

Choosing Open Access for Books: Author Agency and the Open Book Collective

Dr. Judith Fathallah, Lancaster University, Coventry
University, Open Book Collective

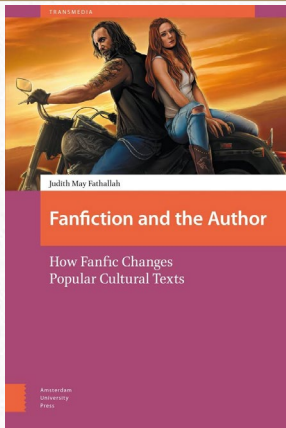
www.openbookcollective.org

judith@openbookcollective.org

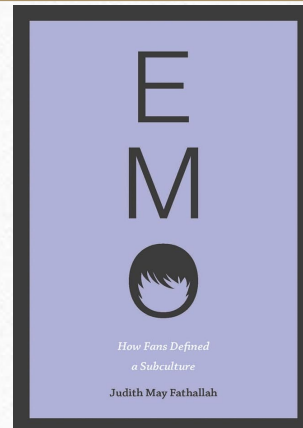
My argument

- In discussions of transition to an equitable, sustainable future for OA publishing, author choices are often neglected
- We as the authors of academic works and textbooks have a role to play and a degree of agency in our publishing choices
- Legacy publishing strategies no longer produce the rewards they did for earlier academic cohorts: more of us are precariously and tenuously employed: see UCU 2021; 2023: Research staff are **68% FTC!!**
- Authors should be working with librarians to **enable a just transition** both in their **publishing choices** and in their choice of the **works they choose to request and assign, to create a landscape that is more sustainable for everyone**

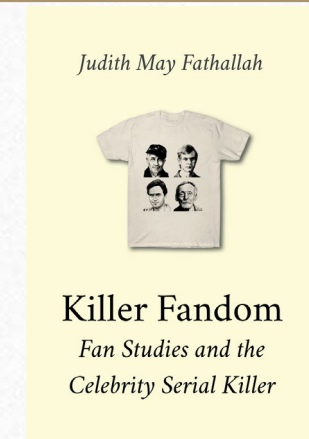
My journey with book publishing



2017, Amsterdam
University Press,
made OA by
Knowledge
Unlatched



2020, Iowa University
Press, no OA edition



2023,
mediastudies.press,
Diamond OA

Why I chose OA, and mediastudies.press

[BOOK] **Fanfiction and the author: How fanfic changes popular cultural texts**

[J Fathallah](#) - 2017 - [library.oapen.org](#)

... , and this is as true of contemporary **fanfic authors** today as it was for the first published women **authors**. Today, women who write **fanfiction** write under threat of legal prosecution (p. 72). ...

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[BOOK] **Emo: How fans defined a subculture**

[JM Fathallah](#) - 2020 - [books.google.com](#)

... shaped the definition of **emo**, with significant implications ... **emo** is, **Fathallah** walks superfans and newcomers through the culture surrounding the genre's major bands, including the **emo** ...

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About mediastudies.press

The logo for mediastudies.press is contained within a thin black rectangular border. The text 'media' is in a dark red color, 'studies.' is in black, and 'press' is in the same dark red color. Below the text, there is a horizontal line that is dark red on the left and black on the right.

media
studies.
press

mediastudies.press is an open-access publisher for the media, communication, and film studies fields. Launched in 2019, the press is nonprofit and scholar-led. We publish living works, with iterative updates stitched into our process. And we encourage multi-modal submissions that reflect the mediated environments our authors study.

Publishing with mediastudies.press is free on principle. Our aim is to demonstrate, on a small scale, an open-access publishing model supported by libraries rather than author fees. Open access for readers, we believe, should not be traded for new barriers to authorship.

mediastudies.press publishes singles—standalone works like monographs—as well as serials. All our published works are rigorously peer-reviewed, and receive unusual editorial attention. We prioritize discoverability through careful metadata, library records, and directory listings. As a scholar-run operation, our publicity outreach is uncommonly informed by the fields' intellectual contours.

If these values and commitments match your own, please consider publishing with us. The first step is to reach out.

Jefferson Pooley

Affiliated Professor, Media & Communication

Media & Communication

484-664-3059

jeffersonpooley@muhlenberg.edu

Education

- Ph.D., M.Phil., M.A., Columbia University
- A.B., Harvard College

Teaching Interests

I teach courses that encourage students to reflect on what it means to live in a media-saturated society. My aim is to make the familiar strange—to help students see how little the social world they inhabit resembles ways of living from even two centuries ago. I do not disguise my own curiosity and excitement when a class and I, together, work to make sense of social media, algorithms, celebrity culture or whatever facet of media we take up. It's the process of curiosity-driven inquiry, and not really any particular material, that I consider



Press/student/broader interest in my work (Book launch, New Books Network, talk at Millersville University, use in syllabi)

The implicit contract of prestige publishing is broken anyway: there is no reward for publishing with “big names”. Replace prestige with 'soundness':

How is research chosen for publication by the press? What are its editorial and production standards? How does it engage with new developments in book production? How widely are its works disseminated, and is its business model sustained by hefty charges levied on authors or readers?*

Innovative publisher, high production values meeting OBC membership standards, more likely to accept an unusual pitch, NO BPC! How?

*Lucy Barnes, "Is prestige a problem? Considering the usefulness of prestige in academic book publishing".
<http://doi.org/10.11647/OBP.0173.0114>

In conclusion

- There are varied, high quality, sustainable options for OA book publishing without BPCs
- If we believe in an equitable transition to Open Access, we need to exercise our power of choice regarding whom we choose to publish with
- The citation advantage and openness of our work is probably more personally beneficial anyway than the “prestige” of legacy publishers, which don’t result in permanent contracts anyway
- Authors should work with librarians to ensure library budgets are going to support the right publishers and the OA future we believe in.

Introducing the Open Book Collective



OpenBook
Collective

Kevin Sanders

Open Access Engagement lead, Open Book Collective

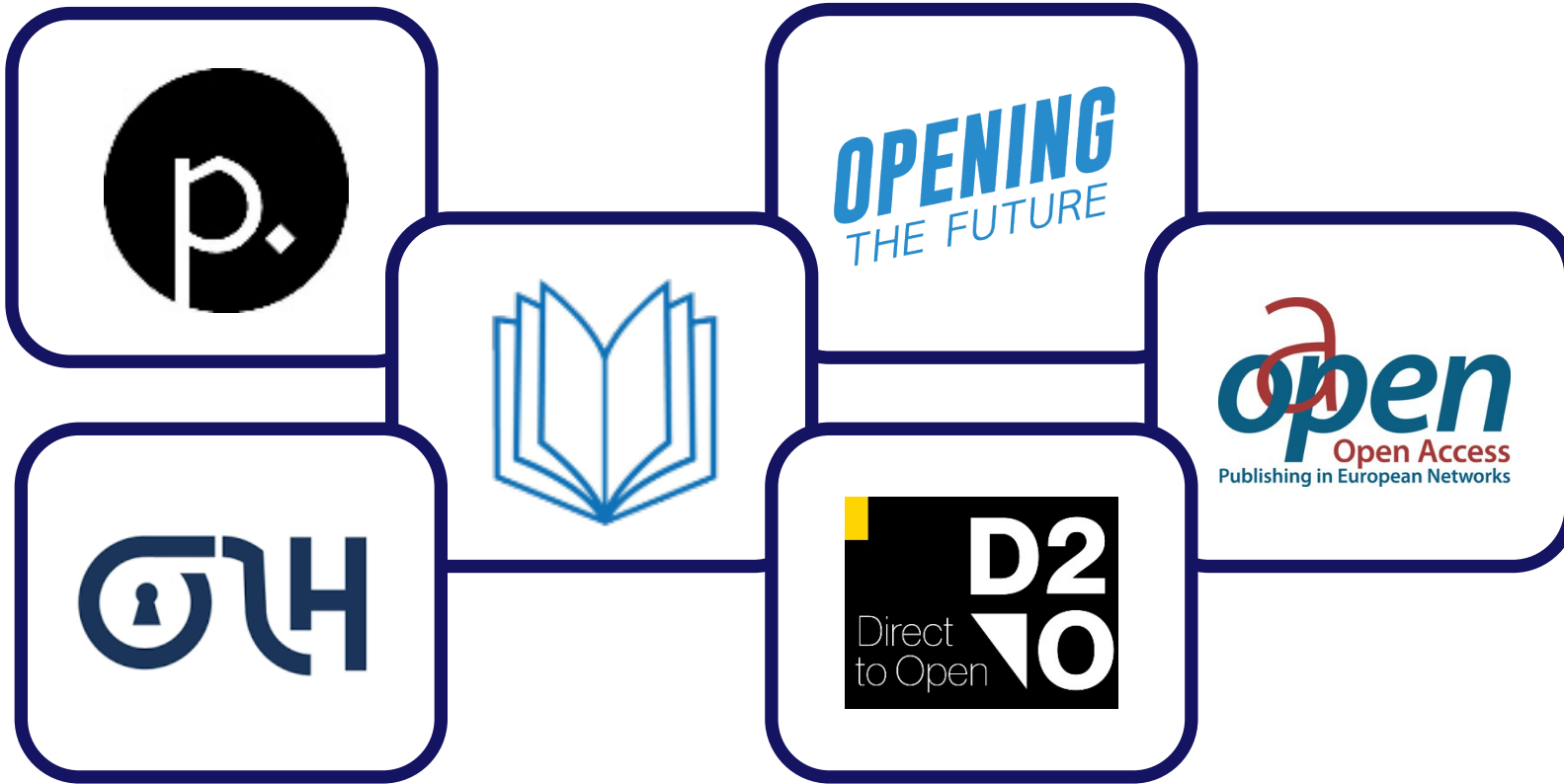
All slides CC BY

Open Book Futures
A copim community project

Open Book Futures is a Copim community project funded by



Builds on Diamond OA funding models



Securing sustainable funding via renewable support from dozens of universities



[Dashboard](#)

[What We Stand For](#)
[Catalogue](#)
[Support OA Initiatives](#)

Collective, Connected, Sustainable

We bring together publishers, publishing service providers, and scholarly libraries to secure the diversity and financial futures of open access book production and dissemination.

[Watch Video](#)



Prosperous OA Communities

Creating a space for publishers, service providers, libraries and others to learn, network and support each another



Sustainable Funding

Delivering new, more reliable revenue streams to small to medium-sized publishers, helping them move away



Robust Infrastructures

Delivering new financial resources to the vital infrastructures of OA book publishing and making it easier



Diversity in OA

Supporting a variety of approaches to OA publishing, while making OA for books more accessible to a wider range of

























Packages

Initiatives

At Open Book Collective we group Individual Supporter Programmes into what we call 'Packages'. This includes the Open Book Collective Package, which is made up of all the Supporter Programmes available on the platform. Alternatively, you can browse Individual Supporter Programmes by selecting the 'Initiatives' tab.

Pricing on the page below is based on your detected or set country: United Kingdom. [Change your country](#)

Open Book Collective Package

To support all our Members, including both Publishers and Publishing Service Providers, support the Open Book Collective package. This will provide crucial support to an international group of initiatives working to build a bibliodiverse future for ...

✓ Recommended
17 Initiatives
12 or 36 months contract
Pricing £7,560.00 to £25,050.00 per year

AM ARC DOAB LUP LSE
MP MSP MESO OBP PKP
PUNC SP THOT UoLP
UWP BB WHP

→ More Information

Add to Quote +

Independent Presses Package

This package comprises a group of small to medium-sized independent presses all of which are deeply committed to transitioning to open access.

Members of this package are all hybrid presses, publishing a mixture of closed and open content. Each has ...

4 Initiatives
12 or 36 months contract
Pricing £1,700.00 to £6,850.00 per year

ARC SP BB WHP

→ More Information

Add to Quote +

ScholarLed Package

This package comprises a consortium of six academic-led, non-profit, born open access book publishers, including African Minds, Mattering Press, meson press, Open Book Publishers, and punctum books. Members of the consortium each...

6 Initiatives
12 or 36 months contract
Pricing £1,850.00 to £4,600.00 per year

AM MP MSP MESO OBP
PUNC

→ More Information

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Our Publishing Service Providers develop the platforms and software solutions that enable open access books to be found, read and engaged with. By supporting this package, you will help sustain the often unseen but vital backbone of the open access ...

3 Initiatives
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Pricing £1,550.00 to £8,800.00 per year

DOAB PKP THOT

→ More Information

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University Press Package

An international group of University Presses deeply committed to open access, including publishers that are either 100% open access already or moving towards at least 75% open access on new books. By supporting this package, you will help sustain t...

4 Initiatives
12 or 36 months contract
Pricing £2,400.00 to £4,800.00 per year

LUP LSE UoLP UWP

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To support all our Members, including both Publishers and Publishing Service Providers, support the Open Book Collective package. This will provide crucial support to an international group of initiatives working to build a bibliodiverse future for ...

✓ Recommended
17 Initiatives
12 or 36 months contract
Pricing £7,560.00 to £25,050.00 per year

AM ARC DOAB LUP LSE
MP MSP MESO OBP PKP
PUNC SP THOT UoLP UWP
BB WHP

- All OBC members have their own individual, tiered annual Supporter Programme
- Pricing varies according to each organisation's needs
- Each Supporter Programme includes benefits to subscribers (e.g. annual reporting, usage data, discounts on hard copies)

Our fees for supporters: A case study



TIER	USD	AUD	CAD	EUR	GBP
Tier 1	950	1400	1260	800	700
Tier 2	725	1070	960	600	500
Tier 3	500	730	660	400	300

Subscription Fee for Tier 1 institution
(10,000+ FTE), for 12 months

£700

Supporter Processing Fee @ 5%

£35

Total payment request

£735

Making it easier to support multiple OA initiatives



A trusted collective



Non profit

A charity, regulated by the
Charity Commission of
England & Wales

Community
governed

Our library, publisher, and
service provider members
have direct control over
the future of the
organisation

Stringent
membership
criteria

Ensuring we support only
trusted OA infrastructures
& publishers producing
peer reviewed scholarship
of the highest quality

Sustainable

80+ supporting members.
Grant funded until April
2026. Recent external
review confirmed OBC will
be financially self-
sufficient post-project

Supporting fairer OA publishing, globally

Helping build an
open source
ecosystem of OA
book publishing
infrastructures

OBC members
contribute to the
**Collective
Development Fund:**
A grant giving fund
to build OA
capacity

3 grants issued so
far (£37,500),
including to found
Zimbabwe's first
OA university press

Announcing OBC's First Collective Development Fund award: Fostering Academic Self-Reliance in Nigeria through Open Access Books

Establishing a sustainable platform to empower Nigerian scholars and educators to create, produce, and disseminate high-quality open access books, as well as fostering new collaborations across Academic

Announcing OBC's Second Collective Development Fund Award: Enhancing Open Access Book Publishing at Chinhoyi University of Technology Library

Establishing a new sustainable infrastructure for open access book publishing at the Chinhoyi University of Technology, building open access publishing capacity, and publishing a series of new high-quality open

Announcing OBC's Third Collective Development Fund Award: The Community Publishing Garden

Creating a model of participatory exchange for publishing practitioners and community members to better serve the forms of knowledge emerging from grassroots communities

by Judith Fathallah

Published on Jan 13, 2025

Press releases for first three Collective Development Fund grants

Publishers with consistent metadata

Key metadata requirements

- Information on open licenses used
- Thema (preferred) or BISAC subject classifications
- Chapter level metadata
- Author institution via ROR ID

A screenshot of the OpenBook Collective Collective Catalogue website. The header includes the OpenBook Collective logo, a "Dashboard" link, and navigation links for "What We Stand For", "Catalogue", and "Support OA Initiatives". The main section is titled "Collective Catalogue" and describes the service. Below this is a search bar with a "SEARCH" button, a dropdown menu for "INITIATIVE" (currently showing "Select an Initiative"), and a dropdown menu for "SORT" (currently showing "Date Newest"). The "Latest Titles" section displays three book cards. Each card includes a book cover, the publisher name, the title, the year, and the author's name.

OpenBook Collective

Dashboard

What We Stand For Catalogue Support OA Initiatives

Collective Catalogue

The collective catalogue displays books that are in the Thoth system, which is an open source metadata management service used by many of the publishers supported by the Open Book Collective.

SEARCH
Search the catalogue

INITIATIVE
Select an Initiative

SORT
Date Newest

Latest Titles

Book Cover	Publisher	Title	Year	Author
	OPEN BOOK PUBLISHERS	Active Speech: Critical Perspectiv...	2025	Úna Kealy
	PUNCTUM BOOKS	A Cyborg's Father: Misreading Donn...	2025	David John Brennan
	OPEN BOOK PUBLISHERS	Humans, Dogs and Other Beings: Myt...	2025	Baasanjav Terbish

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