Steiner, Toby; Grady, Tom; Hillen, Hannah; Hopkins, Kira; Kiesewetter, Rebekka; Sanders, Kevin
- OASPA 2024 Conference, Lisbon:
<https://zenodo.org/records/13694568>
- 17 Sep 2024 - Choosing Open Access for Books as a Precarious Scholar
Judith Fathallah, OASPA 2024 Conference, Lisbon
- 17 Sep 2024 - Precarity in scholar-led & marginalized open access publishing
Joe Deville, OASPA 2024 Conference, Lisbon
- 19 Sep 2024 - Crisis in HE and the future of Diamond Open Access, LSE, LSE UP, WP3

Other outreach

- 22 Jan 2024 - First Collective Development Funding Call to Open in April 2024:
<https://doi.org/10.21428/41ca814e.495490c0>
- 12 Feb 2024 - Open Access and Global South Scholars: Needs, Experiences, Barriers. Workshop Report:
<https://doi.org/10.21428/41ca814e.b423d75c>
- October 2024 (accepted, pending publication) - [Journal article]. Hopkins, K. & Sanders, K. (2024). Open access, open infrastructures, and their funding: learning from histories to more effectively enhance Diamond OA ecologies for books. *Journal of Librarianship & Scholarly Communication*. 12(2).

Collective Development Fund

Considerable work has focused on launching the OBC Collective Development Fund. This fund is financed in 2024 and 2025 by the Open Book Futures project, with calls from 2026 onwards relying on financial contributions from OBC's Publisher and Service Provider Members.

Significant milestones for the Collective Development Fund during the period included:

- 18 Mar 2024: Publishing the results of further scoping work on the needs and priorities of our stakeholder communities:
<https://openbookcollective.pubpub.org/pub/collective-development-fund-grant-programme-scoping-update>
- 16 Apr 2024: Launching the first OBC Collective Development Fund Call:
<https://openbookcollective.pubpub.org/pub/obc-collective-development-fund-grant-programme-2024-call-guidance>
- 23 Sep 2024: Reflecting on the outcomes of the call, for which the OBC received 35 applications in total, of which 8 applications advanced to full review:
<https://openbookcollective.pubpub.org/pub/collective-development-fund-update-learning-from-our-first-assessment-process>

We look forward to including information on the final awards in the next reporting period.

Funding & financial position

The OBC was supported through the present period by the Copim Open Book Futures project. The project covers the large majority of OBC's current financial costs and will do until the end of the project on the 30th April 2026. During the period, we have begun work to prepare for the post-Open Book Futures period. This includes:

- Developing post-project funding applications. This work is ongoing, with other Copim colleagues.
- Developing post-project projections, should funding applications be unsuccessful. This shows that further funding would be required to sustain the OBC at current staffing levels. This could involve increasing our subscriber base and/or increasing the volume of support from existing subscribers. Our work in this respect is focusing particularly on achieving support from US institutions and consortia and on deepening our outreach within EU contexts.
- Undertaking a full interim evaluation of the OBC model. We will report on this evaluation in the next financial period.

We look forward to providing further updates about the development of the OBC in next year's report.



Prof. Joseph Deville
OBC Managing Director and Trustee
Approved by the board on 8 January 2025

Open Access Book Collective
Profit and Loss Account
for the period from 19 December 2023 to 31 October 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Turnover	44,476	19,844
Other income	229,487	141,385
Grants and donations	(1,369)	(415)
Gross profit	272,594	160,814
Staff and subcontractor costs	(113,343)	(54,855)
Other charges	(66,033)	(67,520)
Profit before taxation	93,218	38,439
Tax	-	(7,803)
Profit	<u>93,218</u>	<u>30,636</u>

Open Access Book Collective**Registered number:****14118614****Balance Sheet****as at 31 October 2024**

	2024 £	2023 £
Current assets	307,248	101,543
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(33,182)	(35,190)
Net current assets	274,066	66,353
Total assets less current liabilities	274,066	66,353
Accruals and deferred income	(144,231)	(29,736)
Net assets	129,835	36,617
 Capital and reserves	 129,835	 36,617
 Average number of employees	 Number 2	 Number 1

The company is a private company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England. Its registered office is One Bartholomew Close, London, EC1A 7BL.

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro entity provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and FRS 105, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the Micro-entities Regime. The accounts have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.



Prof. Joseph Deville

Director

Approved by the board on 8 January 2025

Open Access Book Collective
Detailed profit and loss account items
for the period from 19 December 2023 to 31 October 2024

This schedule does not form part of the statutory accounts

	2024 £	2023 £
Turnover		
Fees from institutions	20,127	7,751
Fees from providers	24,349	11,157
Recharged expenses	-	936
	<u>44,476</u>	<u>19,844</u>
Other income		
Development Fund contributions	20,387	8,340
Grants and donations	208,408	133,045
Interest receivable	692	-
	<u>229,487</u>	<u>141,385</u>
Grants and donations		
Collective Development Fund	<u>1,369</u>	<u>415</u>
Staff and subcontractor costs		
Wages, pensions, social security and subcontractor costs	112,640	52,321
Payroll overheads	703	2,534
	<u>113,343</u>	<u>54,855</u>
Other charges		
General administrative expenses:		
Admin	494	13
Bank charges/(cashback)	(172)	97
Conferences/events	6,628	4,443
Equipment	-	483
IT Costs	1,391	188
Legal and accounting	13,336	6,585
Network engagement	10,000	10,000
OBC board translations	1,404	-
Platform development	20,000	40,000
Travel and subsistence	13,821	6,547
Exchange gains	(869)	(836)
	<u>66,033</u>	<u>67,520</u>
	<u>66,033</u>	<u>67,520</u>

Open Access Book Collective
Detailed balance sheet items
as at 31 October 2024

This schedule does not form part of the statutory accounts

	2024 £	2023 £
Current assets		
Trade debtors	94,840	8,060
Cash at bank	212,408	93,483
	<u>307,248</u>	<u>101,543</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	2,776	139
Platform providers	27,291	21,870
Corporation tax	-	9,206
Other creditors	3,115	3,975
	<u>33,182</u>	<u>35,190</u>
Accruals and deferred income		
Deferred income	<u>144,231</u>	<u>29,736</u>
Capital and reserves		
Profit and loss account	<u>129,835</u>	<u>36,617</u>
Profit and loss account		
Brought forward	36,617	5,981
Profit	93,218	30,636
	<u>129,835</u>	<u>36,617</u>