



Making OA Textbooks a Reality

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Open Book Publishers



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OpenBook
Publishers 

Overview

- Making OA Textbooks
 - OBP intro
 - Other UK based non-profit publishers
- Using OA Textbooks
 - Discovery
 - Adoption
- Conclusion
 - Collaboration is the way ahead
 - Call to Action!

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Open Book Publishers

- Leading scholar-led, non-profit Open Access press
- 15+ years' experience
- Mission-driven: make high-quality research freely available everywhere
- **No charges to readers or authors**



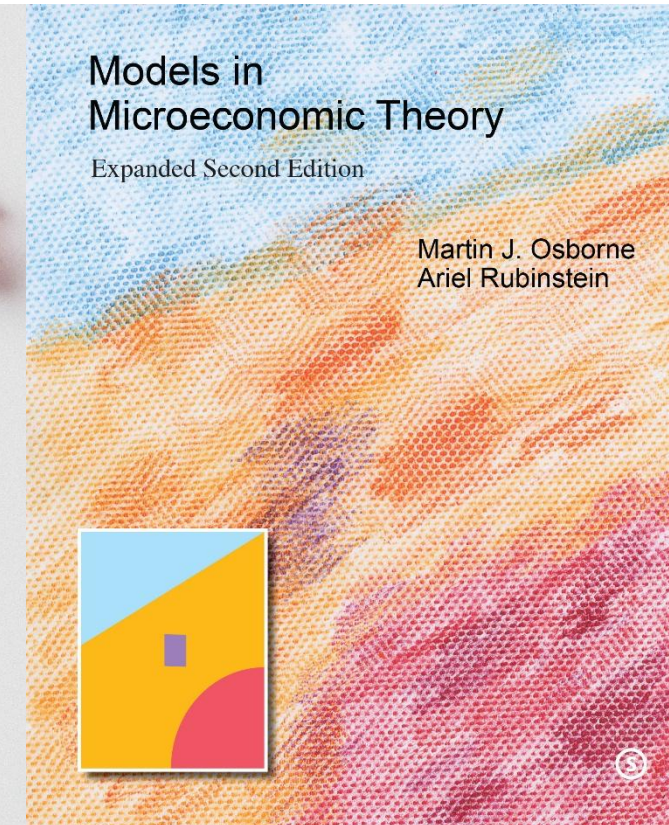
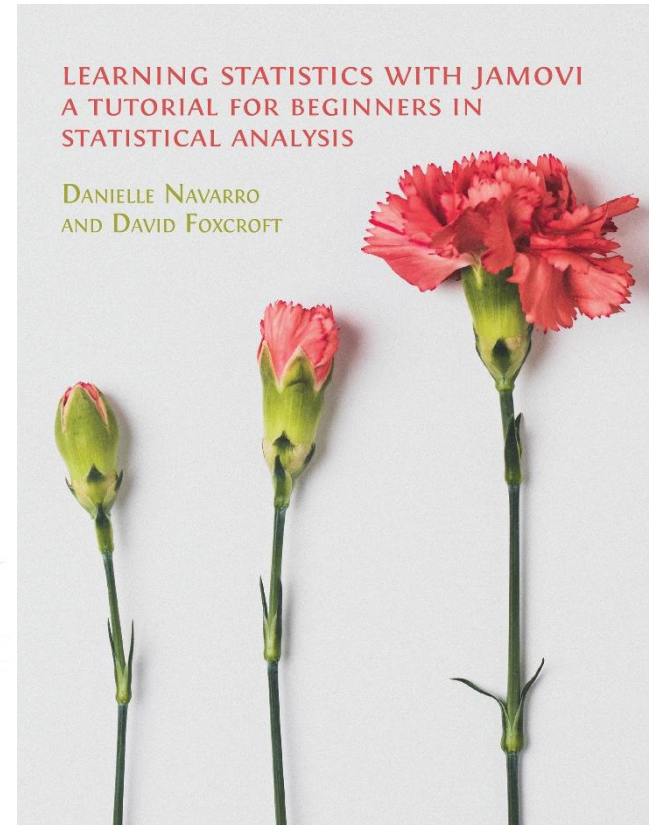
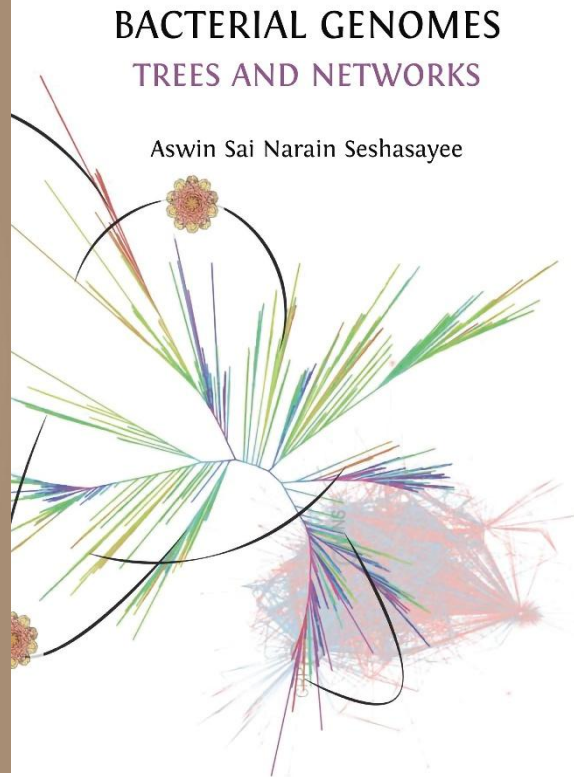
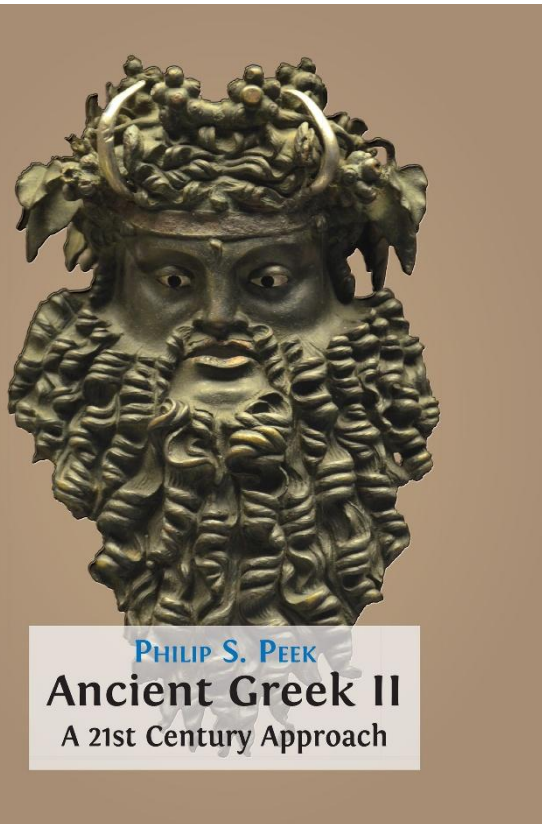
Rupert Gatti, William St Clair and Alessandra Tosi

Our books

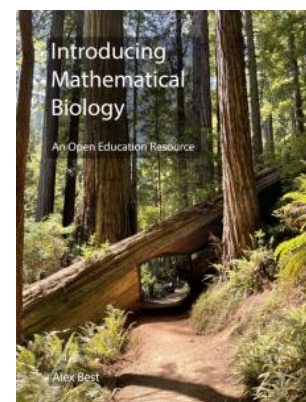
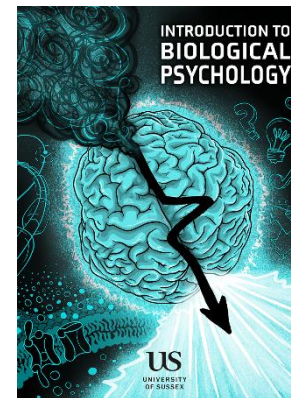
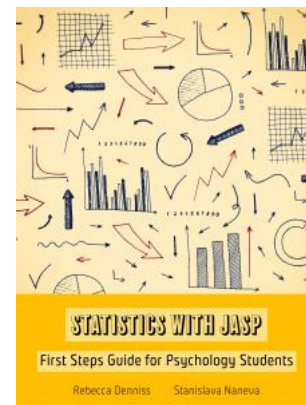
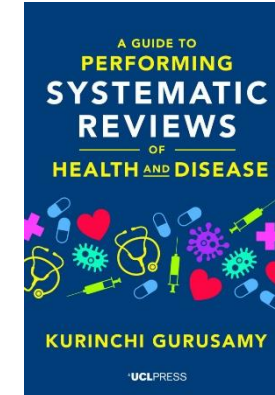
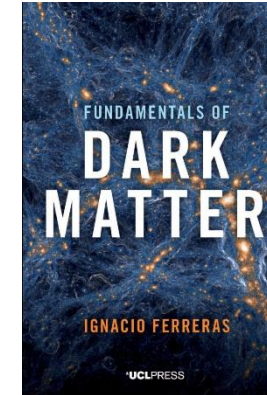
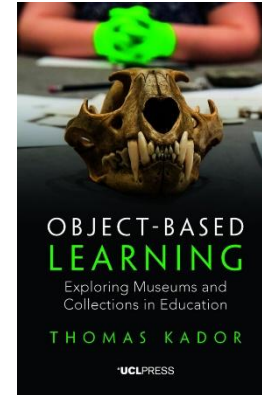


- Over 400 titles published – of which 33 are textbooks
- Publishing 50 peer-reviewed books per year
- Blind peer-review process:
 - Proposals reviewed by Managing Editor and Board
 - Full manuscript sent to at least two expert reviewers
- All immediate OA:
 - No embargo
 - Creative Commons licence
 - Free PDF, HTML editions; paid-for paperback, hardback, EPUB
- Accessed worldwide **over 80,000 times each month**
- Available via open platforms and sales routes
 - Google Scholar, OAPEN, Open Edition etc
 - Amazon, our website, bookshops, museums etc

Most recent textbooks



Many other UK non-profit OA textbook publishers



Making OA textbooks a reality also requires ...

- **Discovery**
- **Adoption**
- **Adaption**
- **Updates**
- **Additional resources**

Discovery

Standard academic search channels are NOT very helpful

no specific textbooks metadata field in any of the book metadata formats (ONIX, MARC, etc)

Commercial solution: direct marketing

Typically no budget for OA publishers



What is an OA Textbook?

No standard definition
so all platforms have their own
definitions

What is OA?

CC-BY only / other CC licences

What is a textbook?

Publisher defined or user defined?



Discovery - solutions

Curated OA textbook platforms such as:
MERLOT, Open Textbook Library,
BC Campus OpenEd, College Open
Textbooks, OER Commons

Useful LIBER guide

<https://libereurope.eu/wp-content/uploads/Call-to-Action-for-Libraries/Improve-the-Discoverability-of-Open-Textbooks.-A-Step-By-Step-Guide.pdf>

Conclusion:

Lecturers need support (from librarians)

Photo by [Yury Nam](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Assessment/Adoption

Issues for lecturer to consider:

- Initial filtering of possibilities

- Content: coverage and applicability

- Additional resources

- Ability to adapt text

- Strategy/Frequency of updates

Difficult to observe the adoption of
OA titles

- no reason for lectures/libraries to
contact the publisher!



Conclusion: collaboration is key



- Supportive networks: knowledge-sharing, mutual support
- We can do more together than separately
- Collaboration between libraries, non-profit publishers, open infrastructures
- Copim: Non-profit, open infrastructure to support small to medium-sized publishers



ScholarLed



OPEN
ACCESS
BOOK
NETWORK



Collaboration needs Coordination

Workshop last month in Salford identified three key initial questions we collectively need to address to start this process:

- **What content is already there?**

This involves mapping what is already available, making this more discoverable, and fostering a culture that embeds OA textbooks/OER and the adoption of open resources.

- **What is missing?**

This involves identifying gaps and setting up pilot projects to create new or adapted OA textbooks and OER, and then encouraging the adoption and reuse of this content.

- **Who will coordinate this?**

The **OEN UK Community of Practice** was identified as a potential focus for collaboration and coordination around these activities.



Call to Action!



What OA textbooks are presently being used in UK universities?

Librarians: How might you obtain that data within your university? – and then:

Send a list to David Beales and the UK OEN

Thank you for listening!

Any questions...?



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