

# UKSG Open Access in a Time of Financial Uncertainty - Day 1 - Transcript

0:00

Hi everyone, welcome to the UKSG online seminar, Open Access in a time of financial uncertainty.

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It's organised by UKSG, the UK serials group.

0:16

So welcome everybody.

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So the UKSG is an amazing community that organises scholarly communications.

0:25

You can see some of our activities listed up here.

0:29

Some forthcoming events recommend you go to the annual conference.

0:35

You can see the social sharing information here.

0:37

So we'd encourage you to share your experiences today and we would also encourage you to join UKSG and support our work.

0:45

And we recommend the UKSG podcast here.

0:48

So without further ado, I'll introduce you to the the seminar.

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So the Open Access publishing provides a vital Ave to for disseminating research by ensuring that valuable research remains widely accessible to all, regardless of resources.

1:07

The model can enhance collaboration and innovation, enabling researchers to share findings quickly and broadly and challenging economic conditions.

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And this course will give you an over an intermediate overview to that area.

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So without further ado, I'll introduce our first speaker, Gary Steele, who is Head of Library Services at Caledonian Glasgow Caledonian University.

1:29

Gary has a strong interest in promoting sector wide collaboration and shared services and has worked closely with colleagues across the UK to share best practise.

1:38

Through his involvement with Sheddle, Squirrel and APUC, the Disc Purchasing Coordination Group and the Disc Publisher Negotiations Expert Group, he has contributed to the shaping of a more open, affordable and transparent market for library resources.

1:56

Presenting on the future of transformative agreements.

1:59

Over to you, Gary.

2:00

Thank you very much.

2:08

Can I just check that you can see my screen?

2:10

OK Yes, we can see your screen.

2:14

OK, thanks very much.

2:15

So yes, my, my name is Gary Steele.

2:16

I'm from Glasgow Calhoun University and I've been asked to present and reflect on the future of transformative agreements.

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So just to start with our umm agenda and give some definitions.

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So it will be AUK focus.

2:32

Transformative agreements do exist across the world, but I'm specifically going to look and talk about UK transformative agreements this morning.

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Umm the other one is to be honest and hold my hands up because I don't know what the future transformative agreements are going to be.

2:47

Umm, there, there has been a mixed path to where we are and there's a mixed many paths for how, how things progress from here.

2:55

So I thought in order to try and best understand it, I would go through a definition of transformative agreements, how they came about, what the current landscape is, and then look at maybe some possible futures as opposed to looking at a definitive, this is the one path of how we'll, we'll actually come out of this.

3:11

And I'll also be honest that my, my own opinion on transformative agreements has changed over my career.

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So I began when I first was working transformative agreements.

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I was, uh, a systems librarian and then I trans uh, I was promoted to be a head of uh, content, umm, for Glasgow University.

3:31

And now I'm the head of library services and my priorities and my, uh, my opinions of, of Open Access has changed in, in that time.

3:39

Can I just check, I saw that someone popped up a message saying they can't see my slide.

3:43

Is that correct?

3:44

Or are they OK now your slides OK, but if you want to pop your camera on Gary, you can pop your camera on.

3:52

OK, great.

3:54

OK, So moving on.

4:04

So starting with the definition of transformative agreements.

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And I think there's something quite important to bear in mind as we discuss all of these, is that the idea or definition behind transformed agreements was to use existing costs.

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So this is a quite an important point to underline it.

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So when they began, it was looking at the read and publish costs, using those to transition to an Open Access model.

4:25

And also to emphasise that transformative agreements are only one type of Open Access agreement.

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There's many ways of having Open Access, but for the definition of and purposes of this discussion, we're just going to look at transformative agreements in and of themselves.

4:41

A So in terms of what definition transformed agreements, so trans transformed agreements or Tasmania also try and use from now on rather than using that lengthier definition.

4:52

We're specifically devised for hybrid journals that operate in both subscription and Open Access models and it's intense to drive a transition of scholarly publishing towards Open Access and ultimately the long term goal or definition of a transit transformative or transitional agreement is to move to a purely published model for Open Access.

5:13

So therefore a publisher would have all of its portfolio Open Access and the costs would be for those who are on the published side as opposed to the read side.

5:29

Uh oh, sorry.

5:31

The purpose of these was and transform to transitional is to implement the a temporary mechanism and they were intended to help to combine charges for journal subscriptions and OA payments that were used for offsetting APC or article process charge fees against subscriptions.

5:50

Generally, most transitional agreements and, and particularly in the UK were called read and publish.

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So it's about combining those, ER, sorry, repurposing the subscription expenditure from read, moving it over towards used for publish.

6:06

And the way that would be achieved in practise is to merge those two separate payment streams that had existed into a single, uh, payment.

6:13

So that was for read access is what historically institutions had paid for subscription fees and an Open Access publishing fees that had come about with the rise of Open Access and that they would come under as a article processing charges.

6:28

So the the aim was to have by combining those two is have an approach that was clearer and have more predictable pricing for institutions.

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In terms of the origins of transformative agreements, so they have, there's a number of drivers and policies and principles that have actually brought them about.

6:47

First ones in terms of drivers for change where the big deal.

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So historically subscription models for big publishers where they bundle all of their titles into a package called a big deal.

7:01

But this led to what was called the cereals crisis when the average subscription charges for journal packages we're consistently tracking higher than UK inflation prices during in in the early 2000s up to 2020.

7:15

And the government had actually explicitly stated that there's many concerns that the financial benefits from significant government research investment was being diverted excessively into publishers stakeholders pockets.

7:26

And this continuing reliance on the big, uh, deal model entrenched the existing structure of journal market and locking up even more money in these agreements.

7:35

And then at the same time, academic publishers, uh, because Open Access was becoming a, a requirement has introduced article processing charges.

7:44

And this led to the hybrid model where journals contain both subscription and so you have to pay the to read and Open Access content.

7:53

And, and this created an issue called double dipping, whereby institutions were being paid for subscriptions for the full price.

8:01

There was Open Access content within that subscription, big deal.

8:04

But they're also being charged, charged to pay to publish Open Access in those.

8:09

So they're being essentially charged twice for accessing that content.

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And this, this rapid growth of Apcs then great created a, a particular crunch point for institutions that they could no longer afford to be able to continue with this particular model.

8:28

So what I gave rise to was the idea of sorry, sorry.

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The government then at at the UK government produced what was called the Finch Report in 2020, 2012.

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And I recommended that the there was concern about the use of of publicly funded science research that should be made available for free to read.

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And the the way to do this was through publishing an Open Access or hybrid journals funded by Apcs.

8:55

And then equally in 2012, in 2012, the RCUK, which was the precursor UK right was had announced that it's wanted to make content that hit from pub research it funded should be made Open Access immediately, either through the green Open Access route, but a preference for immediate Open Access in hybrid or Open Access journals with ACC by licence.

9:26

Then the principles of how transformed agreements came about to try and bring these all together was outlined in a paper from 2015 from the Max Planck Digital Library, a white paper called Open Access distributing, disrupting the subscription journal business model for the necessary large scale transformation to Open Access.

9:46

And in essence, a quote from that says the existing journals, which are well tested functionalities should be retained.

9:52

So that's working with existing and and current publishers to develop and meet demands of 21st century research.

9:58

While the underlying payment streams undergo a major restructuring And all, all, all the indications are that the money already invested in research publishing system is sufficient to enable a transformation that will be sustainable in the future.

10:12

So again, going back to that point of working with existing publishers, moving to Open Access, but using the money that's already in the system to in order to achieve that.

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Then with the that that that that paper was then ratified by the OA 2020 initiative at the 12th Berlin Open Access Conference.

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And then with that approach, the what we now call transformative or transitional agreements were really, uh, uh, ratified by the 14th Berlin Open Access conference, where they endorsed transformative agreements as a means to means to accelerate open, Open Access.

10:50

And then in 2018 as well, Plan S was launched by coalition S and that really kind of was designed to, to light a fire under, under this movement and, and, and make it make this change and this shift of, of the major restructuring of the underlying paying payment stream to happen as quickly as possible.

11:09

So the policy of uh, Plan S was the publish in, you could publish in Open Access journals, Open Access platforms or through open, uh are making to uh, Open Access through green, the green room.

11:25

So transitional agreements were referred in Plan S implementation guide as transformative arrangements so that the means to transform towards full Open Access, it restricts pay restricted payments in hybrid journals unless they were recovered by transformative agreement.

11:42

Umm, and they also, uh, as of 2020, 31st of December 2024, recommended that the, uh, funding of umm, so the funders who were signed up to try, uh, Plan S should no longer support transformative agreements because, or transformative journals because essentially Plan S had felt that they, they had failed to achieve their objective.

12:04

And they no longer recommended that that umm, funders Open Access, uh, uh, uh, contributions be used towards these.

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However, their individual publishers, individual funders had a ability to choose how they approach this.

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And in, in the UK, the UK RI has, has so far continued to fund transformative agreements.

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And there's no indication as to when, when that funding will cease.

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So then moving on to sorry, Open Access funder requirements.

12:40

So in the kind of wider landscape, the Wellcome and UKRA Open Access, uh plans states that funders could use publication charges in hybrid journals.

12:52

Umm, sorry, they reflected the Plan S and they said you weren't able to use publication charges unless they were covered by a transitional agreement.

13:01

And equally the UK or I then explicitly allowed that Open Access block grant to be used towards transitional agreement fees.

13:08

And although Plan S has ceased that recommendation, now UK eyes is continued to do so.

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There's also at the same time an interesting potential counter move for the REF 2021 policy which was announced in 20/20/14 mandates the Open Access requirements for eligibility in the REF and that has continued into the into the current REF cycle as well.

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And the policy focused on the green Open Access route and explicitly noted that compliance could be achieved without incurring any additional publication costs.

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So it was moving towards the green route and, and reality that this current cycle of REF is, is pushing towards implementation of rights retention as, as, as an alternative means of achieving immediate Open Access.

13:52

But it created a bit of a crunch point between institutions that wanted the quick routes to be able to ensure compliance with REF by making things immediate Open Access.

14:03

And, and in reality, the the transitional agreements provided that seamless route for academics to be able to achieve their goal.

14:11

And, and, and it was an existing structure that then became more, came more prominent because of the REF requirements.

14:18

So the REF was moving towards green Open Access because transformative agreements have been set up by that point.

14:24

Then they allowed that that Open Access to take place in a, in a means that was viable for institutions and also reduce the, the administrative burden.

14:36

So then transformative agreements up to this year, because there's a a big kind of change that is coming for 26, which we'll look at in a moment, but the first wave of of agreements.

14:47

So following that Finch report, the science minister at the time, David Willetts, quite interesting.

14:52

He said he called upon publishers developed innovative solutions and that a meaningful proportion of an institution's total article processing charges should be offset against the total subscription payments.

15:05

So that gave the, the kind of precursor to transitional agreements were offset agreements, which is essentially saying acknowledging that institutions were paying twice or double dipping in, in the old method where they were paying a full subscription cost and then on top of that paying to publish in those, uh, with, with those publishers, even though it was actually Open Access content in the end.

15:29

The Lee Marney from Jisc then in 2017 noted that the concept of offset offsetting had become increasingly contentious and that hybrid journal or article processing charges cost more than article processing charges in pure gold journals and there was a higher cost of administration compared to pure gold and green OA.

15:48

And there are concerns over how publishers ensure that there is no double dipping and and then in more generally there was a sense that hybrid is not very progressive and poses the same market issues associated with subscription journal market and that that thought will will continue to crop up throughout the year the the preceding years.

16:10

So for an actual transformative agreement as as we now understand them and actually work with them.

16:15

The first was negotiated by Chesk in the UK in 2016 and that was at Springer and the majority of the transitional agreements were launched from 2020 onwards.

16:26

And then as as of January 2024, just could reported that they've negotiated our renewed 75 transitional agreements with 47 publishers.

16:41

So transformative agreement, uh, successes to date.

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So one of the main things is that there is very good public, umm, funder compliance.

16:52

So the ref requirements, the welcome requirements, UK or I funded compliance around immediate Open Access for funded, uh, publish published material.

17:03

Transformative agreements have helped UK to achieve this, uh, with 93% of UK or I funded articles have a compliant route available to them and 63% achieved compliance through a just negotiated transformative agreement.

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So it provided a route that was of benefit to institutions.

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And there's no that that that's quite clear.

17:22

There was also a rapid growth in the media Open Access.

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So between 2018 and 2022, there was a 900% increase in the number of UK Arkansas articles published immediately Open Access via transformed agreements and that resulted in 87.87, just over 87, two thousand articles being published openly during that.

17:42

There was also the sector level constraint, constraint on costs.

17:46

So through the GISC uh century negotiated the uh approach to transactional agreements.

17:53

The collective power and spend of all the institutions in the UK was brought to bear in those negotiations and did enable constraints on costs.

18:01

So the, for example, the DISC UMM Tran transformation agreements delivered a cost saving of, of at least 16.7 million umm, in the first year of the agreements.

18:13

And TATAS are, are estimated to have enabled institutions to avoid costs of 42,000,000 into uh, 2022.

18:24

So overall, they've transformed agreements.

18:27

The, the cost savings they provided was actual cost savings when compared to the fee fee if you were just paying as an individual institution.

18:35

They also cost avoidance because they combine those costs together and therefore remove that potential double dipping.

18:44

And they also the number of trans of, of articles that are published Open Access as a result of transformed agreements which many of which have either unlimited publishing or or very high caps.

18:57

If those articles were paid for individually, the cost would be substantially more than was actually paid in the end.

19:03

And that's where that cost avoidance comes from.

19:06

And then as well, transformative agreements delivered expanded access to subscription content and provided affordable routes for publication for low output institutions.

19:17

And I can, I can attest to that in, in as Glasgow University is not a high publishing university, but certainly transformative agreements have provided a route for our, our authors to publish Open Access that wouldn't be available otherwise.

19:34

It turns 400 green have have had several challenges, umm, and to start with, one would say, uh, the failure to fully transition.

19:42

So they haven't delivered on their fundamental requirement, which was to umm, the move to full and immediate Open Access and moving away from a paywall subscription system that is still very much entrenched and hasn't changed.

19:57

Umm, there is the persistence of closed content.

19:59

So approximately 40% of UK corresponding authors, uh, outputs and transformation agreement titles are still behind the paywall and, and moreover, after four years of decline, so closed access content was, was decreasing, uh, it grew by 4.5% between 21 and 2022.

20:19

So.

20:20

There's also been minimal journal fitting.

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So in order to achieve this goal of having a move from subscribed contents to and hybrid journals to fully Open Access content, one of the root and expectation was that journals would flip.

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So that means when they, a certain proportion of articles published within it are becoming Open Access, they then would become fully Open Access journals.

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And that would be the mechanism that you would eventually, through that kind of domino effect, eventually have a fully Open Access portfolio with a publisher.

20:52

However, umm, Jisc did a review of this and based on their calculations, it would take at least 70 years for the big 5 publishers to flip all of their titles from, uh, hybrid to, to fully Open Access, which is not exactly a, a, a quick, a quick turn around.

21:10

And then there's also some unintended consequences.

21:13

So hybrid dominance, so EU KS proportion of hybrid articles at 21 percent is more than double the percentage of the rest of the world at 10%.

21:23

Umm, And it, there's a potential that what's happened is that through the availability, uh, uh, and, and, and ease of access to transformative agreements, articles that would have become Open Access via

the green route have actually now come Open Access through the transformative route and then become gold.

21:41

Umm and as a consequence, the proportion of green only UK articles has declined by about 4% over each of the last couple of years.

21:51

There's also a a a substantial financial sustainability risk involved in transformation agreements because they were supported and and enabled by approximately 9.4 million of UK RI Open Access block grant funding in 2022, for example.

22:08

And that's just increased over the years and institutions that are in receipt of the UK or a block grant are reliant on that block grant in order to enable them to actually to continue to subscribe to these Open Access and transfer formative agreements.

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So if that block grant had gone away at the end of 2024 as as Plan S had had suggested, then there will be substantial difficulties for the many institutions and be able to actually continue with their transformative agreement arrangements.

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And then finally lack of transparency.

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So there is a considerable lack of transparency from publishers in terms of the charge, how the charges for Open Access are are are costed.

22:54

What is it that an APC actually char actually pays for?

22:57

What are the services that are being rendered through that and what consistency of of detailed expenses and revenue breakdowns are are lacking?

23:06

And actually, I've added this one as a final point with that VAT, which was a another unintended consequence.

23:13

So E Content Journal has been 0 rated since May 2020 and that that's following suit from from the same that was applied to print material.

23:24

So for our subscriptions where we read from publishers, there's zero VAT.

23:32

However, the publish aspect of the read and publish deal still attracts VAT because the publish is a service that's been rendered and services are still required to pay VAT.

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The and VAT at 20% that can have quite a substantial increase in the costs of of particular agreements.

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There's no consistent approach to how to apply VAT, umm, across publishers and the proportion of a an agreement.

23:59

So a transitional transformative agreement will pay a A1 single invoice to an IS to a publisher.

24:06

But in that invoice, they need to apportion costs between umm, read access, which has zero VAT and uh, P uh, publisher, umm, aspect which attracts 20% VAT.

24:19

And under proportional split that the publishers decide to apply can have quite significant implications for institutions depending on how, how they choose to do so.

24:28

And that that was a still a quite contentious issue and one that causes considerable difficulty and for institutions.

24:37

So the current landscape of transformative agreements and for 2026, so Giska published a, a review of transformative agreements and it wanted it realised because of limitations that we've just gone through that they haven't achieved their goal, they haven't transformed.

24:56

So they wanted to to reset the agenda.

24:59

And one of the things took place was that all 5 big publishers would negotiate at the same time over 2025.

25:07

And those negotiations are fingers crossed coming to a conclusion in the next few weeks so that we can actually move forward with, with the agreements.

25:16

But I can't speak too much about those because they're, they're, they're currently under, under discussion, but I can talk about the more general, uh, ideas and, and policies that underpin that.

25:28

So again, trying to look for next generation Open Access as well.

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Just reply and look for long term financial sustainability and promoting equity inclusivity as well.

25:39

So they wanted to be able to achieve those cost savings and by securing agreements that reflect the success, success, uh, sectors, financial realities, which are quite, quite different now following the, uh, the financial crisis that, uh, UK, uh, higher education are going through and then broadening participation and research.

26:00

So historically, the transformative agreements had are only open to those who are part of Jisc agreements.

26:07

And as part of the review of the Open Access landscape in the UK, just realised that there's quite a substantial amount of content that was produced by authors or researchers who are not part of the UK or sorry, not part of the JISK agreements and therefore aren't able to take advantage of immediate Open Access again, which is one of the UK government's driving agenda points.

26:29

So what the, the, the new generation wants to do of is uh, can fall into 33 areas, so secure affordable agreements.

26:39

So this is reducing constrained costs.

26:42

So saying that agreements must offer fair and affordable sustainable fees that guarantee Open Access publishing in the long term, and that the offers from publishers must reduce and constrained costs, including costs of publishing and fully Open Access titles.

26:59

And the, the, to put this in some context.

27:02

So collectively, UK universities spend about £112 million per annum with the big 5 large publishers, ER, so the, that is not a, a significant, umm, uh, investment from UK higher education institutions who are all across the board under substantial, uh, financial difficulties at the moment.

27:24

So being able to sustain that cut those costs and if, if they increased, umm, will will be particularly difficult.

27:32

They also wanted to ensure that all author facing fees were eliminated.

27:36

So publishers, uh, shouldn't, uh, shouldn't charge authors or institution for any additional publishing fees.

27:43

So there's still some above and beyond article processing charges, things like paper charges and colour charges.

27:49

And these are additional costs that are quite difficult and onerous on institutions.

27:53

So we want to get to a point where basically the one fee pays for everything.

27:57

There is no barriers or no additional admin from a transformative agreement perspective.

28:03

And also to be able to catch or deal with any Apcs that take place in the wild to this article processing charges that are paid by authors that are not centrally funded and was want to reduce all of those and just have 11 workflow for everything.

28:20

And then also to manual have MA mandate transparency.

28:25

So fees that are reflect the actual costs and be clear about what those costs actually are.

28:33

The next one is about to advance open research.

28:35

So this is A to ensure that authors rights are respected so that authors have a choice of Open Access routes.

28:47

There's they retain the original licence and that they can make their author accepted manuscript open, Open Access immediately with ACC by licence.

28:58

So this is essentially kind of enshrining the rights retention within, within the agreement.

29:02

Then also promoting simplicity and efficiency.

29:05

So streamlining, streamlining research processes and workflows.

29:12

So this is just making the, the, the process easier for, for institutions and, and reducing administrative burden and then also embedding Open Access research practises.

29:22

So this is things like including ensuring that publishers include data availability statements, uh, ensuring that they allow, uh, underlying data and code to be shared under fair principles, and then posting preprint preprints and public postings of reviews.

29:39

And then finally promote equity and inclusivity.

29:42

So this is broadening research by promoting equity inclusivity and moving away from a volume driven approach, uh, to, to, uh, publisher models.

29:53

So transitioning from Apcs to non volume models.

29:57

So at the moment, many publishers use, uh, are, are derived of profits, profits from the more, more, umm, articles that are published, the more income they, they, they receive.

30:09

And therefore that, uh, re re umm, requiring and, and receiving more articles is, is, is what drives their business model forward.

30:17

This is quite problematic in terms of, umm, not only, uh, quality of those articles, but also because the it's an incentive in order to increase costs by increasing the articles.

30:29

So we want to move away from a non volume based model, umm, and, and, uh, in order to, to try and, uh, fulfil some of the requirements around, around the costs of those, but also to ensure quality of, of, of the outputs equally to promote Glo global equity and access.

30:47

So one of the issues and one of the things umm, uh, umm, suggested with, in, in a, in a fully Open Access model is that it would further inequality because it would shift the requirement of, of authors

in a, in other geographical locations to have to pay to publish, which is a barrier that doesn't necessarily exist at the moment.

31:08

So therefore, there's a, working with publishers to ensure that the pricing calculations are, uh, considered local geographies and economic situations, which does take place at the moment in terms of, of read access.

31:19

So ensuring that that purchasing power is, is, is, is, is, is, umm, is applied to both read and publish.

31:27

And then finally, the, uh, again to push forward that publishers must commit to rapid transitions, fully Open Access to not launch new hybrid titles and then to provide a clear road map to show how to global transition the full Open Access will take place.

31:48

So I've spent the majority of this talking about where we are and about the possible futures of transformational agreements.

31:54

But I think it's quite important that the origins and what, what the defining characteristics of how transformational agreements have been approached is it was understood before looking at what H, how, what might they look like in the future.

32:06

So I mean, to put it more simply, by definition and by their own definition, the future of transformative agreements is they no longer exist because they should have transformed the, the market.

32:17

It's not entirely, uh, clear if that will be achieved.

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And, umm, just to think of some potential ways forward and, and, and put a bit of, umm, context.

32:30

So transformation, what the, the drive of the transformed agreements from coalition S was to do that, do so rapidly.

32:38

And as just pointed out that under the current model, it will take 70 years for the big publishers to transform, but by the same time, transform, transformation takes time.

32:49

So it's really been 20 years since the Berlin Declaration was released about Open Access initiative and had established that principle that all research outputs should be Open Access.

33:04

And then in 20/20/20, in 2004, the House of Commons scientific publications free for all report stated publishers profit margins remain exceptionally high compared to the rest of publishing industry as much as 34%.

33:20

And this is mounting concern that the financial benefits of the government's substantial investment and research are being diverted to an excessive degree into the pockets of publisher stakeholders.

33:30

Like I would say that I don't think that's changed.

33:32

The publishers are still making that that level of profit margin and there is still those concerns and we still haven't addressed those.

33:40

So the desire from the Berlin declaration to make all research outputs Open Access is driving forward and still still the end goal.

33:48

But that barrier around publishers profits and the sustainability is still exists.

33:54

So there's a potential that with transformative agreements that we end up getting caught in a transformative trap.

34:00

And what this means is that because they haven't transitioned and transitioned quickly enough that they transition agreements become the new normal.

34:09

And that we end up with just hybrid journals being the, the essentially the new form of paywall subscription.

34:15

Because there will always be in a hybrid journal, there's still always be content that's behind the paywall and it's still a hybrid journals are meant to be temporary bridge.

34:26

And if they become entrenched, then they don't actually address the that fundamental point of making research Open Access and then the perpetuation of the high cost APC model and that on sustainability.

34:39

So again, it's been to that point of the using APC's or articles as as your driver incentivize publishers to

to have more, more articles and that allows them to to charge more and actually have, have more profit.

34:53

It also re the transitional agreements reinforce the dominance of the big 5 journals.

34:58

So they still received the, the majority of content throughout journal articles from, from UK authors and we still pay them the most substantial amount.

35:08

So it doesn't allow alternative community islands or other Open Access models to arise because our our finances are are caught up in those big deals.

35:20

And then as we venture as well, the high potential transform to trap is that they're very successful and potentially too successful because by allowing an an easy route to Open Access immediately through the gold route, it decla erodes the the green Open Access.

35:37

And that is which could have been achieved without additional cost also does that persistence of the lack of cost and strategic transparency.

35:50

So the majority of publishers have still not provided a clear path to how they will actually achieve a full Open Access model, which is the whole point of a transformative agreement, the transition to full Open Access.

36:06

So if we look at like what success looks like the one of the models that where this is achieved is AC ACM, so Association of Computer machinery.

36:18

But some thoughts to think about our, our, our ideas to reflect on if we make that full transition in the way that Open Access that ACM has done.

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So it is their business model was was moving towards a full Open Access across A5 year.

36:31

But the pricing basis would then be based on, on the published side of of of of of institutions and they would ramp up the, the application of those costs across those five years.

36:43

Who publishes, sorry, institutions who publish the most would see the most significant increase or redistribution of their costs.

36:51

And the AACM are fully cost transparent and the outcome of the ACM shift, which is now of 2020 from 2026, they'll believe they'll be a fully Open Access publisher.

37:06

The overall costs to ACM have actually increased on the sector spend has increased by 113%.

37:14

However, within that, the implication for individual institutions has been significantly different.

37:20

So the, for some institutions who are low publishing, obviously their costs are are have reduced significantly.

37:26

And if they so choose, they can actually, if they don't publish, they no longer have to subscribe or pay anything.

37:31

But those who publish more have seen significant increases in the in the triple digit figure percentage increases.

37:40

And what that's seen is it's, it's back to that point, which is at the very beginning saying that it's using existing costs cans as poor Open Access.

37:49

But the point is that those existing costs will then have to shift about within, within institutions and the institutions who who have a significant reduction.

38:00

Obviously that's quite a good thing and we won't, we wouldn't oppose, won't oppose that.

38:04

But institutions who are high publishing will then have to review their budgets to understand well how, how they can actually shift and, and adjust to be able to, to pay for those that change and that shift.

38:15

And that's what just one publisher, if that was applied, applied across the piece, there's a significant piece of work that would have to be undertaken in order for the, for the UK sector as a whole to be able to accommodate that significant shift.

38:30

The, uh, another end of the spectrum is that, well, what we just abandoned transformative agreements.

38:37

So they would for arguments for abandoning is that they would eliminate the support for slow transition and that hybrid lock in.

38:46

So they're intended to be temporary, but they're not.

38:48

And then would also allow institutions to reclaim financial control of, of, of, of, of their budgets.

38:56

But then counter to that is that the financial disruption and it would be significant and again transformed agreements are done at a in each UK wide level.

39:07

And that collective power of bargaining has, has and does enable institutions to make significant cost reductions.

39:16

And then also it would ultimately set back OA compliance because they have been successful in, in, in ensuring compliance with immediate Open Access requirements.

39:26

And if we were to abandon them, they would that would be a, a quite a step, step back.

39:34

And then last one is about reflecting on Transformative agreements if they continue along the path that they're on.

39:40

So these these are the, the goals is to eliminate author facing fees, to respect author choices, promote simplicity, embed open research practises and promote global equity.

39:50

All of those I think realistically probably can be achieved on the under the current on the path that we're on, we can achieve cost constraints but not reductions probably to be honest.

40:01

But then that was never the intended outcome of necessarily the the these agreements from the start.

40:06

It was to achieve cost constraints and use the existing spend on subscription to move and transition to Open Access.

40:14

Try pricing transparency will be nice, but I don't see that anytime soon.

40:18

And then providing a rapid global access.

40:21

Possibly the rapid part is is is is difficult to define.

40:26

And then on transition from Apcs to non volume models is is something that is difficult to see occurring.

40:33

Umm and for example, ano.

40:35

Another interesting uh, publisher to think about is MDPI, which is fully Open Access, but they still make profits on on, on par with big big 5 publishers and their full UMM model is Open Access.

40:50

Uh, and, and therefore, by definition, having more journals published with them or sorry, having more articles published equals more profit.

40:57

And therefore, it's still a problematic, uh, the AP, uh, journal APC model can be as problematic and open act fully Open Access agreements as it can be in hybrid ones.

41:09

Interestingly, in terms of the UK and, and this current round of negotiations, there's also a lot of, because of the financial difficulties that institutions are in, a lot of conversations move from value for money as in our transformed agreements to the Co that they provide cost constraint to will do they allow us to achieve our Open Access in a way that that's affordable and sustainable to are are the actual agreements in and of themselves affordable?

41:39

Simply do institutions have the money to pay for them.

41:43

Regardless of whatever benefits they bring?

41:47

The other area is that the at, at, at Auk level.

41:58

There, there's a drive towards Open Access, but we're still working within, within the, the, the global level.

42:06

And, and there's a, there's an issue where if the UK in, as part of its transform agreements is pushing for achieving transforms agreements, it can't do that in and of itself.

42:18

It has to work at, at a global level.

42:20

And that, that coordination is probably missing at the moment.

42:24

So reality is that I think the, the rapid growth to Open Access transition will not be as fast as anyone would like to see.

42:34

And, and this next round of negotiations, what we'll see is more small scale pilots removing Apcs from specific, specific journals.

42:42

Umm, and that, that even though that's, uh, not as as rapid as we'd like to see, it still shifts the incentives away from volume measures towards umm, uh, uh, non AAPC based measures, which is a step in the right direction.

42:58

And then just to, to finish out for all of this, umm, discussion around hybrid and hybrid journals and transformative agreements, we have to recognise there's a lot of people that play and there's a lot of potentially conflicting agendas and at play.

43:16

So one of the issues that's that's raised against publishers is a profit margin and the article based growth.

43:23

And that's true, although then from a, from a university perspective, the profit margins of, of publishers is on par with the profit margins of, of Microsoft, for example.

43:34

And we wouldn't, it would be quite hard to sell to say in institutions, let's abandoned Microsoft and all of its products.

43:40

There are other products that exist.

43:42

There are Open Access pro free software that exists, but the level of disruption and cost and risk that would bring is quite substantial.

43:51

And I don't think any institution would particularly, uh, countenance such a, such a great shift.

43:56

Then also the global priorities for publishers, but also because UK isn't the only obviously the, the, the, the primary contributor to, to Open Access.

44:06

So within their portfolio, publishers look at, well, the, the drive to foot that full, full Open Access move from university perspectives is obviously the libraries who are, are trying to sit between all of this.

44:19

But then we need to consider what researchers want and what incentives researchers have for publishing and what they actually choose how we search officers want to ensure compliance with their their Open Access management and senior management and and their appetite for risk or disruption that that changes in the market would require.

44:38

And then those drivers around Open Access from the Open Access movement in general, the UK government ensuring that publishing or published out research is made immediately Open Access and then ref and funders who potentially may have slightly differing approaches to how that's actually achieved.

44:55

And then finally, and I've done it myself in this, this, this conversation and that happens always is that for all of our conversations about hybrid journals, for our conversations about transformation agreements, we focus very highly on the publishing side of it and very rarely talk about the reader side of it.

45:12

And the reality is that these pub Big 5 publishers as part of transformation agreements still provide a lot of content that's behind a paywall.

45:20

And we still need to pay and actually enable access for our readers to be able to have access to that, that that content and any, any alternative model has to take that into consideration.

45:32

And then to finally final thought, and I just saw this headline today.

45:38

It was someone who's in charge of the, the investment funds in, in Norway.

45:43

And he was talking about AI, the AI bubble.

45:46

And he said if the AI, even if the AI bubble is a bad bubble, it's allocating capital towards change.

45:53

And I think you could possibly make that same argument towards trans transformative agreements is that even if they don't make a full transform transformation, they are allocating money towards change and that money can help drive that change forward.

46:05

And that's it for me.

46:06

Thank you.

46:09

Thank.

46:10

Thank you very much.

46:10

Gary.

46:11

That was really, really interesting and sort of provoking.

46:15

So we've got a bit of time for some questions at the moment.

46:18

So John, if we had any through to the chat, Yeah, Thanks Gary.

46:25

That was a really brilliant way to get us underway today.

46:28

Yeah, do get your questions in.

46:30

I know it is Monday morning.

46:31

So it's a it's a difficult one.

46:33

We have had a question from from Erin, some publishers are charging a publication fee to weed out low quality submissions.

46:41

Do you think this is fair or just another opportunity to charge and to charge an author facing fee?

46:51

So no, I don't, no, it's not fair.

46:52

And I don't think the the publishing model is or the peer review model is set up in that way.

46:58

And I think it is genuinely in a way for publishers to try and diversify their income streams.

47:02

So that that's a good genuine concern.

47:05

If if in this current rampant transitional negotiations, some institutions have to withdraw, there's the potential that publishers will look for alternative routes to be able to to keep their profits at the level that they are.

47:20

This is one of the outcome.

47:21

This is one of those potential ways of doing is introducing a cost at another level.

47:25

And I wouldn't, I don't think it's fair.

47:30

Well, I'm not entirely sure if I'd agree.

47:33

They're saying that that's a way to weed out poor quality articles still published.

47:39

But also there's also existing ways to weed them out without having to introduce an additional charge.

47:50

Lovely.

47:50

Thank you.

47:51

And yeah, thanks.

47:52

Thanks Erin for that, that question.

47:55

We don't have any more from delegates at the moment.

47:58

There were a few things that that that struck me there in the presentation.

48:02

One of them was the the question of this lack of transparency which is obviously a around costing which which is is a long standing problem is that is that a key issue in the sense that that libraries and and the customer in this case can't we wanting a fair price without that transparency, we can't really see what what what constitutes a fair price.

48:31

Yes, yeah, absolutely.

48:32

And that transparency also, I think I didn't mention it in in the presentation, but the foundational costs are at the beginning costs of transition transitional agreements was based on this historical print pricing and historical print pricing is the joy that everybody has a different definition for how that was arrived at and every publisher will give a different answer.

48:55

But in essence what it to be a bit blatant.

48:58

It felt like it was they charged him, which they thought they could get away with at the time and that kind of set set the precedent going forward.

49:05

So it's not that that same point about transparency is that we are procuring a product, we are paying for some a service from an from from a vendor that is the publisher.

49:17

And it's a reasonable request to be able to quantify the costs in a clear way for for that process.

49:24

But by having this obscurity that enables essentially to be able to continue to charge these rates where it's difficult to compare against each other, to understand competition, to be able to understand where where that fairness is and then be able to challenge it.

49:39

So the kind of obscurity certainly I would say benefits to publishers more than it does the the, the subscribers.

49:51

Lovely.

49:51

Thank you.

49:52

And I'm not sure what time the session is due to end.

49:55

Sarah, is it, is it?

49:56

Yeah, I think, I think, yeah, I think we'll move on to the next speaker.

49:59

So thank you very much, Gary.

50:00

That was that was brilliant.

50:01

And I'm sure if anyone's got any additional questions for you, they can put them in the chat and we can pass them on, if that's OK.

50:08

Brilliant.

50:09

Thanks very much.

50:10

Cheers.

50:10

Thank you.

50:10

See you later.

50:11

OK, so our next speaker is Stephen Carlton, who's an open research librarian at the University of Manchester's Library Office for Open Research.

50:20

And he's responsible for the library's open, Open Access service.

50:24

So over to you, Stephen, presenting on achieving financial sustainability through enhanced enhanced green Open Access.

50:34

Hello, Can you hear me?

50:35

OK?

50:36

Yes, and can you see my slides?

50:39

We can see your slides.

50:40

Great.

50:41

Everything's working perfect.

50:42

Thank you.

50:44

Yes, So thank you very much.

50:45

Good morning, everyone.

50:46

My name is Steve and I'm an open research librarian at the University of Manchester Library's Office for Open Research.

50:52

And I'm joined today by my colleague Scott Taylor, who is the head of the Office for Open Research, and he's going to be talking a bit later.

50:59

I'll pass it over to him about halfway through the slides.

51:03

Before I get started today, I just wanted to offer a couple of disclaimers.

51:06

One being that me and Scott put together the content for this presentation, but we use notebook LM to make our slides look a little bit nicer.

51:15

So hopefully that's that's worked.

51:19

AI is very much part of the vision, but we're thinking of around enhanced screen Open Access.

51:23

So it made sense that we'd we try and use AI to make our slides look a bit nicer as well.

51:28

And then the other disclaimer is much more human rather than machine related.

51:32

I went to the UK Snooker Championship final last night in New York and got home quite late.

51:36

So if I'm incoherent or I appear to be groggy, then that's that's why.

51:40

But hopefully I'll be able to get through this presentation in a, in a relatively coherent way.

51:46

So the idea today is that we're going to talk a bit about the role that green Open Access has to play in helping us to achieve Open Access in a more sustainable way.

51:55

So for my bit of the presentation, I'm going to try and briefly summarise how we got to where we are now.

51:59

And Gary's kind of done a lot of work to set this up already.

52:02

So hopefully I won't need to go into too much detail there.

52:06

And then I'll hand over to Scott who's going to talk about our thinking around how we might deliver an enhanced green Open Access service at Manchester over the coming years and how that might impact how we how we achieve Open Access in a more financially sustainable way.

52:23

Great.

52:26

So at Manchester we publish between 9 and 10,000 journal articles and conference proceedings each year.

52:35

According to Cokie, which is the Curtin Open Knowledge initiative, about 60% of his articles in 2024 were published Open Access.

52:43

I've been fully Open Access journals or in subscription journals with an Open Access option or hybrid journals.

52:50

Only about 4% of these are made Open Access via the green Open Access route.

52:54

Now, I'm not 100% confident that Cokie have got 100% coverage from all of their data sources, but I think I think this illustrates the point nicely that there's a striking difference between the proportion of our articles and conference proceedings which are published Open Access through the Gold route and those which are published and shared Open Access by the green Open Access route.

53:16

But it hasn't always been like this.

53:18

As Gary alluded to earlier, green Open Access has in the past been a much more prominent route to achieving Open Access across the sector.

53:28

So as Gary outlined as well, the REF policy really was a green Open Access mandate.

53:35

And in Manchester, we kind of set ourselves up around the idea that the REF policy was a green Open Access mandate and all of our services kind of were built around that.

53:47

So for a time, green Open Access was the primary and most effective route to Open Access for most

of our researchers, those who weren't funded necessarily by UK, RI or one of the other funders which provided block grant funding.

54:00

And as I say, we designed our services to kind of support compliance with the REF policy and, and we kind of really pushed green Open Access as a prominent route to achieving OA.

54:11

We set up this thing called the Open Access Gateway, which is a mediated deposit service, which is very much designed for simplicity.

54:18

It's called the Open Access Gateway, but it's essentially just a, a web form for researchers used to give us their accepted manuscripts.

54:25

So they give us a bit of information about the paper, they provide the accepted manuscripts that we're able to share via the green Open Access route.

54:31

And then the library team worked with the author to make sure that that paper was compliant.

54:37

And it's a really popular service that we offer and we still offer it now.

54:41

But as I say, we have less green Open Access paper, so it's not not used quite as much.

54:47

But this really over the kind of first few years of a policy created what we're calling a campus wide rhythm of acting on acceptance.

54:54

But acting on acceptance was a message that we pushed to everybody.

54:57

And over a period of time, people got used to this idea that as soon as they had a paper accepted, they needed to come to the gateway and give us covers of a paper and we'd we'd work it out from there.

55:09

But over the years, as our kind of spending, both from block grants and from institutional funds increased around hybrid Open Access, publishers faced accusations of double dipping.

55:21

And Gary's really neatly set out the the problems with this hybrid Open Access model in his talk.

55:30

But transformative agreements were positioned as the solution to this issue, a strategic path to transition journals from subscription models to fully Open Access.

55:38

And as part of Plan S funders like UK right and Wellcome supported them.

55:42

And so we did too.

55:44

And maybe a couple of years ago, it's peak Manchester had about 30 active transformative agreements in place.

55:50

I think we're down to about 23 or 24 now.

55:53

But we, we fully bought into this idea that transformative agreements were going to deliver that rapid transition to Open Access.

56:00

But we were all looking for.

56:03

And in some ways, as Gary says, these transformative agreements really have worked.

56:07

There are a couple of groups of people who really like them.

56:10

Authors are very fond of transformative agreements because it makes their lives much easier.

56:15

And for many of them, Open Access is achieved in a very passive way.

56:18

They submit their articles to journals in the way that they always have done.

56:22

Some magic happens in the background that they don't really need to get too involved in.

56:26

And then at the end of the process, their papers published Open Access.

56:30

So for authors, it seems like a very simple, simple way of making their papers openly available and they're kind of shielded from the cost of these agreements as well.

56:39

But really Speaking of costs, for us as an institution, they've just become a neat way for us to pay hybrid Open Access Apcs in bulk.

56:47

And as we're paying in bulk, we get a little bit the discount.

56:50

We pay less than at least price Apcs, but they are administratively burdensome for us as an institution and in the library team specifically.

57:00

And as Gary was saying, they've not really moved us significantly closer to a full transition to Open Access.

57:05

That's that's very much stalled.

57:08

So again, as Gary was saying earlier in Gist's report from 2024, they made the point that rather than transitioning from hybrid Open Access to fully Open Access, they've kind of resulted in this transition from green Open Access to hybrid instead.

57:24

And we can see from the data from the UK specifically, there's this kind of sharp rise in gold Open Access, kind of plummeting green line for green Open Access.

57:35

But really the subscription only line hasn't changed very much over the last few years, which which kind of illustrates, illustrates the point that that Carrie was making.

57:45

This transition has really happened from green to hybrid we think.

57:51

So again, as Gary mentioned, we're in a period of negotiation with the Big 5 publishers at the moment across the sector, but other negotiations are ongoing as well.

58:01

And that kind of happening in the background.

58:04

And we're starting to feel as an institution at least, that these negotiations are not getting the meaningful concessions from publishers that we would we would like to see.

58:14

And in as part of some of these negotiations, some of these publishers have kind of dropped even the kind of lip service of transitioning to OA.

58:23

In previous rounds of negotiations, publishers would at least offer a tentative road map or or give maybe a date in the future when they might achieve this transition to OA.

58:32

But some publishers no longer seem to even kind of go through the motions of saying that they're going to do this anymore.

58:38

And for that reason, we're, we're saying that this model is broken and we need to start thinking about alternatives.

58:45

So as we'd argue here, the current model is, is not just strategically flawed, it's financially unsustainable.

58:51

And again, as Gary was saying, the, the kind of sectors financial situation at the moment means that we can't just keep paying more and more for these transformative agreements.

59:01

We we need to think of something different.

59:03

We need to seek a more equitable and resilient route to achieve Open Access, which might involve rebalancing how we make investments and and reprioritizing how we achieve Open Access at our institutions.

59:16

So at Manchester, we're kind of thinking about this and how we might start to do things a little bit differently.

59:23

Part of this, of course, will be about investing in truly transformative agreements where they emerge, investing in more equitable business models.

59:33

But a significant part of the solution we think can be achieved by returning to that foundational strength that we had kind of in the early days of a REF policy.

59:42

We argue that we'll need to invest in and enhance our green Open Access infrastructure and support to to deliver what we're calling an enhanced green Open Access service.

59:54

And to kind of outline what our vision is here, I'm going to hand over to Scott.

59:58

And then we're going to do a kind of awkward me controlling the slides thing, which will hopefully work fine.

1:00:04

Thanks, Steve.

1:00:06

Can you, can you hear me?

1:00:08

Steve?

1:00:08

Yes.

1:00:09

Yes, good.

1:00:10

OK, good.

1:00:11

So yeah, I'll, I'll now do a bit more of a deep dive into, into our thinking on green Open Access.

1:00:19

Obviously Steve's now set the context for for our thinking on green Open Access and what and why we've arrived here at this point of time looking at looking at what we can return into the concept of green Open Access and, and thinking about its role in a more sustainable future.

1:00:37

So this first slide is, is intentionally quite provocative.

1:00:42

I suppose it's a very pessimistic take on green Open Access, but I think it's useful to help frame some of the issues that we've always experienced around green Open Access in order to make the rest of my slides make a bit more sense.

1:00:58

So, yeah, we've had green Open Access for over 20 years now.

1:01:02

I think at first the, the the phrase I think was coined by Stephen Harness at the beginning of in the in the 90s and it's been an essential route to Open Access and often compliance with funders requirements.

1:01:20

And it is a good thing.

1:01:22

But there's it's always had its weaknesses.

1:01:27

Green Open Access lacks the consistency of the published version of record.

1:01:33

A green OA paper might come in a variety of file formats.

1:01:36

It could be APDF or a word file or something more exotic.

1:01:42

It it may be at different stages of completion.

1:01:44

You know, the author might say this is the art, this is the accepted version.

1:01:47

But there may be 3 or 4 different accepted versions floating around in people's hard drives.

1:01:53

The figures in the charts may, may, may be missing from the file that we we receive are art and addendum or attractions may not be applied to the to the green OA version.

1:02:07

And crucially for our thinking, the content of the green Open Access paper is unstructured.

1:02:15

We don't nothing within the word file would would allow us to know which part of the paper is the method section and which part is the is the discussion section and references, etcetera.

1:02:29

It's an unstructured file.

1:02:30

So there's a sort of historically with green Open Access, although it's got lots of positives on the downside there's a sort of utility and trust issue with green Open Access, which sort of feeds into Arthur perceptions of green OAD in a second best.

1:02:48

So in Steve going going to move on to the next slide.

1:02:52

Yeah.

1:02:53

So in contrast, the publishers version of record is very often highly structured.

1:03:01

So the publisher will transform the accepted manuscript into semantically rich machine readable XML.

1:03:10

And the standard that's used across the published industry is a format called JATS, the Journal Journal Article Tagging Suite XML standard.

1:03:20

So this has over the years developed to become the, the established schema that the publishers use.

1:03:29

And it's has we guessed in over the years quite a manual process, quite an expensive process.

1:03:37

But we, we, we would speculate that with the emergence of AI and, and more powerful tools, maybe, maybe this process is, is becoming more efficient for the publishers.

1:03:48

But the output is a very rich, semantically structured representation of the contents of a research output.

1:03:57

And this supports powerful data exchange.

1:04:00

So the publishers can send this for these files off to citation index databases such as Scopus or Web Science and elsewhere, and also allow This is what allows the publishers to render the article in a really attractive HTML web page.

1:04:16

So, you know, the green OA version of a paper will look scrappy.

1:04:22

Often it will be a Word file attached to a metadata record.

1:04:25

The publishers version will be very attractively laid out and you, you know, you'll be able to sort of click in between the article elements.

1:04:36

And this is all possible because of this, this, this XML process that the publishers apply.

1:04:44

And I don't think certainly speaking individually here, I didn't really appreciate this part of the publishing process until a few years ago when I, when I, it dawned on me that this was, this was, this was a key part of the process.

1:05:00

And it's never been part of the conversation with green Open Access.

1:05:06

So this is not something the library sector has ever done.

1:05:10

We don't, we don't apply this, this approach.

1:05:15

We don't check, we don't transform the the aims.

1:05:18

We attach a file to a metadata record and we will do a bit of work on the method, the quality of the metadata record, but we don't do anything to the actual file itself.

1:05:28

But two developments over the past two or three years have changed with, you know, the possibility space, I suppose you know, what, what, what, what we might be able to do has changed because of two big developments, one on the sort of legal side and one on the sort of more technical side.

1:05:49

So we, we now are in a position to ask ourselves, what would it look like if within green OA, within the repository model, we, we took the same approach.

1:06:02

Steve, do you want to jump on to the next one?

1:06:03

So the, the first, the first big change was this, this sort of more legal changes is the emergence of the right to retention policies that increasingly and very widely adopted by, by, by universities.

1:06:18

And this automatically assigns the right to universities to share the Aams immediately upon publication.

1:06:28

And this overcomes one of the big hurdles of green Open Access.

1:06:34

The big, the, the, the thing that put everybody off green Open Access was embargoes.

1:06:38

These 6/12/24 month embargoes was, was easily one of the sort of big blockers for the wider adoption of green Open Access.

1:06:48

So by universities, by the libraries within those universities, driving forward the adoption of rights retention.

1:06:55

We have moved into a new, a new, a new reality where where we didn't, we no longer have to conform to that.

1:07:03

What the publishers say, you know, you have to apply this 12 month embargo.

1:07:07

That's no longer the case.

1:07:09

So that's the legal change, the set.

1:07:12

The second big development is of course is the emergence of these, these extraordinary large language models that have emerged over the last two or three years and seem to be developing consistently, you know, more powerful versions with with every passing month it seems.

1:07:33

And one of the things that a large language model seems to be very good at is to transform text from one format into another format in a, you say, 100% sort of lossless, lossless way.

1:07:48

So it can take an unstructured block of text and it can produce a highly structured version of that in a standard such as XML or Jason.

1:07:57

So this opens the door for us to explore whether we could transform an unstructured AM, which is a

sort of as ASR potentially messy Microsoft Word file and turn that, transform that into a highly standardised version of the akin to the what the publishers create.

1:08:16

This was something, you know, if you would take these two developments in, in, in combination.

1:08:22

We weren't able from a party and a legal perspective to share the the university's research outputs upon publication through our repositories because of embargoes.

1:08:31

That's been overcome.

1:08:33

We weren't able to consider even the possibility of transforming the AMS into XML before the LMS arrived because naturally that would mean a hugely manual process requiring lots and lots of people with very specific skills.

1:08:51

And, you know, this is now feasible for us to ask whether, whether the AI tools can, can do much of the work for us.

1:09:02

So, yeah, so that sets the scene, I guess at Manchester.

1:09:05

We, we have a we have a project which is asking precisely this question, OK, about what, whether we can, whether we can, whether we can do this, whether we can enhance green Open Access in this way.

1:09:16

So quite a lot of the early work in this project, we we set up a publishing futures group two or three years back.

1:09:25

And really that was that group was set up in the context of it becoming clear that the transitional transformative agreements were not indeed transforming.

1:09:35

They as, as, as both Gary and Steve had said that they were sort of locking in hybrid and, and, and with decades long transition timelines.

1:09:47

So we were sort of asking ourselves, OK, well, what, what, what now?

1:09:51

If, if that's not the answer, what is the answer?

1:09:54

So that we, we, we, we stood up at the group and we established a project to look at enhancing our green Open Access approach.

1:10:03

And quite a lot of the early work of the project has really been focusing on getting, bringing the university with us on, on on this idea and this concept.

1:10:12

So we've spent lots of time talking to our legal team around the, the legalities of, of using our rights retention to transform the accepted manuscripts in this way.

1:10:27

And we've also spent an equal, if not more time, longer time working through the different layers of senior governance within the university to, to ensure that the university is comfortable with us exploring this path.

1:10:44

So most of the work, as I say, has been foundational in this project to sort of make sure the university is coming along with us or we're bringing them with us.

1:10:52

And on the other side of Christmas, we do now intend to start to do some development work to explore the latest LLMS and to sort of develop potential approaches to doing this at scale.

1:11:12

So this is quite an exciting prospect.

1:11:15

It represents a new way of thinking about green Open Access.

1:11:18

As I said, libraries have have long experience when it comes to the, the metadata around the article.

1:11:24

We, we're very familiar with the journal volume issue, DOI authors, all that sort of information and we're very good at, at creating the, the, the metadata records, the, the, the, the into, into article information.

1:11:43

But when it comes to the intra article, which, you know, the information within the, the, the article, we don't have much track record.

1:11:52

So applying structure to the contents of an article, that's, that means, OK, what's the, what are the different sections of the paper?

1:12:01

You know, where, where is the introduction?

1:12:03

Where's the methods, where's the discussion and, and marking that up, where's the references?

1:12:08

Where are the figures and the charts and the tables and where are the references?

1:12:14

You know, this is not something we have any track record in.

1:12:17

So we're, we're very much in the very early stages of exploring and trying to learn from how the publishers have been structuring the contents within an article.

1:12:28

For us, it's been a sort of dark matter.

1:12:30

We've never, we've never really gone there.

1:12:31

We don't really know and how to do this.

1:12:35

So that's the big part of it's a learning curve.

1:12:37

It's a reasonably steep learning curve.

1:12:39

So we're currently in the process of sort of asking ourselves those those questions.

1:12:46

But in addition, as we're doing that, so we're learning about what the publishers would normally, how they would normally structure the contents of an article.

1:12:53

It's also becoming clear to us that in addition to the elements that a publisher might apply structure to, we also may wish to apply structure to other aspects of the paper that aligned with our own institutional strategies and that publishers perhaps wouldn't really mark up and wouldn't put structure around.

1:13:11

So here at the University of Manchester, we have very recently launched our new strategy, which takes a 10 year view and and ask some big questions about what sort of institution we will be in 2035.

1:13:26

And collaboration is a bit is a really big part of that strategy.

1:13:31

We want to be the university to work with.

1:13:33

We want our research to have greater impact.

1:13:35

We want to be able to commercialise and innovate more.

1:13:42

And so there's all sorts of information that may be within an article that it'd be very useful for us to apply structure to, you know, which would allow for further analysis and discovery.

1:13:56

And so this, there's this Venn diagram here where there's things that publishers would be interested in, there's things that we would be interested in as well.

1:14:01

But there are things that perhaps will be very localised in terms of the context.

1:14:05

And while we're there applying structure to the AM, there may be lots of things in that AM that will be very beneficial to us on a tactical and a strategic basis for us to also mark up.

1:14:20

So I mean, how do we do this?

1:14:22

OK, I think one of the things that we've learned early on is that that the current state-of-the-art, the current technology around this space, this this is this has been approached and tried over the years.

1:14:32

There are multiple set of Python based libraries that will take an article and transform it into an XML representation, but they none of those approaches would be 100% lossless.

1:14:49

The you would need to have a human in the loop.

1:14:53

And when you are talking about a very large research intensive university such as, such as Manchester, with a very diverse range of disciplines and all sorts of formats.

1:15:04

I think anything that any, any of those libraries would very quickly fall over when it tries to sort of take an AM from, from arts and humanities and turn that into XML.

1:15:16

And then the next AM would be something from physics and it would, it would not know what, what it would be looking at.

1:15:23

And we saw early on in the exploratory work have sort of discounted some of those established Python based libraries and, and so we are, as I say, looking at the large language models instead.

1:15:38

So what the model that seems to sort of make most sense is to give a metadata specialist access to the right environment and tools and for that person then to incrementally build up an XML representation of the article, sort of in conversation with the AI.

1:15:59

We early on perhaps naively thought that we could send an article through through an AI based process and it would come out as XML and then somebody would look at it and review it and check it.

1:16:12

But, but I think that's not really feasible.

1:16:15

And other reasons I think it's, it seems like that's the preferred model that you would have somebody else say build this XML representation.

1:16:24

So incrementally a key element of this work is the schema as well.

1:16:32

So obviously we're looking, we're talking about the technical technicalities of extracting information out of the AM.

1:16:38

But we, we, we are librarians and we, we speak in the language of schemas and standards.

1:16:45

So we need to choose, choose that schema carefully.

1:16:49

And we are looking at the jazz schema, the one that the standard that has been used by the publishing industry for so long.

1:16:56

But there may be other, other schemas as well that we might look to because there may be information that we want to pass from the manuscripts that Jack Jats isn't really best suited for.

1:17:07

So we're, we're very much in the sort of exploratory phase of this as well.

1:17:11

And one of the things that we want to do, which is more of a, you know, some of some of this work is just happening within the University of Manchester, but some of the work is more collaborative in nature.

1:17:21

And this scheme or aspect is, is something that we would like to progress through an N8 working group, which is which has been established as one of a number of working groups that underpin the N8 statement on equitable and publishing F to 1 sustainable publishing, which was which was shared earlier this year.

1:17:42

I do have to apologise.

1:17:43

One of the nice things about AI is that it creates nice looking slides, really slick looking slides that we would not be able to do ourselves.

1:17:49

But a downside is not always fully accurate and it has missed out Sheffield and Lancaster from the the N8, which is, you know, are bad, but the visualisation doesn't include them.

1:18:02

But, and that's a good warning that you can't rely entirely on the end on the AI to get everything right.

1:18:07

So there's going back to that human in the leap side of things.

1:18:11

So, so yeah, the big idea here is that the next generation of an institutional repository is not necessarily one designed only for human users, which is obviously has always been the case of course.

1:18:27

So there's a fair chance that an increasing proportion of use would come from AIS are are at least mediated through LLMS and AI based environments.

1:18:37

So creating a machine readable collection of the university's research outputs would position as extremely well for this, this, this possible version of the future where, where if you make the, the university's research outputs machine readable and accessible programmatically, then it's just, it's as

likely that it will be loaded into the, the sort of context window of an LLN and analysed and used in that context.

1:19:06

As much as somebody browsing through a front end and clicking sort of to philtre on a particular year and search for a particular discipline and find the paper that way.

1:19:16

I think increasingly they'll be, it'll at least happen, you know, to the same degree.

1:19:21

And perhaps over time we'll, we'll see that the use case is perhaps more the, the, the, the machine readable content will be loaded into something that has, is in some way, you know, used by AI.

1:19:36

And an, an additional benefit, you know, of taking this approach is of course, that we're, we're a large research intensive university of the same, and there are many, many different teams and functions across the, the organisation that support researchers in, in different ways.

1:19:53

And we can within the library, pass the information of the ANS, as I say, and create this structured, highly structured representation.

1:20:02

But this could be.

1:20:04

A living representation, it doesn't necessarily need to be fixed.

1:20:08

And there are many different roles and, and teams across the university who would be well placed to further enrich the this record.

1:20:17

So we have a network of impact officers that we work very closely with who who in turn work closely with the researchers and projects and, and we'll identify where, where research is having an impact.

1:20:30

And we are developing a model for a data stewardship model at the university.

1:20:35

So over time, we would we, our vision and our hope is that we will have a growing number of data stewards who will be again, will be very well placed to provide information about the research data that's connected to an article.

1:20:47

We have knowledge exchange colleagues and people who perhaps have a focus on, on commercialization and industry collaboration.

1:20:59

And, and we have lots and lots of friends and colleagues across the university who, who work in, in communications and marketing teams, who, who again, would would be very well placed to add further and further information to that record.

1:21:12

So that's, that would, that could potentially be one of our super strengths.

1:21:16

You know, that we are a university.

1:21:17

We have lots and lots of people who can really add, you know, proper value to that record in a way that publishers perhaps aren't place to do.

1:21:29

And another key Ave we have we, we have within our office for open research, we have a research indicators team of very often the case that you'll have somebody with a bibliometric function working within the library.

1:21:42

And this approach opens up a possibility of, of, of producing our own structured representations of the research outputs.

1:21:52

And by applying bibliometric techniques to help the university answer questions it might have about itself.

1:21:59

We could, we could use these these these structured representations to, to do all sorts of different analysis where at the moment we do rely heavily on commercial citation databases and analytics platforms.

1:22:13

So at least in parallel, we could, we could also use our own growing collection of structured records to do, you know, complementary analysis or even replace some of the approaches we use with commercial tools.

1:22:27

And again, help the university identify interdisciplinarity or different flavours of impact or collaboration with non academic partners in a way that again, potentially could be more powerful than the data we have access to in these commercial systems.

1:22:47

So to conclude, Steve's laid the groundwork and, and shared how we've ended up where we are and sort of an unsatisfactory impasse, I guess, and a, and a, and a growing realisation that that the, the commercial publishers are, are not going to transform their models in the way that we had hoped.

1:23:09

And therefore, we've, we've returned to our roots in a sense and looked at green Open Access, but not look to green Open Access in the way that we have in the past.

1:23:19

Very large important developments such as rights retention and AI have meant that there's all sorts of possibilities available to us that simply weren't before.

1:23:30

And we're at a very early stage here.

1:23:33

Some of this is extremely conceptual and sort of we're just proving some of the principles.

1:23:38

But the aim here is that there's a possibility that green Open Access could play a very significant role for us in terms of a sustainable future for Open Access.

1:23:48

So that's I think all we had to say.

1:23:54

So thank you very much.

1:23:55

That's fun.

1:23:56

Absolutely fantastic.

1:23:57

That was fascinating and really interesting project that you're all working on there.

1:24:04

John, Have we got any questions in the chat?

1:24:07

We do, yeah.

1:24:09

I wonder, Sarah, can we can we have 10 minutes on this?

1:24:11

Because we've got quite a few questions.

1:24:12

I know we are going up for a break, but I think it is you.

1:24:15

So we can spend the rest of the day talking about it.

1:24:16

But yeah, I certainly could.

1:24:19

I've got a few questions myself.

1:24:20

Anyway, I'll let you carry on, John.

1:24:22

I'll take them in the in the order we we've received.

1:24:24

And so Anna just asked about how are you planning to check the accuracy of the AI outputs, which which you did answer.

1:24:31

So there's going to be human checking and then author approval.

1:24:34

That's right as well.

1:24:36

Yeah, I think this is an essential part of the such.

1:24:40

The stakes are very high here because if we even in very minor ways misrepresent the article, that can have very significant implications.

1:24:50

So the idea isn't as a stress, you know, this is we're at the very ground floor with this, you know, really just getting some of the big ideas in place.

1:24:58

But our current line of thinking is that we would only do this if offers opt in to this service.

1:25:06

So as Steve says, we have our Open Access gateway and offers will deposit their AAM.

1:25:12

It will be at that point they'll be given the opportunity to opt in and it'll be made clear to them at that stage what, what, what that means.

1:25:19

We will then develop a model where we can hopefully extract the information in a lossless way.

1:25:26

But then at the end of that process, nothing will be shared without the author's sign off and approval.

1:25:32

So they'll be also given the opportunity to review what we've extracted and make sure that they're comfortable.

1:25:39

And I guess they would be speaking on behalf of the other authors.

1:25:47

So we will be focusing in almost certainly on only doing this for papers whether the Manchester corresponding offer so that that, you know, some of the conventions that currently apply here as well.

1:25:58

So there's lots of contingencies and, and, and and stages that we're starting thinking about baking in that should mitigate against the risk of us getting something wrong in that in that process.

1:26:12

But that is clearly one of the large risks.

1:26:15

Lovely.

1:26:16

Thank you.

1:26:16

Yeah, it sounds like a very sensible use of AI, which isn't always the case.

1:26:22

A question from from Gary, who we heard from earlier on.

1:26:25

And I really like this innovative approach and reimagining of green.

1:26:29

However, as a solution to broken transformative agreements, it's a danger.

1:26:32

A dry to green will just entrench the Big 5 publishers as well.

1:26:37

Under green, authors can still publish in the Big 5.

1:26:39

There will still be content behind paywall that needs to be paid for, and the lack of transparency on costs means attack away from Apcs would likely just see an increase in costs to access closed content.

1:26:51

In summary, green may be an alternative solution to publish, but what about the read side of the equation?

1:26:58

Did you get that as very a long question?

1:27:03

Absolutely and completely.

1:27:05

I understand the, what's behind that question.

1:27:08

I, I agree with what, what was said there.

1:27:13

I, you know, I don't think we're suggesting necessarily this is going to be a panacea for every single thing that's wrong here.

1:27:19

And in, in parallel with our approach to green Open Access, we have also been developing a set of criteria that that will guide our our decisions around transformative agreements.

1:27:33

So this is one part of a broader project actually to that that will focus specifically on green Open Access.

1:27:42

But the broader, the broader project is really looking at how we can navigate the way forward.

1:27:48

But Manchester is 1 university within one relatively small region on the global scale.

1:27:56

So you know, I think we have to sort of be mindful of of what, you know, we're not probably going to be talking about system level changes here.

1:28:05

This is ultimately going to be 11 university enhancing its repository.

1:28:09

So I don't see as necessarily solving any of these problems that Gary's outlined in terms of systemic dysfunction in in commercial publishing.

1:28:26

Hopefully.

1:28:26

Thank you.

1:28:27

I'll pick up this one from from Leah now from Northumbria.

1:28:31

Many authors don't like the idea of their work being used by AI.

1:28:34

Although we can't do much to stop this happening.

1:28:37

Actively promoting the use of repository content for AI use feels very different.

1:28:41

Have the NA to Manchester taken an institutional approach to this?

1:28:45

Is there an institutional policy or strategy to promote AI?

1:28:53

I suppose that some of those conversations are a bit are a little bit premature maybe where this is very foundational and no, we haven't had any conversations about the framing of this, the positioning of this.

1:29:07

I don't think necessarily this is pointing directly AI use.

1:29:12

I think there's all sorts of benefits in creating a machine readable representation of of the research outputs within a university.

1:29:20

It just so happens then that it makes it easier I guess for for the articles to be loaded into into AI tools.

1:29:29

So I, I again so appreciate this is a quite a funny one and sort of the main step we've taken so far is to ensure this is an opt in model.

1:29:40

So for those authors that don't like the idea of this, like this model, sorry, on camera just disappeared, they don't like the idea of their research being used by an AIT or they don't.

1:29:58

They wouldn't they, they just don't opt in.

1:30:04

Lovely.

1:30:04

Thank you again.

1:30:06

I think we'll make this the last one because we yeah, we'll do a break and we have Melanie from Wiley talking after the break.

1:30:12

I think this will be a lovely counterpoint to hear from a publisher after this presentation.

1:30:17

Last question is from Aaron from Brooks.

1:30:20

I found that a lot of authors prefer the look and prestige of the publishers PDF of their article.

1:30:25

If not already considered, is this something that can also make enhanced Greenaway more appealing?

1:30:31

And yeah, I suppose there's there's questions there as well about the what, what is the the publishers role if we are essentially recreating what what they do as well.

1:30:44

Steve, do you want to take that one?

1:30:47

I mean, if you, I'm happy for you to jump in, Scott, if you've got something to say on that.

1:30:52

Well, I suppose we have discussed this.

1:30:54

You know, once you have an XML file, then obviously it's reasonably, yeah, it's, it's doable to create a standardised sort of PDF representation which actually looks better and the data structured better than than the version that was deposited to us.

1:31:14

You can also imagine how this could also be rendered as a, as a, as a web page in, in a sense, it doesn't really change anything in terms of, you know, that's always been the way with green Open Access.

1:31:29

There's just a parallel version that has been made freely available because the version that the publisher has shared is behind a subscription paywall.

1:31:37

So, you know, that's their business model.

1:31:40

This is artificial scarcity.

1:31:41

It's the way they make money, which we don't agree with because it's because that far all the moral arguments that have been well rehearsed.

1:31:50

So this is the Open Access version.

1:31:52

What we're talking about is just making that Open Access version better than it was.

1:31:57

So in a sense, this is, this is green Open Access.

1:31:59

This is just better green impact.

1:32:02

But we're also adding value in with all that institutional data that Scott, you talked about earlier around, you know, all the different parts of university that might be able to contribute to creating this enhanced version of something that the publishers wouldn't necessarily prioritise or wouldn't be able to do.

1:32:16

So it's it's doing something different as well.

1:32:27

OK.

1:32:27

I think that's it for questions now.

1:32:29

We are about to go into the break.

1:32:30

It's really, really interesting.

1:32:31

I mean, I'm now thinking about how smaller institutions with less funding and stuff like that can get on board with this type of, of, of thing because it would be incredibly valuable for them.

1:32:40

And I think that's something that would be food for thought for everybody really to think about.

1:32:45

But yeah, thank you very, very much.

1:32:48

And I look forward to seeing how how, how your project progresses.

1:32:52

So we're going to take a break now.

1:32:56

It's slightly shortened.

1:32:57

So if you can all be back for 11:45 where we've got our next speaker, Melanie.

1:33:02

Thank you.

1:33:11

Hi, welcome back, everybody.

1:33:13

I hope you had a good break.

1:33:15

So our next speaker is Melanie Leonard Beckler, who brings over 16 years of scholarly publishing experience to her own leading Wiley's global open research team.

1:33:25

So Melanie is presenting on Beyond the budget Crisis, a publisher's view on sustainable Open Access.

1:33:30

Over to you, Melanie.

1:33:33

Thank you very much, Sarah, and I hope you can all hear me well.

1:33:37

OK, great.

1:33:38

Yes, we can.

1:33:40

OK, awesome.

1:33:41

Thank you very much.

1:33:43

So hello.

1:33:44

And also from my side, I'm currently joining you from Germany, as you can tell by my rather complicated last name.

1:33:53

Thank you again for inviting me to the seminar today.

1:33:57

It's really a pleasure being here with you to discuss.

1:34:01

I think probably one of the most challenging topics at the moment, like how to really advance Open Access sustainably in an era of financial uncertainty.

1:34:12

So I'm representing Wiley, as Sarah already mentioned, also known as one of the Big 5 publishers Gary mentioned earlier.

1:34:21

And I'd really like to share our views as one of the global mixed model publishers in my session title.

1:34:29

I also would like to emphasise the word sustainable.

1:34:32

I'll explain a bit more how we see that from a publisher perspective.

1:34:37

And I think with about 50% of research content that is currently available Open Access globally, it's important that we think about how to nurture the transition to OA and really talking about it, how we can actually get there in a sustainable way where quality remains central, but also really serves diverse global communities and also keeps the entire scholarly ecosystem functioning.

1:35:07

Also, big thank you in advance to Vicki, who is helping with my slides today.

1:35:11

If we could go to the next slide, Vicki, that would be great.

1:35:14

Thank you.

1:35:22

OK, let's have a quick look at the agenda.

1:35:25

I'd like to cover three main areas today.

1:35:28

So first, I would like to take a look at the OA landscape globally and talk a bit about the complex policy environment that we're navigating.

1:35:38

I also want to really briefly only talk about Wiley's away journey over the best decade and explain a bit where we are today.

1:35:48

And then also finally, I'd like to share some insights with you about our strategic approach to the future.

1:35:55

And I'm looking forward to your questions and comments at the end of my session.

1:36:00

If we can go to the next slide and maybe skip that one as well, so we can jump directly to the policy landscape.

1:36:09

So as a global publisher also alluded to that we currently operate across different policy environments.

1:36:18

This map, I know it looks a bit messy, but I think it perfectly illustrates the complexity that we are facing currently.

1:36:26

The blue regions on the map show the countries with six or more funder policies according to ROA map data, but what this doesn't really capture is how different those policies are from each other as well.

1:36:39

I will not go into too much detail about the different regions, it's on the slides if you want to read further later or after the session.

1:36:49

So what we see in Europe, we probably see one of the most coordinated or have been seeing one of the most coordinated approaches with strong policy leadership through coalition S and also other significant infrastructure investment and key players.

1:37:06

Also here we talked a bit about rights retention already.

1:37:12

I know this has created some tensions between funders, institutions and also publishers, but what we're also seeing in Europe more and more is really challenges in the budget.

1:37:26

There's also budget cuts I know you're facing currently as well in the UK, but also in other parts of Europe, which for a traditionally well funded, yeah, country or basically not country, but yeah, like region, this has created new challenges.

1:37:45

As also Gary alluded to earlier already when he talked about TAS, in North America, particularly the US, we face market fragmentation.

1:37:56

So there are really thousands of diverse institutions with different priorities and also capabilities and also OA knowledge and federal mandates from OSTP and the US funding agencies have been shifting.

1:38:11

You probably know that a lot of the public access plans also mandate immediate Open Access.

1:38:19

But also here implementation remains uneven.

1:38:21

And overall in the US, it's a quite dynamic situation at the moment.

1:38:28

Globally, we're also seeing a lot of experimentation with alternative business models.

1:38:34

Also, for example, in Latin America, there is strong support for Diamond Open Access.

1:38:40

There are also other diverse policy maturity across Asia Pacific to other emerging Rd maps, for example, in Africa.

1:38:51

What they have in common is they all deal with different funding realities and infrastructure readiness.

1:38:57

So I think the key takeaway here is there's no global OA policy or mandate currently.

1:39:04

Personally, I also don't think we will see that in the near future.

1:39:08

So for a global publisher, this demands that we build scalable and robust publishing systems that really adapt to the diverse local needs as well.

1:39:18

We can go to the next slide, please.

1:39:20

We can have a look at the key challenges as we currently see them.

1:39:24

From a publisher perspective.

1:39:28

The diverse policies create interconnected challenges that make the path to 100% percent Open Access really complex.

1:39:37

I know not only for publishers, for all of us.

1:39:40

Actually.

1:39:41

At the OS for conference in September, different stakeholders discussed actually how we can further speed up the transition to 100% OA, which seems to have stalled with around 50% of available Open Access content today.

1:39:56

From the publisher side, we actually see four critical areas here.

1:40:01

So when we look at funding and business models, APC costs also remain barriers, especially in low and middle income countries.

1:40:10

So a funding is unevenly distributed even within wealthier regions, already alluded a bit to the situation in Europe at the moment.

1:40:19

And also institutional budget cuts create real tension and different stakeholders champion different models.

1:40:27

We talked a bit about gold Open Access, green Open Access came up diamond OA, but also models like subscribe to open each come with different trade-offs.

1:40:37

During these transition periods, we look at the policies and stakeholders involved.

1:40:43

The administrative complexity here is real.

1:40:47

You saw the global map and the mandates.

1:40:51

These mandates vary not just between regions but often within the same country, so that can be challenging.

1:40:58

Compliance can also create burden for researchers, societies and also publishers.

1:41:04

Policymakers also operate on different timelines.

1:41:08

So for example, a three-year funding cycle looks from a publisher perspective looks quite different from a five year National Research strategy, for example.

1:41:17

So the solution that works, for example, for a physics institution may not work for humanities college.

1:41:24

So we also have these differences in the disciplines that we serve when it comes to quality and trust.

1:41:33

We already touched a bit on AI in the previous talk.

1:41:40

AI tools are on the rise, we know that, so maintaining quality becomes more challenging.

1:41:47

Trust is really at the heart of these developments.

1:41:51

The challenge here is really further boosting OA or the transition to on a while preserving rigorous peer review standards and really making sure we catch paper mills and fraud early on while maintaining trusted processes.

1:42:07

With AI generated content proliferating, this challenge really intensifies.

1:42:13

So I think that is something we have to bear in mind as well.

1:42:17

And when it comes to awareness and access, we've seen even where funding exists, there's often limited awareness of available OA options.

1:42:27

There are infrastructure gaps that continue to slow down adoption in many regions.

1:42:32

And here's the difficult truth as well.

1:42:34

Really from a publisher perspective, again, if researchers in certain regions can't afford to publish their work OA, we haven't really truly achieved OA equity.

1:42:44

I think that's really a task that we all need to focus on as well.

1:42:49

I mentioned already these challenges are interconnected and as a global publisher, we can't really think about sustainable solutions without considering all aspects and stakeholder needs.

1:43:01

But that's why we actually believe we need flexible and also regional targeted strategies rather than one-size-fits-all solutions in the future.

1:43:11

We can go to the next slide.

1:43:12

Please can take a look at the different stakeholder groups that play a role here.

1:43:19

But actually so I wanted to spend just a few moments on here because we know that Open Access is shaped by multi stakeholder groups, each with different needs and also shared goals.

1:43:32

But also sometimes these can cause conflict between the different groups, also adding layers of complexity.

1:43:41

So we have, for example, knowledge contributors and consumers.

1:43:44

So these are researchers, can be clinicians, industry, R&D professionals and also the general public and their needs really centre around access to findings and cost effective publishing options that don't exclude unfunded authors.

1:44:00

We have funders and policy makers.

1:44:03

They of course want to advance away through mandates while maintaining a stable scholarly ecosystem.

1:44:09

So they're really balancing the public access imperatives with economic realities in the different regions that we're serving.

1:44:18

Research institutions and libraries, they play a key role here as well.

1:44:24

I know they manage and you also manage tight and many timelines.

1:44:31

So I think this is really something that we cannot ignore, the shrinking budgets while you're really trying to support your community's publishing needs and also maintain access to essential content as a publishing partner.

1:44:47

And from a wider perspective, I also included our societies here as we support a lot of societies in publishing their journals.

1:44:57

We also need to be able to make that shift to Open Access while preserving quality, but also really serving different stakeholder needs and also maintaining operational viability.

1:45:12

So they're from really a global perspective.

1:45:14

There also needs to be an element of scaling here for us.

1:45:18

That's also the reason why we don't experiment with all of the alternative business models that are currently out there.

1:45:25

And for societies in particular, publishing revenue often funds professional development, conferences and advocacy work.

1:45:33

So we also have to keep that in mind.

1:45:36

So Open Access is really a shared ecosystem.

1:45:38

I think you all know that, but I really wanted to highlight that again.

1:45:42

And multiple stakeholders influence how research is created, shared and accessed.

1:45:47

And no single group can actually drive this forward alone.

1:45:53

We can move to the next slide.

1:45:56

For us, it's really about balancing these stakeholder priorities and needs.

1:46:03

Already talked a bit about how really as a global publisher, it's important to also, yeah, maintain some operational effectiveness, otherwise it would not work for us.

1:46:15

So now that we've identified who shapes away, so there are really different stakeholder priorities that also actively conflict.

1:46:26

And I think this slide captures something we talk about constantly internally from our perspective, there is no single publishing model that currently addresses all stakeholder needs simultaneously.

1:46:41

So the publishing partners, whether they're commercial publishers, non profits or also scholarly societies, they need to enable OA growth while maintaining quality and operational viability amid also competitive pressures.

1:46:56

So I think this is something to really keep in mind as well.

1:47:01

We are investing heavily in OA infrastructure, but we also need sustainable economic models to fund that investment really in the long term.

1:47:10

We talked a bit about the policy makers already, and it's entirely reasonable that they want to work with OA mandates to nurture the transition to OA.

1:47:22

But it's important they also have a stable scholarly publishing ecosystem available.

1:47:29

And I think here what from a publisher perspective we sometimes see is that mandates move faster than the actual funding infrastructure or what we can actually support from a publisher perspective.

1:47:42

And this is really where we then start risking destabilising our journals and also make it harder for our society partnerships where basically steady revenue supports the broader mission of their work.

1:47:58

Knowledge contributors and consumers want cost effective OA options in quality journals that support also career advancement and meet funder compliance.

1:48:08

But I think the compliance piece is quite interesting because sometimes it's also not clear who's responsible for maintaining and checking on that compliance while it create it can create a burden for researchers.

1:48:23

At the same time, these knowledge computers also want to really avoid excluding unfunded researchers from publishing.

1:48:33

So I think this is really the equity tension that has been talked about at various conferences in the past and continues to be an, yeah, increasingly important topic.

1:48:46

That's basically the reason why we have a mixed model approach in place.

1:48:50

So as you know, we offer both gold and hybrid OA pathways that work for different author and research communities during the different phases of the transition to OA.

1:49:03

And this is also why we assess journal transitions or flipping journals from a hybrid to a gold or a model on a journal by journal basis rather than announcing A portfolio wide transition.

1:49:16

We'll talk a bit more about that because I have a slide on that that explains our approach here in a more transparent way.

1:49:24

We can go to the next slide.

1:49:27

I briefly want to talk and we can move on to the Wiley timeline.

1:49:32

I promise I won't spend too much time on this slide.

1:49:36

So just a few highlights I think that are particularly important for this talk today.

1:49:43

So in 2016 we signed our first TA in the Netherlands and we also were one of the first publishers to sign an agreement, a nationwide licence with deal in Germany in 2019.

1:50:00

And I know you know all of that.

1:50:04

In 2020, we also signed a four year disc agreement that made 85% of UK research Open Access in its first year.

1:50:14

So I think these are some really from a publishing perspective interesting highlights.

1:50:20

We have to date over 120 TAS globally, really in all major regions except of China.

1:50:29

And what we've also invested in at the same time is our submissions and peer review platform, research exchange.

1:50:39

And today we have about 1500 journals operating really on this platform that has been built really to nurture an Open Access future.

1:50:53

But I think this evolution kind of shows that sustainable OA requires, from a publisher perspective, infrastructure investments, also strong partnerships with institutions in particular, but also funders, researchers, editors, also society partners.

1:51:09

From our perspective, some level of innovation because our models have evolved over time and also constant adaptation to emerging challenges and evolving needs.

1:51:22

If we move to the next slide, we can take a look quickly at our portfolio or the shape of our portfolio.

1:51:28

Today we have more than 1900 journals with 99% of them having alternative journal metrics available.

1:51:38

As some of you probably know, we signed Dora and also made in basically the the light of this signature.

1:51:48

We made additional journal metrics available for our journals on the journal home pages.

1:51:55

We also have more than 890 society partnerships.

1:52:01

These are really central to our mission and and strategy.

1:52:07

They can add an additional layer of complexity because we don't, many of these journals we don't fully own, they're not proprietary journals.

1:52:15

So we also have to actually work together with our society partners to really take them along on their transition to Open Access as well.

1:52:27

In terms of our eight power or A output, we published over 120,000 OA articles in calendar year 2024, currently still counting the number for 2025.

1:52:39

And to date we have 660 fully Open Access journals in our portfolio.

1:52:46

So half of why this research output is now available Open Access.

1:52:51

And the chart you see here on the slide is showing you the trajectory from 2021 to 2025.

1:52:59

So you can see the OA articles in fully OA journals in green and OA articles in hybrid journals in blue.

1:53:07

The growth is substantial, but what's also important is that we try our best to really make sure it's managed growth.

1:53:16

I know other publishers came up also on a that operate on a fully Open Access model.

1:53:24

So it's really something that we try to control while we of course, make sure that we maintain quality standards and support the diverse of the communities while also supporting our society partners.

1:53:42

So I think what's important to say, I already mentioned one of our key pillars are still transformational agreements.

1:53:51

But I think while the 50% milestone really represents progress and interestingly enough, it seems to be in line with the global trajectory of our output, as I mentioned before, it also illustrates why the final stretch to 100% OA is really complex, especially for a global publisher like Wiley.

1:54:15

That remaining 50% really from our perspective, again includes, for example, journals where funding

infrastructure is not yet in place or not at least not sustainable publishing, sorry, funding infrastructure.

1:54:28

It includes disciplines with different attitudes and approaches to OA and it also includes regions where OA publishing faces structural barriers or is not one of the top priorities at the moment.

1:54:42

So that is actually something we when we think also about innovative solutions, we also have to keep these different challenges in mind if we want to further progress our transition to Open Access.

1:54:56

We can go to the next slide, please.

1:54:58

I quickly wanted to and I won't go into too much detail here again quickly.

1:55:04

Just wanted to summarise the different approaches or pathways we currently offer to expanding our participation globally.

1:55:13

The focus is also on regionally targeted solutions, which I know TAS are not one of the most favourite business models among this audience, but they have been quite essential for us to really also address the the regional differences and also the the differing needs from institutions and consortia in different parts of the world.

1:55:40

So for us, this has been really a good mechanism to also address some of the also further evolving challenges that especially institutions and consortia see when they want to fuel Open Access output from their institutions.

1:56:00

I already touched a bit on it.

1:56:03

Transformational agreements are on the list.

1:56:06

They have evolved over the years based on customer needs and also feedback while also addressing the the regional needs.

1:56:14

I quickly mentioned that earlier.

1:56:16

We also focus a lot on launching.

1:56:20

When we launch new journals, it's fully open access journals, but we also still have hybrid journals in our portfolio mix.

1:56:29

We also offer widely Open Access accounts as a flexible solution for institutions that just want to fund Open Access publishing and have basically a pot of money available that they want to provide their authors for publishing in Wiley journals and also equity initiatives like Research for Life or in at the beginning of 2025, we launched NOA pricing power parity pilot, which helped adjust the pricing based on local purchasing power.

1:57:03

And just as a practical example is really Brazil.

1:57:08

Here we have ATA with the CAPUS consortium in Brazil for publications in hybrid journals.

1:57:17

So this was basically what Akapus wanted to fund their authors for.

1:57:24

And our OA pricing power parity pilot, which provides high discounts to researchers in Latin America based on purchasing power for publications in our fully OA journals.

1:57:38

This has really created a nice synergy and this also shows from a publisher perspective how different models can really complement each other and support local communities in their needs.

1:57:53

The key principle is currently that we're responding to local funding realities and policy environments.

1:58:00

And of course, we're trying to meet researchers and institutions where they are during the transition period to Open Access.

1:58:09

If we could go to the next slide, please, I would like to take a look into the future with us, with us, with you basically.

1:58:21

So this is also how we are basically seeing the regional strategy further evolve.

1:58:32

So I mentioned already our strategy recognises sustainable OA solution, which also require flexibility in the different models and making sure that they are really good solutions for the local communities.

1:58:49

And we have basically 5 strategic pillars here on the slide that support this also regional focus or regional approach.

1:58:59

So we really try to partner with regional policy leaders and making sure that together we can shape regional approaches in collaboration with the local stakeholders and also giving a voice to basically the the groups or stakeholder groups that sometimes don't get a seat at the table here, for example, authors or our society partners.

1:59:26

This is also really a particular focus for my open research team where we are engaging with policy makers and funders to really understand their needs better and find really mutually beneficial solutions.

1:59:41

I already talked a bit about the equity solutions, so I won't go into further detail here.

1:59:48

We also see a lot of opportunities and multi stakeholder collaborations, so we're constantly balancing the different needs of governments, funders, societies and researchers.

1:59:59

Also institutions to really find sustainable solutions together.

2:00:04

And while this requires patience, I know earlier Gary talked a bit about the pace and the rapid transition.

2:00:12

From my perspective, yes, sometimes it requires a bit more patience, especially if you look at the different local approaches, but also more transparency and genuine partnership that is really focused on regional conditions and the economic realities.

2:00:33

An important point for us is also really trying to meet institutions where they are.

2:00:38

I mean, we really partner with the institutions at different OA readiness levels.

2:00:41

That's how I would describe describe it.

2:00:45

Some are really ready to support 100 OA today.

2:00:48

Others really need more time to really also build the underlying infrastructure, secure the budget for example, and also get their researchers ready.

2:00:59

Actually, that was a key lesson learned from Tasmania that you can't just put out ATA.

2:01:03

You also have to make sure your researchers are aware of the publishing opportunities that comes with it.

2:01:10

We know that shrinking budgets are a reality for you in the UK, also in other parts of the world.

2:01:16

And here we are really committed to exploring new and probably also more sophisticated away agreement models together in the future that probably also go beyond the the current TA offerings that we have in place.

2:01:31

A crucial point from a publisher perspective is also building portfolios sustainability.

2:01:36

We really use away or flexible or a pathways to make sure that we also cater for the needs of different disciplines, geographies and also partner priorities.

2:01:47

I think this is also really important here.

2:01:51

If we can go to the next slide, I think I'm a bit behind and I really wanted to talk a bit more about our framework when it comes to flipping journals to a fully Open Access model.

2:02:07

It's really a question we get quite often.

2:02:11

Why does Wiley not just flip all journals to OA immediately?

2:02:16

And the answer is really that yes, we are committed to OA and still committed to OA.

2:02:22

But as outlined earlier, the the pace and path really differs by journals, by the journal based on specific and measurable criteria.

2:02:31

And I really want to be transparent with you about our approach because I know in the past we and also other publishers have been criticised for not having flipped journals fast enough.

2:02:44

From your perspective, as some of you probably remember, we also decided against participating in Coalition as a transformative journals programme as we really believe that a journal by journal assessment is the better route to assess flip readiness.

2:03:02

So we actually flip a journal to a folio, a model when there is really long term funding available and mandates exist.

2:03:12

So this can be multi year agreements for example that support really the financial stability of the journal as well after the flip to gold away coverage from Tasmania, but also other funding agreements and funding mechanisms is important as well.

2:03:34

So this needs to be broad enough to support the key author groups that submit to a certain journal in our portfolio.

2:03:43

We also like to see a healthy submission mix and really indicating community readiness for adoption for the folio, a model from the discipline and also the author communities.

2:03:59

Journal Economics also need to be sustainable based on the revenue streams without threatening the quality.

2:04:06

So this is also really important for our society partners.

2:04:09

And of course, integrity and quality indicators need to remain stable.

2:04:13

So this is really important for us as well.

2:04:16

A hybrid pathway can be suitable if for example, funding is uncertain, can be fragmented, or it's just available in the short term.

2:04:27

TA or other funding coverage is thin for key author groups.

2:04:31

So flipping would actually restrict participation in the future where a lot of unfunded researchers wouldn't have access to publishing in the journal anymore.

2:04:41

And also it could be that co-author regions lack reliable OA funding.

2:04:48

We also have some journals that that's also not a secret that perform really well on this hybrid route.

2:04:55

These are especially also journals in disciplines where there is a lack of funding or not traditionally a lot of funding available.

2:05:05

And of course, we also have to make sure that we factor in our society's position when it comes to flipping society journals in the future.

2:05:19

I'm going to can I quickly check on the time?

2:05:22

Am I far behind or you've you've got a few minutes left if you want to have 5 minutes for questions.

2:05:33

OK, OK.

2:05:36

Then let's maybe skip a couple of slides and you have the slides available if you move forward, please.

2:05:46

Yeah, let's skip the integrity slide.

2:05:48

I also included a slide on AI.

2:05:54

Just a quick note here for Scott and Stephen earlier, I mean really our survey showed that yes, there is a lot of interest from authors in using AIA.

2:06:09

Lot of them actually use the free tools.

2:06:11

Only 25% tried research specific.

2:06:14

All think here is really an opportunity that yeah, you really have to promote and explain a bit more what the I tools are actually doing.

2:06:26

I think that will help with author adoption.

2:06:28

I just wanted to make that point because that is something we are seeing really across our author communities and we also have guidelines or developed guidelines.

2:06:40

The link is available on the slides.

2:06:42

I'd be keen to hear your feedback as well on that.

2:06:44

OK.

2:06:45

If we move to the, I think the last slide, yes, then let's jump to the to the last slide.

2:06:53

So I think it's important to also think about the research integrity challenges and the AI challenges that are arising.

2:07:04

So I think we have and you can look at the slides, but we actually have an opportunity to collaborate across key areas.

2:07:14

I talked a bit about the multi stakeholder collaborations that we are really keen on exploring even further.

2:07:23

I know we are commercial publishers, sometimes it's not easy to get a seat at the table.

2:07:29

That's why I'm really happy that I got invited today and have the opportunity to talk to you about some of these topics here.

2:07:37

So really looking at the different opportunities.

2:07:41

So I think really we could collaborate more on building also regional infrastructure together so we can help address funding gaps through equity programmes as mentioned before.

2:07:57

But we really need the partnership of the different stakeholder groups to ensure that these reach the right communities and that we're also building the right kind of solutions for these communities.

2:08:11

Whether waivers or discounts are the right solution, it depends a bit on who you talk to from these sometimes underfunded regions.

2:08:21

So I think there needs to be more cautious here when trying to build solutions.

2:08:27

We're also investing in platform capabilities and AI powered integrity screening also here.

2:08:32

The human touch is really important, as we heard earlier as well.

2:08:37

But I think also librarians and institutions, I mean, they know best what administrative burdens need reducing and what really your authors need and, and want to see in the future.

2:08:48

So I think here we could collaborate more on identifying where infrastructure investments will have the greatest impact for your for your researchers, but also your library staff who have to maintain these underlying workflows, quality standards.

2:09:06

From my perspective, that is a shared responsibility.

2:09:10

So we are building research integrity teams and screening tools, but we also need your insights on what quality signals really matter most to your communities also matter most to you.

2:09:22

Also, as AI transforms the research workflows, it's important that we collaborate on developing guidelines that support authors while maintaining rigorous standards.

2:09:33

That alluded a bit to the point I made a couple of minutes ago.

2:09:37

I think this is really a huge opportunity for us together and looking at the the last column here, I think Co designing solutions together, I think this will become really critical.

2:09:53

Also when you look at the financial uncertainty that we're facing, not only in the UK, also in other parts of the world.

2:10:01

I think this is really where genuine partnership becomes essential and where funders and policy makers can help us understand their mandate, timelines and also flexibility points to make sure that sustainable models don't destabilise journals or research communities and also address the budget realities and researcher needs of libraries and institutions.

2:10:26

These should actively shape our A offerings.

2:10:29

We'd like to hear from you really what is working and what is not.

2:10:32

I know we've worked closely with DISC in the past, also with other partners around the globe.

2:10:40

So I think this is really something that we could further expand and really think about also.

2:10:46

Yeah, really new solutions, maybe better solutions that go beyond the traditional offerings and also some of the alternative business models that may not be scalable, especially for the large publishers.

2:11:07

OK, thank you very much.

2:11:09

I'm really sorry that I ran out of time.

2:11:11

I even cut a slide because I thought I had too much content.

2:11:14

But it's really such an interesting topic.

2:11:17

Thank you very much.

2:11:19

Looking forward to hearing your questions and please also feel free to reach out to me afterwards via LinkedIn or via e-mail.

2:11:27

Thank you.

2:11:28

Sorry, Sarah.

2:11:29

No, that's OK.

2:11:30

It's really interesting.

2:11:31

You had a lot to say.

2:11:33

John, have you got any questions at the moment?

2:11:35

We've got a couple of minutes.

2:11:36

I think we have got one from from Alison at Napier who asks how do you decide on the republish split in in your Tasmania in terms of how much you charge because obviously in the UK that split does affect the amount of VAT that gets charged on that agreement.

2:11:56

Do you know how how that split is determined?

2:11:59

I'm not in much detail because I'm not one of our finance colleagues that help with that split.

2:12:09

I know that and I know I can't talk too much about it.

2:12:13

I know that we've worked together also with just to ease the burden here a bit in terms of the the VAT allocations, but I'm afraid I'm not able to comment on how this split is determined.

2:12:28

Thank you, Melanie.

2:12:29

And I thought that would be a different area where we can pick that up offline.

2:12:35

Yeah.

2:12:36

And Chantelle Newman asks how does cost transparency fit into the Open Access strategy?

2:12:44

And are widely considering things like a breakdown of APC costs, which again, might be on the on the finance side, Yes, but it's also something actually that my team also, yeah, explore, yeah, has experimented with.

2:13:03

Because in terms of cost transparency, we tried to follow the model that Coalition has developed a couple of years ago, the Journal comparison service, where we provided breakdowns on a journal level.

2:13:19

Some of the feedback we received and that was also the reason why we decided to not continue in that programme was that especially for institutions and consortia, the percentages split on a journal basis don't really help assess TA offerings.

2:13:38

So I think this is really something where we are also trying to provide more transparency.

2:13:45

And also in the future, I think want to work more closely together with the local communities to fully understand like what transparency really means, like what kind of level of transparency you would like to see.

2:13:58

And we can actually, from a publisher perspective, we can agree to.

2:14:08

Lovely.

2:14:08

Thank you.

2:14:08

We've got no more questions from attendees at the moment.

2:14:12

I just wanted to ask about, I won't keep you too long.

2:14:15

I just wanted to ask about a lot of the examples you've been talking about being on the sciences side,

the SDM side, obviously on the on the humanities side, different models and different outputs in terms of monographs presumably that's a whole different challenge and and different models that while we are working on and and providing.

2:14:39

Yeah, yeah.

2:14:40

So it's it's really a a real challenge.

2:14:42

I mean we have compared to our STM portfolio, we have a a smaller portfolio of social sciences and humanities titles.

2:14:54

It's a little over 500 journals at the moment.

2:14:59

But here we are also really facing issues when for example, we do the annual review of which journals we want to flip each year.

2:15:09

Because here we are really risking to destabilise the the journals or some of the journals if they wanted to move to a fully away business model.

2:15:21

So I think here, especially for the humanities and social sciences, we probably we also in the future need to yeah, experiment a bit more with alternative models, whether it will be Diamond Away or other models.

2:15:36

I think really for the social sciences and humanities and really not only speaking for Wiley, I think really for the whole ecosystem, I think we haven't found the right solutions yet to make sure that really, for example, these journals, I can't talk too much about monographs because that doesn't sit in my team, but we also have to make sure that these journals can thrive in an open future.

2:16:08

Thank you, thank you.

2:16:09

Sorry, sorry.

2:16:10

We've got a fantastic question from that, Anna.

2:16:12

We'd like to take that offline, so hold on the fine.

2:16:15

Please.

2:16:16

Please feel free to to send me questions offline.

2:16:18

I'm happy to answer them.

2:16:20

Thank you.

2:16:20

Thank you again for the invitation.

2:16:22

Thank, thank you very much.

2:16:23

It's really, really interesting.

2:16:25

OK, so our final presenter today is Dominic Mitchell from Dowage, who has over 25 years experience working with the publisher and library communities.

2:16:33

He's responsible for providing strategic oversights of Dowage's platform, major projects and ensuring that the infrastructure and projects remain aligned with the organisation mission, values and long term strategic goals.

2:16:45

He's presenting on the discovery of Open Access resources.

2:16:47

Welcome at Dominic.

2:16:50

Dominic, sorry, thank you very much.

2:16:56

Thank you.

2:16:58

It's great to be here and I am delighted to be part of this fantastic event today.

2:17:05

Yes, I'm going to talk a little bit about sort of Open Access and the discovery of Open Access resources from DOAJ perspective.

2:17:18

I'm going to 1st give a little bit of background about DOAJ on the off chance that some people don't know who we are, and then paint a little bit of a picture about the, the, the way that journals are indexed and also how the all important metadata is created.

2:17:39

And actually the focus of my presentation today is, is really around open metadata.

2:17:44

So I'll be digging into a couple of, I've borrowed some slides from a couple of colleagues and I'm going to really dig into some strategies for maximising the dissemination of Open Access content, which is from indexes like and journals to, you know, libraries and discovery systems around the world.

2:18:05

And then at the end, just a a series of very small suggestions that I think that libraries can take to help the this dissemination of Open Access resources.

2:18:19

So about the directory of Open Access journals, We are one of the most important discovery services for pure Open Access journals and content in the world.

2:18:29

We're certainly one of the only ones that has such rigorous quality for pure Open Access journals.

2:18:38

We don't index hybrid and we never have done.

2:18:43

We've been around for 22 years.

2:18:45

So we are trusted by the community.

2:18:49

We're very lucky to hold a position where we're, we've almost become a sort of a foundation stone in building services, new services that can take advantage of new technologies on top of our metadata.

2:19:03

So we're certainly relied upon and we are well known globally.

2:19:11

We come, we were born out of the university library back in 2003 where our founder, Lars Bjornshauger, a Danish man, was working at a library in Sweden.

2:19:24

And after several iterations, just this year we became a fully registered non profit foundation in Denmark.

2:19:33

So we are now, so the DOAJ is run by the DOAJ foundation.

2:19:37

That doesn't make any difference to anyone using our services.

2:19:40

It in terms of what it does for us that are running DOAJ, it makes things a lot easier to be registered in back in Europe.

2:19:52

But also as a non profit, we finally got a, an official non profit status.

2:19:58

We are 100% virtual organisations.

2:20:00

So we don't have any offices anywhere.

2:20:04

And that is done as an attempt to help keep our costs down.

2:20:11

And I mean really we've been facing financial uncertainty since the since the day we launched, you know, we're 100% independent.

2:20:19

And all our support is given via donations and I, I'm really delighted that we have such huge and unwavering support from the universities and university libraries, particularly in the UK.

2:20:35

So I'm extremely grateful for that.

2:20:37

73% of our donations in 2025 came from academic organisations like those that you are working at, but also research funders and research centres, and 27% came from other contributors.

2:20:54

And that includes our publishers.

2:20:56

And DOJ wouldn't be anything without the publishers because it's the publishers or the journal managers and the editors that submit their journals for indexing.

2:21:06

And we've got 60 university libraries from the UK via JISK.

2:21:11

And there's always room for more.

2:21:13

So if you're not sure if your library is supporting us, then do please to get in touch after today's event.

2:21:23

Last year, we did a really important survey when we went out and we spoke to users of DOAJ and that was deliberately sort of vague.

2:21:33

We wanted to talk to all the different stakeholder groups.

2:21:36

And we discovered very quickly that DOAJ is used as a primary source of Open Access articles, especially in the low in low middle income countries.

2:21:45

And that is that they come to us to find Open Access content.

2:21:49

So what rather than going through a commercial and paid for discovery service, Perhaps not surprisingly, you know, in the low middle income countries and actually even today throughout Northern America and in some places in Europe, you know, financial uncertainty is a very long term everyday reality.

2:22:13

And it's it's great.

2:22:15

I think the DOJ is there to meet meet those needs.

2:22:19

We do see much of our referral traffic coming to us via discovery solutions and services and that's especially in developed economies.

2:22:28

So we get lots of referrals from EBSCO products and Proquest ex Libris, all of those usual services.

2:22:36

And equally our metadata is taken and then used to help funding decisions elsewhere.

2:22:42

And for example, it's our metadata is used in plan SS journal checker tool.

2:22:51

We are sort of for the community by the community and we have a global team.

2:22:56

We've got I think only two or three employees.

2:23:00

The rest of us are contractors and that's deliberate because it it keeps costs down.

2:23:06

We want as much of the money that you give to us to go into our core service and our core output.

2:23:14

And then we also have an amazing team of editorial volunteers and ambassadors that are really important for a global service.

2:23:25

The key services are of course reviewing applications for pure Open Access journals, but also maintaining the ever growing body of journals that we index already.

2:23:37

And our key output that really, as I mentioned earlier, powers so many other systems around the world, is our open metadata.

2:23:47

As of the end of November, we index 11.9 million articles and those are articles, article abstracts, abstract metadata that publishers have sent to us and that is from 22,252 journals.

2:24:02

Some of them have been in DOAJ since 2003, and we're adding new journals every every day.

2:24:10

We just found out that this year we will have received 9000 applications, which is the most applications that we've ever received.

2:24:19

And as testament to how global we are, we index journals from 140 countries and we cover 91 languages.

2:24:25

And that's really important because there are some indexing services that will only index you if you provide your content in English.

2:24:34

And so we see that many journals apply to DOAJ as a first step.

2:24:38

They will they will get themselves indexed in DOAJ and then they will start creating translated abstracts.

2:24:46

But we think it's really important that we honour that non-english language content.

2:24:53

Our vision is to build an equitable and diverse scholar ecosystem where trusted research can be accessed globally without barriers.

2:25:01

And I think that those barriers is what's so interesting, particularly for an event that has the the theme of financial uncertainty.

2:25:10

Of course, you know, finances are always a barrier.

2:25:14

They've always been a barrier to participation and they always will be.

2:25:18

But there are lots of other barriers that are faced everyday by the different journals, journal managers, editors that that we deal with.

2:25:26

Some of those are historical reasons, some of those are for reasons that are beyond their control, such as war or natural disasters.

2:25:35

And there is just traditionally a very large group of the scholarly ecosphere that has been marginalised for one reason or another.

2:25:45

And we also see, of course, you know, business models, we see very high APCs that exclude whole sections of, of the community or even closed technology systems.

2:25:56

And so we're just, we're, we're really conscious that DOAJ that we have to be as open as possible and we need to encourage participation as much as possible.

2:26:08

So I want to paint just give you a brief profile about DOAJ publishers.

2:26:14

I use that term.

2:26:15

They're not our publishers of course, but they're publishers that have their journals indexed in DOAJ and we range, we index a range of journals from all different sorts of publishing organisations.

2:26:27

We have some of the Super sized, we have all the Super sized commercial organisations in there and we go down to a very long tail of single non profit scholar LED journals.

2:26:38

In fact, if you look at the top 50 publishers in DOAJ, so the ones that have the most journals indexed in DOAJ, they only account for 24% of all the journals that we index.

2:26:49

And that figure always surprises me because I always feel it should be much higher.

2:26:54

But actually 49% of the journals in DOAJ are just one journal.

2:26:59

So there's one journal what we have an individual account for that journal and most of those are diamond journals.

2:27:06

So they have no fees, no APCs, no fees of any kind.

2:27:14

63% of all the journals in DOAJ charge no fees whatsoever.

2:27:18

And that's not just APCs, but it's any, any kind of fee.

2:27:21

It could be page charges, translation fees, colour charges, submission fees and even editing fees and all sorts of other things that that we have come across over time.

2:27:36

And actually when we ask our DOAJ publishers, you know, why do you want your journals in DOAJ, then, you know, five of the of the six most prominent reasons are really all about dissemination and visibility.

2:27:49

You know, they want to attract authors both domestically and globally.

2:27:53

They want to enhance the reputation of their journal domestically and globally.

2:27:58

They want to increase the discoverability of all this amazing content that they are, that they're working hard to put together in issues and, and to digitise and, and, and to turn to XML.

2:28:11

And they also know that being an Open Access journal indexed in Doha will get you onto certain, you know, approved lists.

2:28:20

So for example, we are on the government list in South Africa.

2:28:26

We also on special lists in Indonesia and in Norway and in Austria and many other countries around the world where DOJ indexing really counts for something.

2:28:40

And you know, we we index journals that you won't find anywhere else.

2:28:46

And this pie chart makes me very proud to be working for Doha, particularly because one of our focus areas this year has been trying to index more journals from the African continent.

2:29:01

And I'm delighted to say that we went up from about 530 journals to 750 in 2025.

2:29:07

And that's because of targeted campaigns throughout Africa to try and get more journals indexed.

2:29:12

But you won't find any of those journals in Scopus or Web of Science.

2:29:15

And that's because they have different restrictions and different requirements.

2:29:19

But I think this really goes to show how important DOA J is for the dissemination of Open Access resources.

2:29:28

And, you know, once the journals are in DOAJ, then they can, if they wish, give us their article metadata.

2:29:38

And I think that if Open Access is the door to equitable knowledge distribution, then open metadata is the master key that ensures universal entry.

2:29:49

And I think that open metadata is probably one of the greatest things about DOAJ and certainly one of the greatest things about Open Access and open science.

2:29:59

In fact, DOAJ has become a signatory of the Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information.

2:30:06

And I've borrowed the next couple of slides from Bianca Kramer, who is leading the Barcelona Declaration.

2:30:14

DOAJ is also a task force leader on supporting poorly resourced publishers and helping them understand and create open metadata.

2:30:26

And I would really recommend that if you haven't checked out the Barcelona Declaration yet, that you go and take a look at it because they have these 4 commitments that I think really underpin everything that DOAJ does.

2:30:40

And really, in times of financial uncertainty, when you know when you want to, when closed systems cost money, you know this, these 4 commitments are really ensuring greater dissemination.

2:30:54

And it's about supporting openness and making it the default.

2:30:58

It's about supporting services and systems that enable open research information and supporting open infrastructures, which of course, the OAJ is 1, but also just supporting that collective action to accelerate transition to openness and research information.

2:31:17

And that happens at 3 levels.

2:31:19

And I think that these 3 levels are very important because actually DOAJ, if we focus down on the way on the work that DOAJ does to support the journals, then our support also needs to happen at these 3 levels.

2:31:32

You know, and it's about supporting technical changes and operational changes and also strategic changes.

2:31:39

And I think that that's, this is one of the great things about the Barcelona Declaration is that they're really working on all levels to try and push the importance of open metadata.

2:31:53

So if open metadata is the the sort of universal key, then what does DOAJ do to maximise the dissemination of that metadata?

2:32:04

Well, I think one of the biggest things that we that we have to do and that we that we are, have been doing for a long time is to lower that barrier to, to participation.

2:32:15

And we do that in several ways.

2:32:18

And one of them, of course, is that we try and keep the technical barriers as low as possible.

2:32:22

You know, there are real hurdles in some of the publishing technologies that we perhaps take for granted in, in, in the parts of the world that we're in that may not be so obvious in other parts of the world.

2:32:35

We keep requirements to a minimum.

2:32:37

So we have in our XSD, for example, 19 different elements, 19 different metadata fields and only four of those are are required.

2:32:46

And we've done that on purpose.

2:32:49

We provide multiple routes so that publishers, journal managers, editors can give us metadata in different ways and also in different formats.

2:32:58

And importantly, we don't have any requirements around how frequently they, the, that metadata should be provided to us.

2:33:06

And equally important, we're on hand to offer advice and to help with sort of good practise.

2:33:13

And we are always troubleshooting with metadata, helping publishers understand even some of the, the, you know, the, the basic differences about, you know, that's why one flavour of XML may not work with, with DOAJ.

2:33:29

And actually there are, there are other things that, that I think DOAJ can do in this area that we haven't quite sort of got around to yet.

2:33:39

And yet despite all of our efforts, we still see that around 4000 journals in DOAJ have never loaded any articles to us.

2:33:49

And we know that there are still barriers that we need to try and remove.

2:33:55

And actually, you can even see that as we get up to 6000 journals, 27% of the journals indexed, you know, maybe some journals have started to provide us article metadata and then they've stopped for whatever reason, or they've sent one test issue or two test issues.

2:34:10

And then, you know, sort of other things have, have come in the way and they have never sent us their articles again.

2:34:16

And I, I did a quick search in our database and I found that 34% of the journals, so 7565 journals haven't sent us any article metadata in the last 24 months.

2:34:28

And that's quite a huge number.

2:34:31

Now for social science and humanities, that's maybe not that surprising.

2:34:35

Some of the social science and humanities journals that we deal with only publish every two years, in which case you know that that number wouldn't be a problem.

2:34:45

But I've, I know that that goes over many journals from other disciplines as well.

2:34:50

So we have work to do, so we follow 3 fundamental principles when it comes to maximising dissemination.

2:35:02

We want to make sure that the metadata that we that we provide openly available and licenced metadata in multiple formats so that it can be consumed as much as possible.

2:35:14

We make sure that the metadata adheres to standards both when it's being sent to us, but also when we output it.

2:35:22

And we also partner with aggregators and discovery services and libraries and other indexes.

2:35:30

So taking a look at each of those in turn, we have applied ACC 0 waiver to our article metadata and just this year to our journal metadata as well.

2:35:42

Even though the journal metadata is a unique data set to Doha, we want it to be used and reused as much as possible.

2:35:51

And I just copied a little bit of text there from the CC0 waiver page on the Creative Commons website.

2:35:58

But it's really, it really sort of points to our global work is that, you know, that CC0 waiver with all the complexities around copyright and licencing, that is really the way that we can make sure that this metadata can be used globally.

2:36:15

And then we also make sure that we providing these multiple formats.

2:36:18

You know, we have an API, we have an XML upload and we have an Atom feed, which surprisingly our Atom feed still gets an awful lot of traffic.

2:36:28

I thought the days of RSS readers were over, but apparently not.

2:36:34

And we have our search UI, our website is being used, people looking for journals and articles.

2:36:40

We have a downloadable CSV also used a lot, people downloading all of our journals and feeding those into knowledge bases, for example.

2:36:49

And we have public data dumps and we have widgets to just increase that integration.

2:36:56

And then for the second principle, then of course, we adhere to standards and the API uses Jason and we have open documentation to help people do that.

2:37:08

And we see many of our larger publishing partners using connecting to our API to send us article metadata, but also to send us updates to journals that are indexed and also send us applications for new journals.

2:37:23

We have an OAIPMH feed, which is probably our most used endpoint, and that is mapped to Dublin Core.

2:37:31

The Atom feed of course, uses RSS and publishers can send us three different types of XML.

2:37:38

We've got our own proprietary DTD and we have two flavours of Crossref XML.

2:37:45

Because we know that many of our publishers send their their metadata to Crossref and Crossref provide a very easy output.

2:37:53

So if they want to take that metadata from Crossref and give it to us and then they can.

2:38:00

And finally, and I think probably the most sort of diverse and the exciting area is the way that we partner with lots of different discovery services, different types of discovery services.

2:38:14

We've got some of the sort of larger ones at the top there.

2:38:18

And you're probably not surprised to see some of these names, but we also partner with individual university discovery systems and library portals.

2:38:29

And we also have started to see, of course, lots of interest from large language processing models.

2:38:38

Interestingly, because we have a public data dump service and we asked people to tell us what they want to do with the metadata before we give it to them if, if they want to, it's all open.

2:38:50

And we, the number of requests that we get from university and PhD students, research and projects to use our metadata in large language processing models is, is huge.

2:39:04

And of course that's not surprising, but I just think it's really interesting that we're getting so much attention in that area.

2:39:12

And we also partner directly with different journal platforms all over the world.

2:39:16

So we know that, for example, Lat Lat Index and Red Alic use our DOA J indexing as a criteria.

2:39:25

And Cielo looks at the journals that we've indexed before they index their own.

2:39:30

And we work with Agile and lots of other platforms as well.

2:39:36

Of course, we work with search engines.

2:39:38

Google, of course, dominates everything.

2:39:40

And we do, we work very hard to make sure that all of the individual articles are indexed in Google.

2:39:46

We see loads of traffic now from Bing, which is perhaps surprising, but also some of the smaller indexes or the regional ones.

2:39:53

So DuckDuckGo, Baidu, and also Yandex, which is dominant in Russia.

2:40:02

I've spoken about the national funding sort of levels or the national funder tools.

2:40:06

But then lots and lots of open sort of journal metadata and, and our article metadata is used in lots of different online tools.

2:40:16

So whether it's a journal recommender, A recommender, or it's a, you know, sort of a tool that helps you find out where to publish.

2:40:22

And I've listed a few of them here that are at least the ones that I'm aware of.

2:40:27

So our metadata is really sort of sucked up into lots of different places.

2:40:31

And this is a fantastic service for the journals that get indexed with us.

2:40:38

But of course we're in a new world of discovery.

2:40:40

And Melanie referred to that earlier and the and the the previous speakers.

2:40:47

And I think for us, we're seeing this in two ways.

2:40:51

We're seeing new and emerging markets that are starting to sort of come online more when it comes to producing scholarly material.

2:40:59

The Philippines is our very recent one where we're starting to see a huge surge in traffic.

2:41:05

We've been experiencing masses of journal applications from Indonesia for several years.

2:41:11

Now.

2:41:12

We see India is back in in the game and starting to send more journal applications.

2:41:19

Of course, India was tainted for a long time as being the centre of predatory publishing.

2:41:24

And I think that that is now slowly changing.

2:41:27

But this is all sort of new ways that where we're seeing new traffic coming to DOAJ.

2:41:32

And then there's the, the good old AI, of course, which for us has a real effect in that we are, we we

need to develop our platform to support this extra traffic from these AI bots and that's causing us performance issues and we have to and we and real costs to throw up new service, new servers.

2:41:54

And I don't think that is an issue unique to us.

2:41:58

That's the same for any open resource.

2:42:02

And this slide just shows you some of the sort of the ways that the AI bots are finding DOAJ, they're finding our open end points and they are hitting them.

2:42:13

And here we see this is to A10 fold of 10, sorry, this is to a this is 10 times our normal amount of traffic that that we've got.

2:42:21

And it was all from AI bots.

2:42:23

They actually they actually hit our article export function.

2:42:27

We had to take that offline temporarily.

2:42:32

But the other thing that we're seeing, of course, is that, you know, there are real new sources of traffic coming to DOAJ.

2:42:38

So ChatGPT is referring true, you know, people doing searches, people are starting in, in AI models instead of perhaps starting in Google, or they're in Google and they're using the built in AI feature.

2:42:52

And they are being referred to DOAJ because we've allowed these these organisations to take our metadata, which is fantastic, I think for many of the journals in DOAJ.

2:43:08

But of course, what it does mean is that we're just one open resource in a whole, in a whole sort of sphere of many, many different open resources.

2:43:18

And so we try as far as possible to partner, to actively partner with these sort of vacuum cleaners that are just sucking up open content.

2:43:28

And one of the ones that we have a very constructive partnership with is our research.

2:43:33

Our research is the organisation behind Openalx that I'm sure many of you are very familiar with and they are doing this aggregation I think very successfully.

2:43:46

You know, they are really sort of, they're adding new tools, they're, they're using DOAJ JS quality philtres as much as possible so that it's not just a big sort of bag of, of, of everything.

2:44:00

And we work with them on lots of different levels.

2:44:03

They, they can offer an API which DOAJ could never offer.

2:44:06

So, you know, it's, it's, it's in our interest to work with them and we have a really good partnership with them.

2:44:12

And actually, I borrowed some slides from someone at our research, Kyle Deans.

2:44:18

I think if you, if you know him, we did a presentation together, I think it was at the beginning of this year and he was really highlighting how you know, unpayable.

2:44:30

That was the name of the of the sort of first product sort of hoovered up all of this content, even green Open Access content to make sure that that was discoverable, all that fantastic stuff that you have in institutional repositories.

2:44:44

And he was also sort of showing about the different sources that they are able to call.

2:44:50

And this is where I think that Openalx is absolutely incredible.

2:44:53

They have two.

2:44:54

I mean, these slides are fairly old, old now, but back then they had 261,000 sources where they took content from.

2:45:02

And that is from individual publishers like Wiley, I'm sure, but all the way up to, you know, as sort of open resources like DOAJ.

2:45:11

And they're really just pulling it all together.

2:45:14

And because when you get that much content, you need to then apply views onto it to make sure that people can use it.

2:45:19

And they're doing that really, really well and slightly similar to the pie chart that I showed you earlier where I showed how DOAJ indexing journals that you won't find in Web Science or Scopus.

2:45:33

Kyle also presented this sort of bar chart from some research that they did where you can just see that there are 25,000 works in Open Annex that that weren't present in Web Science or Scopus.

2:45:51

So the power of this open body of content, I think is really sort of talking through here.

2:46:01

So finally, I just wanted to take a little look at some of the steps that I think that libraries can take.

2:46:10

And, and I'm very conscious that the theme is financial uncertainty.

2:46:16

So I don't think any of these have a cost with them.

2:46:21

But of course, I know that libraries are already very busy and librarians are also are extremely busy.

2:46:29

But you know, I think that if we can focus on financial uncertainty as something as a, as, as a motivator for change.

2:46:38

And I think that we need to also emphasise the importance of open metadata and perhaps trying to raise awareness around what the Barcelona declaration is trying to do.

2:46:49

I think that there is support here for open infrastructures.

2:46:53

And I don't just, and I don't mean financial support, but I mean so raising awareness around sustainability issues that open infrastructures face, but also usage and sort of pointing your library users to open sources of Open Access content.

2:47:14

And if you work with commercial discovery services, then I would plead with you to remind them that they need to regularly update their copy of their open metadata that they hold.

2:47:27

I don't believe this is such an issue now, but certainly about five years ago I was receiving reports from some university libraries, particularly in the United States actually where they, their metadata, DOA J metadata was several months out of date, which does cause problems given that our metadata updates every hour.

2:47:49

And then equally, if your library has a publishing programme, then I think that if you can sort of try and remind the people working for those journals the importance of good metadata and open metadata, then I think that that is extremely important.

2:48:09

But also to encourage indexing not only in DOA J but in different sort of sources as well.

2:48:19

And that is all I wanted to share with you today.

2:48:23

I just want to say a huge thanks to Bianca and Kyle for allowing me to use their slides.

2:48:30

And if there aren't any questions then I'd be happy to take them now or afterwards.

2:48:35

I've lost track of time, so thank you.

2:48:38

Thank you, Dominic.

2:48:38

It's just just gone 1.

2:48:40

So that's it.

2:48:40

Perfect timing.

2:48:41

So John, have we got any questions?

2:48:45

We haven't at the moment.

2:48:46

I'm aware it's coming up to, to lunchtime.

2:48:48

So I was just wondering, will we use Dohaj heavily at York as a sort of batch of, of quality to, to ensure we're, we're paying Apcs in, in, in open journals.

2:49:07

There are occasions where, where we think there's a, a journal that should be in there.

2:49:12

There isn't.

2:49:14

How, how can, how can we ensure that the journals that should be in there are in there and increase the number of journals that are listed in Dohage?

2:49:25

That's an, that's an excellent question.

2:49:29

We used to allow people to suggest journals to be indexed, but we had to stop that because we would, we were going ahead and indexing journals and then we would get this sort of confused e-mail from the editor saying I didn't know my journal was in the OAJ.

2:49:45

So I think it really it's about contacting the journals and asking them to submit an application or, or equally trying to, if it's a diamond journal, then have them connect to some of the recent diamond initiatives like the Diamond Discovery Hub, which is an output of the recent Craft and Yamas projects.

2:50:07

Because we're going to be sort of partnering with those with with that very closely.

2:50:12

Or you can ask them to sort of get in touch with DOA J directly and ask our help desk if they have any have any problems.

2:50:21

But I think it's, I mean, we do not index every Open Access journal.

2:50:25

And we know that there are some fairly large and hefty Open Access journals that are not in DOAJ.

2:50:31

And that's for a mixture of reasons.

2:50:33

Sometimes they don't want to be in DOAJ and we of course can't sort of change that.

2:50:38

And sometimes it's they don't know that DOAJ exists or they wouldn't pass our basic criteria, one of our two of our criteria around copyright and licencing.

2:50:50

And I think that copyright licencing is notoriously complicated and it's hard to change if you want to change your policy.

2:51:00

But we're always happy to help.

2:51:01

We're always happy to have a conversation with those journals.

2:51:07

Thank you.

2:51:07

That, that, that's heartening to know the, the steps we can take if we think there's something that that might want to be in there that isn't so.

2:51:14

Yeah, that's, that's really positive.

2:51:17

There's no questions from audience at the moment.

2:51:21

I just wanted to ask probably quite a dumb question about AI going back to AI again, which is a running theme.

2:51:27

The bots scraping DOAJ, are they scraping for, for a purpose or is it, is it just that they're set off and they they scrape what is out there?

2:51:36

Or is it a mix of of scraping?

2:51:41

I think it's, it's because we're an open resource and they are, they're just hungry for all content because they want to be the best informed and have the most content.

2:51:53

I mean, it's, it's really like a sort of like a, it's like a battlefield.

2:51:58

I mean, it's, it's, it is relentless.

2:52:01

And of course, there has already been cases where AI tools have been fallen foul of copyright law or of, you know, licencing issues.

2:52:12

And as an open resource, then I think we just have to expect that we are going to get an awful lot of attention.

2:52:20

And I they, they are, they're, they're busy sort of building up and up and up and just trying to consume as much content or metadata as they can.

2:52:28

And then does that take resource from DOAJ to, to combat?

2:52:35

I know with our, with our institutional repository, the slowdown caused by bots, we've had to do some work to, to, to battle that to make the, the system usable.

2:52:46

Is that the same for DOAJ?

2:52:48

It really isn't.

2:52:49

It's, I think it's, I think it's, it's incredibly unjust.

2:52:54

I'm trying not to get too indignant, but you know, we are spending money that's been donated to us from universities like yourselves to review applications and we are having to push that off to to, you know, spend more money on servers because these bots don't follow.

2:53:10

We have very generous guidelines for bots and we will not turn anyone away, but we expect them to behave well and they don't, which isn't surprising.

2:53:21

So we're spending real money and you know, it's like 5 an extra \$5000 a year for us to maintain 2 new servers just so that we can keep on top of the bot traffic.

2:53:38

Thank you.

2:53:39

That, that, that's really interesting.

2:53:40

We don't have any more questions, but I think that's a nice one to end on to, to tie it to the the theme of financial uncertainty, the reminder that this does have a yeah, a real cost for organisation.

2:53:49

So thank you, Dominic.

2:53:50

Thanks, John.

2:53:51

Thanks, Dom, that was really interesting.

2:53:53

Thank you.

2:53:54

Yeah.

2:53:55

OK, so so that's it for today.

2:53:57

So first day of the seminar's over.

2:54:00

I hope you agree.

2:54:01

The presentations were have been thought provoking, insightful and interesting.

2:54:05

Fantastic from everybody.

2:54:07

So thanks to all the speakers, organisers and all attendees and see you all tomorrow for day 2.

2:54:13

Bye.