

OAPEN Management report 2020

OAPEN - an acronym for Open Access Publishing in European Networks - was developed in the period 2008 - 2011 in an EU project by six university publishers from six countries and the University of Amsterdam and Leiden University, led by Amsterdam University Press (AUP). Since July 2011, OAPEN has been operating successfully as an independent foundation.

Target

The foundation's goal is threefold:

- stimulating open access for scientific books;
- the further development and expansion of the OAPEN platform, by enlarging and broadening the collection of open access books and by developing services for scientific publishers and libraries;
- developing a model for the sustainable continuation of the activities of the foundation in an international context.

Board and management

On January 1, 2020, the board of the OAPEN foundation consisted of the following persons:

- Bas Savenije, chairman
- Yildiz van den Akker, treasurer (until February 2020)
- Kurt De Belder, secretary.

A number of changes took place during the year, so that the composition as of 31 December 2020 was as follows:

- Bas Savenije, chairman
- Reinier Groen, treasurer
- Kurt De Belder, secretary
- Antia Wiersma, member

Eelco Ferwerda was the Director.

Activities

The OAPEN Library contains freely accessible academic books. OAPEN works with publishers and science funders to build a quality-controlled collection of open access books. In addition, OAPEN provides publishers, libraries and science funders with deposit, quality control, metadata enhancement, dissemination and digital preservation services.

At the time of writing this report (April 2021) , the OAPEN Library counts nearly 16,000 open access (OA) books of approx. 370 scientific publishers, making it the largest in the world. With more than 6.5 million downloads annually, OAPEN clearly meets a growing need. The importance of OA is growing and both in the Netherlands and in Europe (within the EU and Science Europe) consideration is being given to how academic books can become part of OA policy.

In 2012 launched OAPEN DOAB (*Directory of Open Access Books*), an overview of open access books modelled on DOAJ (*Directory of Open Access Journals*). The main goals of DOAB are to improve the findability of open access books that have undergone *peer review* and to provide an authoritative list of publishers of open access books. DOAB has grown strongly since its inception in 2012 and now contains the data of more than 40,000 OA books from more than 450 publishers. Thus DOAB occupies a central position in the book OA landscape.

Reporting period

From an administrative point of view, the year 2020, like 2018 and 2019, was mainly dominated by the continuity of the organization. In mid-2017, the Board of the Foundation OAPEN noted that based on the long-term budget and liquidity planning, the survival of the foundation by unchanged policy would be threatened mid-2019. That was the start of a reconsideration of the chosen revenue model. With financial support from the Pica Foundation, a study of the business model was carried out, including an external, objective validation of the results.

This survey was completed in 2019 and has shown that the added value of OAPEN is widely recognized and supported. In addition, a renewed business model has emerged which should ensure the continuity of OAPEN. The work plan drawn up on the basis thereof, is used for an application to be supported by SCOSS, an international initiative for *Open Access* infrastructures to support by means of a '*collaborative funding*' campaign aimed at libraries. At the end of 2019, it was announced that OAPEN and DOAB had been jointly selected for a three-year SCOSS program. Therefore, OAPEN's financial scope will be increased and that there is room for expansion of its capacity.

The SCOSS campaign in 2020 gave a new impetus to the *Library membership* program that was introduced in 2018 . The campaign is proceeding according to expectations. By the end of 2020, the campaign achieved 80 % of its financial target. In May, the *Community manager* was appointed, which could be funded by a contribution from the French *open science* fund in the context of the SCOSS campaign.

Apart from the SCOSS campaign, turnover has also increased, with continued growth in the number of publishers and new *Library memberships* for OAPEN and DOAB. In addition, OAPEN entered into a three-year collaboration with NWO in the summer, in line with the NWO publication fund for OA books.

The first phase of the OPERAS project, in which the OAPEN platform was redeveloped and migrated to an open infrastructure based on DSpace, was successfully completed in the spring. In addition, the *OAPEN OA Books Toolkit* was launched in September, a website that mainly supports researchers in making their work open access. Furthermore, in collaboration with IRUS-UK, the collection of usage data has been improved and adapted to the latest version (R5) of the COUNTER standard. Projects have also been started in collaboration with the ERC (*European Research Council*) and UKRI (*UK Research and Innovation*).

Financial continuity

The OAPEN foundation closed the 2020 financial year with a positive result of € 4,557. This makes the size of the negative equity € 55,235 . Our policy for the financial reserve is to strive for a positive reserve that is sufficient to cover fixed costs for one year.

The measures taken in recent years start to bear fruit and justify confidence in the sustainable continuation of the activities. The financial statements have therefore been prepared on the assumption of continuity.

Administrative organization

Director Eelco Ferwerda retired at the end of 2020. Niels Stern has been appointed as new director.

The articles of association were amended in the year under review. Since the establishment of the OAPEN foundation, there was - in addition to a board - a Council of Participants. This Council consisted of the organizations that supported OAPEN financially or otherwise and in practice limited itself to those organizations that supported OAPEN in the initial phase. The main prerogatives of the Board were the approval of the budget and annual report and the appointment of Board members (who had to be employed by the participating organizations).

Because the design of the *library membership* puts the term 'participant' in a different light, the council has been abolished and replaced by a new Advisory Board that will have an advisory role plus the authority to make a binding nomination for one board member. Other Board members will be appointed by the Board itself. In accordance with the old articles of association, this change has been approved by the Board of Participants and came into effect on July 8, 2020.