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# Diamond Open Access Publishing in the Library

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## Summary

- Background to our library-based hosting service
- Information about launching a new book hosting service
- Details of recent rebrand
- Plans for the future



## Background

- We launched a journal hosting service using Open Journal Systems (OJS) in 2009
- Not a publisher (no responsibility for peer review, production, etc.)
- Focus on hosting, support and providing publishing expertise
- Service is provided free of charge to staff and students of the University of Edinburgh
- Shared service with other Scottish institutions. Small charges which only serve to cover costs. Don't make profit
- Service board
- One full-time member of staff and one day a week of tech support



## Getting Started

- Led by academic demand
- Another step in the library's commitment to investing in Open Access
- Rising costs of e-textbooks
- Academics can tailor textbooks to their own courses at no cost to the students
- Increasing online-based research
- Decided to use Open Monograph Press (OMP)
- Created framework using existing one in place for journals

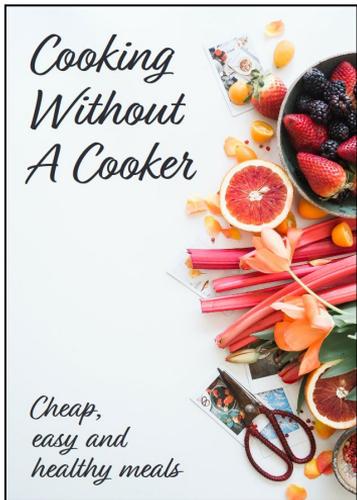


## Book Hosting Service

- We offer:
  - Books hosting platform, ongoing technical support, preservation
  - Training, documentation, advice, policies
  - Initial set-up, limited customisation
  - ISBNs, chapter DOIs, metadata delivery
  - Indexing support e.g. DOAB
  - Annual reporting
- Fully Open Access, Creative Commons licences, no APCs
- Diamond open access = more inclusive publishing

## ***Fundamentals of Music Theory*** →

A collaborative e-textbook project by staff and students of the Reid School of Music and the University's Open Educational Resources (OER) service. Aims to create an innovative e-textbook by repurposing existing content from the Fundamentals of Music Theory course.



## ← ***Cooking Without A Cooker***

Provides recipes based on what cooking appliances the user has available to them. This may be especially helpful for people who are living in a hostel, or temporary accommodation which doesn't have a wide range of cooking facilities. Created by students.



## Rebrand



Edinburgh Diamond

Library-supported Open Access Books



Edinburgh Diamond

Library-supported Open Access Journals





## Roadblocks

- Timeline much longer than anticipated.
- Incentivising academics to use a hosting service and not a publisher
  - “The University of Edinburgh’s journal hosting platform is an ambitious and well-supported facility that provides vital infrastructure for editors who wish to **embrace the benefits of fully open access publishing.**”
  - “Our relationship with the hosting service has really been **a collaboration where we’ve benefitted** from their expertise, knowledge and experience.”
  - “Moving to OJS and OMP significantly **increased the visibility and usage** of our online publications. Readers are happy with the interface, which was customised to meet our needs, and we save time on processes that are automated through various plugins. Most importantly, having a local hosting system with local support is extremely helpful.”
- Open Access: quality assurance/peer review



## Promoting the Service

- Emailed journal editors and existing contacts to inform them of upcoming book hosting service, in case they have suitable projects
- Liaised with Academic Support Librarians who recommended the service
- Already offer ISBNs
- Web pages
- Word of mouth



## Feedback from Service Users (1/2)

- “We chose the University’s new open ebook platform for **convenience** and because we believe the support offered by the **service will be valuable** in helping us to create our ebook.”
- “The new ebook platform will represent another step in the University’s **commitment to open knowledge, open access and open education** and will help the University achieve its vision to share our knowledge and **make the world a better place.**”
- “This service is **particularly timely** as the University is facing rapidly increasing etextbook costs as it moves away from print materials in response to the COVID pandemic and longer-term trends in academic publishing.”



## Feedback from Service Users (2/2)

- “I hope this service will be a valuable first step in enabling the University to shift towards the use of open textbooks, **benefiting the University** by reducing textbook costs, **benefiting staff** by providing access to easily customisable open textbooks, and **benefiting students** by providing free, high quality digital learning materials.”
- “OMP looked very **flexible** and I like the way it can accommodate a wide range of formats. The downside is having to generate all the **different formats manually**, which may be a barrier to some colleagues using the service.”



## The Future

- Continue to develop service strategy and policies
- Promote and grow the service
- Indexing e.g. DOAB
- Seek further opportunities for involvement in teaching and learning
- Gather more feedback and grow service according to user need



# THANK YOU

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