

Mapping OA Books in Africa

Problem statement

There is no map or overview of different OA initiatives and stakeholders for books that can be used by OA advocates in an African context. This leads to institutions working in silos to achieve OA/further the OA cause and prevents the potential for skills and resource sharing.

Solution

An interactive map of resources to enable visualisation of stakeholders in the OA books landscape in Africa.

Aims

- Enable collaboration
- Skills sharing
- Sharing of best practices
- Avoid duplication of labour
- Promote bibliodiversity

Process

Based on feedback from colleagues at our Cape Town workshops '[Towards Sustainable Open Access Book Publishing in the African Context](#)' and '[Open Monograph Publishing](#)', the Open Book Collective (OBC) and Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB) have initiated a process to create a map of known stakeholders operating OA book initiatives in an African context in Kumu. The Kumu board will be shared, along with the below Statement of Collaboration, to our networks and beyond with the aim that stakeholder colleagues working in the African context will grow and sustain this map.

We hope that the Kumu board will grow organically and aim to use OBC and DOAB resources to stimulate this work in the hope it can continue post-project.

Statement of Collaboration

The OBC and DOAB are committed to the advancement of equity and bibliodiversity in Open Access book publishing and distribution beyond the Global North. Based on the outcomes of the workshop 'Towards Sustainable Open Access Book Publishing in the African Context' held at the University of Cape Town in February 2024, and the 'Open Monograph Publishing' workshop at the Diamond OA summit in December, colleagues have recognised the need for an overview of different initiatives and stakeholders

for OA books for use by OA advocates in an African context. A lack of such overview leads to institutions working in siloes and inhibits the potential for skills and resource sharing. To address this we will aim to use OBC and DOAB resources to stimulate this work in the hope it can continue post-project. However, we recognise that our African colleagues are the experts in their local contexts, nations, institutions, and ways of working.

We have thus created a map template at

<https://kumu.io/jmfathallah/oa-book-stakeholders-african-context>. We invite and welcome the input of African stakeholders in this work. We wish this open, living resource to be collaboratively created, used and adapted to best suit the needs of our colleagues working in the African context.

These resources are under a CC BY license. The OBC and DOAB claim no ownership as they are not designed to be owned, but shared.

To be added as a collaborator, email judith@openbookcollective.org