Bloomsbury Open Collections

A collective-action OA model for monographs

Ros Pyne, Global Director, Research and Open Access, Bloomsbury Academic
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Bloomsbury Open Collections

• Collective-action S2O-type model for scholarly books
• Pilot (2023): 20 frontlist monographs in African Studies and International Development
• No author fees
• Private benefit for participating libraries:
  • one year’s access to 194 related backlist titles
  • guaranteed access to all 20 titles in the event some didn’t publish OA
About our African Studies and International Development titles

• Includes Zed imprint
• Leading sources of critical, de-colonial, and anticolonial approaches to social sciences research
• Foreground and promote research on and from the Global South
Our aims

- Provide equitable alternative to BPC (OA fee) model
- Ensure a more diverse range of authors benefit from OA
- Support authors from Global South
- Increase local access to region-specific content
- Support decolonialisation of the curriculum
- Publish more books OA
Outcomes

• Achieved 50% of our funding target
• 10 titles in African Studies and International Development
  OA will publish OA at no cost to the authors
• Prioritised authors based in the Global South
What did we learn?

Authors

- Mostly very enthusiastic
- Some were less familiar with OA

We are delighted to read about your initiative and could not agree more with you regarding the need to publish more books open access if we want for academia to become more inclusive and accessible.

Tanja Kleibl, Robel Afeworki Abay, Anna-Lisa Klages and Sara Rodríguez Lugo
(editors of Decolonizing Social Work, publishing Sept 2024)
What did we learn?
Institutions

- Focus on increasing equity in OA publishing was appreciated
- Subject relevance is key
- Readiness to engage with S2O for books varied
- Consortia played an important role

Support for scholarship produced by diverse researchers located in different areas of the world enriches our perspective and is aligned with our strategic mission to develop more inclusive collections.

Boaz Nadav-Manes, University Librarian at Lehigh University
What did we learn?

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• Focus on a more equitable approach to OA was celebrated internally
• Uncertainty about whether books would publish OA was challenging
• Offering multiple models adds cost and complexity
• Requires transformation – people, culture, systems
What happens next?

• Committing to the Bloomsbury Open Collections model
• Continued focus on:
  • authors from underrepresented groups
  • subjects where there is an ethical imperative to increase access to the research
Questions?

For more information: Bloomsbury.com/bloomsbury-open-collections

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