

01. About Copim Compass

Copim Compass is an online information hub developed by Copim's Open Book Futures project (2023-2026).

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Introduction: A guide of guides

Find out more about the Copim Compass.

Copim Compass. A guide

This toolkit is the output of one of [Copim's Open Book Futures](#) project deliverables: **to establish a knowledge base to provide comprehensive resources on alternative funding models and modes of publishing, acquiring and archiving open access books, alongside new training and guidance on archiving and preservation best practice.**

The aim was to:

- Develop resources for stakeholders
- Consolidate existing resources
- Promote business models best practice
- Showcase project work on metadata, experimental publishing and archiving

By providing a comprehensive tool suite of resources we will accelerate outreach to libraries, publishers, academics and the wider public, to advocate for, advise on and encourage open access publishing and initiatives. Scroll down for the table of contents.

Expand to read more background on why & how we developed this resource

In the course of our [scoping research and gap analysis](#), we discovered that a great many resources, guidelines, and toolkits have been developed in the last few years, many of which are regularly maintained and updated, and that many others are currently under development. We therefore developed **Copim Compass** with the following aims:

1. That a valuable exercise would be in collating these existing resources, categorising them, and providing a central signposting location for external resources; aiming to complement rather than re-develop.
2. One of the major existing lacunae we identified was one which was well within our project competency: a resource on transitioning publishers from closed to open access.
3. An opportunity to provide a project wide resource for all areas of Copim's Open Book Futures project to use.

The Copim Compass is, therefore, a resource of several parts. The first sections feature success stories from author, library and press perspectives and contain the collated external resources on OA for books more generally; the middle sections detail the Opening the Future revenue model, tools and experiences at Copim on transitioning publishers from closed to open access, and the final sections introduce the different components of the Open Book Futures project, and act as gateways to their resources.

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Open Accessibility

Coming soon (mid 2025).

Navigate the Copim Compass

There are different ways to navigate the Copim Compass. It is divided into sections - or 'Books' as it is termed in the Compass - which are ordered numerically. You can browse all the books via the [Copim Compass homepage](#), which you can also access by clicking the title at the top of any page.

One route is to begin with [02. Open Access Book Publishing: A Comprehensive Overview of Resources](#) which provides signposting to resources and organisations that provide insights about how to start and/or run an Open Access publisher, covering different areas of the publishing workflow. Additionally, there is a search bar at the top of the page which you can use to search for key terms/organisations etc. that are of interest to you.

Another route is to browse Copim Compass by the different Open Book Futures project groups. Each group is its own 'Book' within the Copim Compass (apart from Opening the Future, which has three!). In each book, users will find an overview of the group, key outputs and contact details.

While Copim Compass is primarily aimed at [publishers](#), we know that it will be useful to [authors](#) and [libraries](#). So you can also browse case studies and success stories from the different audience group perspective.

Using the Opening the Future toolkit: An introduction to the resource

This toolkit sets out how we implemented the [Opening the Future](#) model, including the documentation of challenges, resources, timetables, and activities, from initial set up to renewals. It is intended as a roadmap for other presses that wish to implement an 'Opening the Future'-esque model.

In case you skipped over the previous section, a guide of guides, here is a breakdown of the next three books which focus on the Opening the Future model:

- **Introduction and description:** This section gives the background of, and context for, this particular model. It describes the model in detail and explains how it differs from other similar models. It also provides some direct feedback from those who have already implemented the model.
- **Financial modelling:** this section provides the detailed financial modelling spreadsheets and other tools that our participating presses have used, in order for you to make your own calculations.
- **Workflows and partners:** this section provides information about the relevant workflows for using Opening the Future, including details of relevant third party services, licence templates, and a lengthy FAQ that we have built up over several years of outreach and troubleshooting to authors, libraries, and publishers.

Some of the pages are quite long as we felt that a certain level of detail would be useful. Where this is the case, we begin the page with an executive summary that gives you the key points.

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The Toolkit uses Bookstack for its structure. Bookstack is Open Source software, in line with the values of the Copim community.

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The section on Opening the Future builds on the report, 'Opening the Future: How to Implement an Equitable Revenue Model for Open Access Monographs'. We are grateful to the authors Martin Eve, Frances Pinter, Emily Poznanski and Tom Grady for this work.

License

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Bookstack, the platform used to run the Toolkit, is used under an [MIT license](#).

Keep in touch!

The guide was first published in February 2025.

However, we recognise that publishing changes, Open Access changes. We therefore welcome any and all comments on the content included in the Copim Compass. Any observations can be sent directly to info@copim.ac.uk or using the Contact Details in the individual Books.

You can also leave comments directly on the text by marking up sections using hypothes.is. All are welcome; we hope you find Copim Compass of use!

-- The Copim Compass team