



## What is the Open Book Collective?

The Open Book Collective (OBC) will bring together Open Access publishers, service providers, librarians, and other supporters to collectively bring about a fairer, more sustainable model of open book publishing.

Through the OBC's online platform, publishers and service providers will offer individual and collective membership packages which libraries and other potential supporters can pay to join.

Supporters will receive a range of benefits from the publishers and service providers they support, as well as from the OBC itself. This includes the opportunity to become involved in the governance of the Collective.

## Aims

The OBC aims to deliver:

- + **Stronger OA communities:** The OBC is a collective, with members working together to provide an alternative to an Open Access publishing landscape increasingly dominated by large corporate publishers.
- + **A sustainable funding model:** The OBC will help generate new and more reliable revenue streams for publishers and service providers from partnership with libraries. It is also dedicated to supporting publishers transition away from a reliance on book processing charges.
- + **Easier ways to support OA publishing:** For libraries and other

supporters, the OBC makes it quicker and simpler for libraries to support initiatives and to manage memberships and renewals. It also assesses all membership packages on the platform, to ensure they are priced fairly and that funding will support high quality OA publishing and distribution.

+ **Increased diversity in OA:** OBC is committed to supporting bibliodiversity in OA publishing. This means supporting publishers in diverse geographic and linguistic settings, while making content produced by OBC members accessible to a wider range of authors and institutions.

+ **More robust infrastructures:** OBC delivers new financial resources to the vital infrastructures of OA book publishing.

## Governance

The OBC will have a robust governance structure in place, designed to ensure it continues to serve the interests of the communities its serve.

+ **Not for profit:** The OBC is an incorporated charity registered in the UK. This and the provisions in its governance charter mean that it can pass as much revenue as possible from supporters to OA publishers and service providers. It also guarantees the OBC cannot be acquired by for-profit entities.

+ **Community led:** OBC is a designed to serve the needs and interests of the publishers, service providers, libraries and other members involved in the collective, as well as the broader OA community. All members of the OBC have the opportunity to be involved in governance at all levels.



## The OBC platform & outreach

Via the OBC platform the Open Book Collective will offer individual and collective membership packages from OA publishers and service providers that libraries and other potential supporters can pay to join.

The OBC will also conduct outreach work to libraries and other potential supporters, aimed at encouraging them to support publishers and service providers via the platform.

## Timeline to launch

The OBC platform is currently under development. We expect to launch the OBC and the OBC platform in summer 2022.

All images shown in the following pages are drafts. All text, participants, membership packages, menus, and prices are indicative.

## Offering & supporting membership packages

At the heart of the platform are the membership packages offered by publishers and service providers to libraries and other supporters.

There are two ways in which publishers/service providers can offer membership packages to potential supporters: (a) by being part of a collective package offer and/or (b) by offering an individual membership packages (see Figs 2 & 3).

The platform generates a quotation based on those membership packages that are selected, tiered depending on library/institution size. Members of the OBC will then discuss this quotation with the library/supporter.

Once the selection is finalised, the platform generates a consolidated contract. Payment can be made to the OBC direct or via existing third party arrangements (e.g. Jisc, LYRASIS – this feature is expected, but currently subject to contract).

Publishers/service providers can manage their individual profile and packages via the platform back end. Libraries and other supporters can manage their memberships via the platform back end.

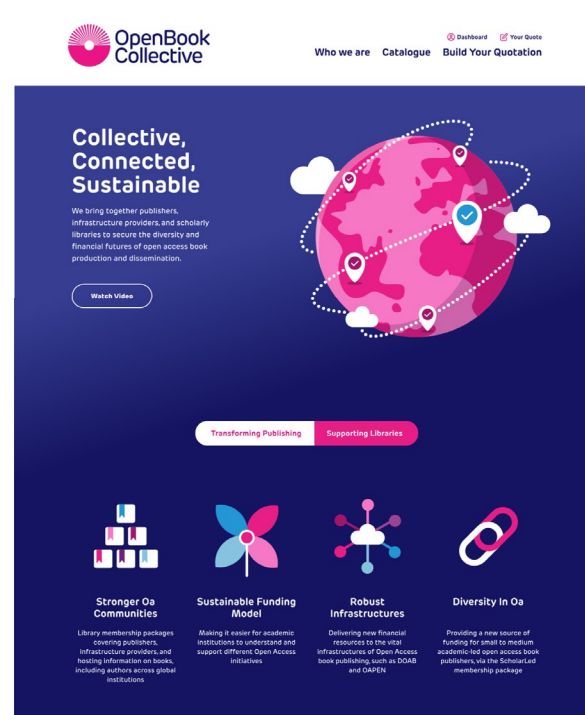
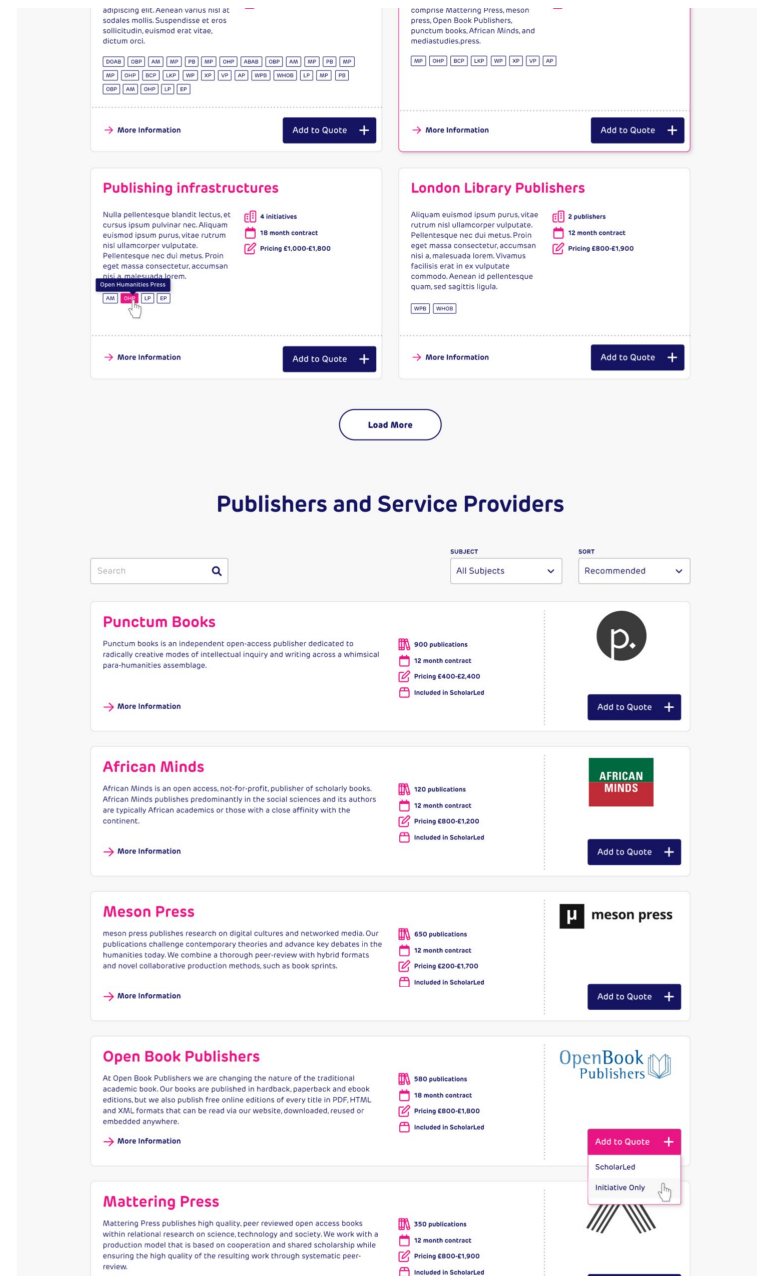
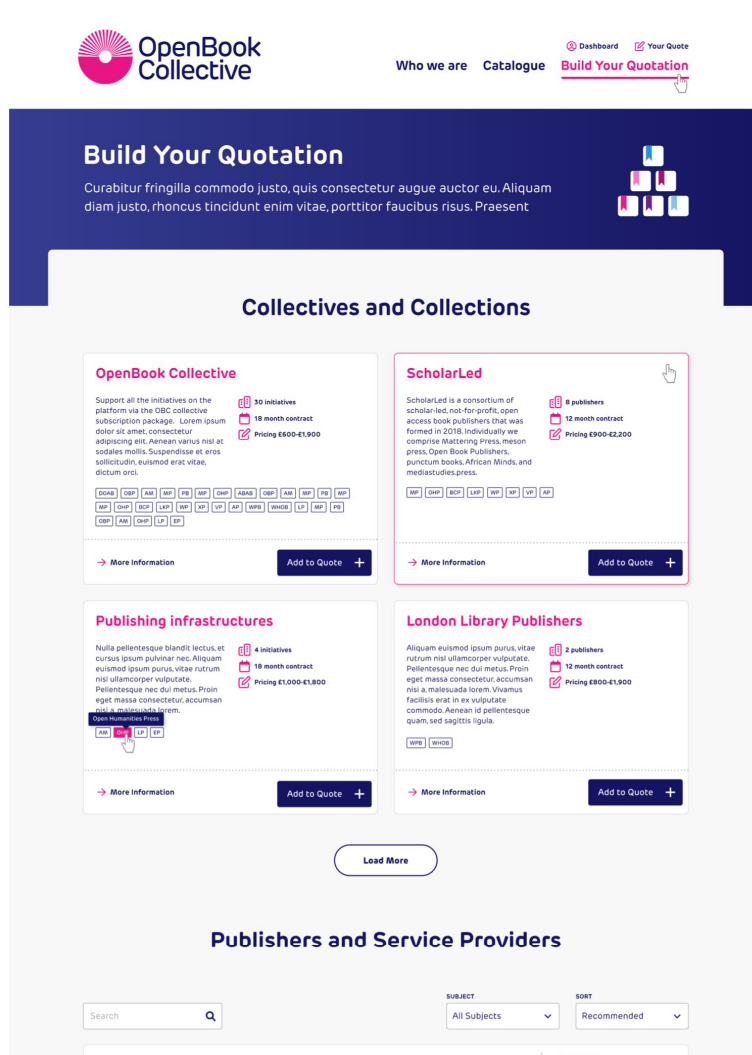
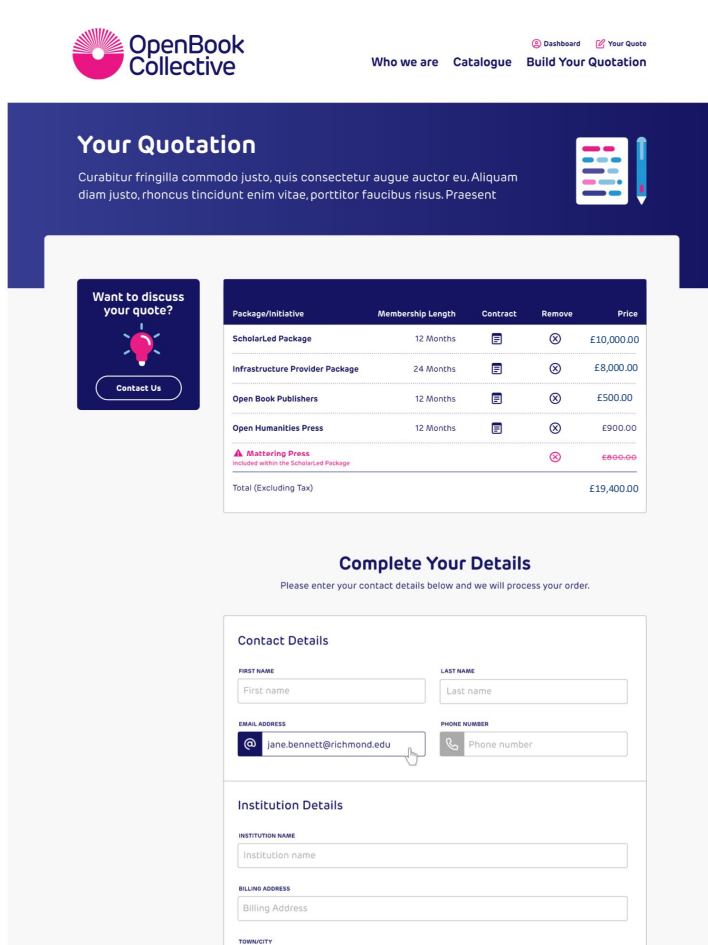


Fig. 1. OBC platform homepage (draft)



Figs 2 & 3: Offering collective & individual membership packages (draft – images show user scrolling down page)



**Your Quotation**

Curabitur fringilla commodo justo, quis consectetur augue auctor eu. Aliquam diam justo, rhoncus tincidunt enim vitae, porttitor faucibus risus. Praesent

Want to discuss your quote? [Contact Us](#)

Package/Initiative	Membership Length	Contract	Remove	Price
ScholarLed Package	12 Months			£10,000.00
Infrastructure Provider Package	24 Months			£8,000.00
Open Book Publishers	12 Months			£500.00
Open Humanities Press	12 Months			£900.00
<b>Mattering Press</b> <small>Included within the ScholarLed Package</small>				£800.00
<b>Total (Excluding Tax)</b>				<b>£19,400.00</b>

**Complete Your Details**

Please enter your contact details below and we will process your order.

**Contact Details**

FIRST NAME:

LAST NAME:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

**Institution Details**

INSTITUTION NAME:

BILLING ADDRESS:

TOWN/CITY:

Fig. 4: Your quotation page (draft, prices shown are not accurate/agreed)

## Profile pages

Publisher and service providers will also be able to directly manage their individual profile pages, including providing updates about recent news, highlights, and their membership packages.

## Collective catalogue

The platform features a book catalogue. For those publishers that choose to use the THOTH database, their books will automatically be included in the OBC collective catalogue.

Librarians will be able to easily export book level metadata from books included in the collective catalogue into their systems.



**Collective Catalogue**

Curabitur fringilla commodo justo, quis consectetur augue auctor eu. Aliquam diam justo, rhoncus tincidunt enim vitae, porttitor faucibus risus. Praesent

Search Title, Author, DOI

GROUP PACKAGE:

INITIATIVE:

SORT:

**Latest Titles**

- OPEN BOOK PUBLISHERS**  
Text and Genre in Reconstruction: Effects of Digitalization on Ideas, Behaviours, Products...  
Edward McCarty (ed)
- PUNCTUM BOOKS**  
The DARPA Model for Transformative Technologies: Perspectives on the U.S. Defense...  
William Brown Bonville, Richard Van Atta and Patrick Windham...
- OPEN BOOK PUBLISHERS**  
Peace and Democratic Society  
Amaranya Sen (ed)
- PUNCTUM BOOKS**  
Chaucer's Comic Providence  
Jane Thomann, L.O. Ariana Fradenburg Joy
- OPEN BOOK PUBLISHERS**  
The Christian Economy of the Early Medieval West: Towards a Temple Society  
Ian Wood
- OPEN HUMANITIES PRESS**  
A Buddha Land in This World: Philosophy, Utopia, and Radical Buddhism  
Lapo Brons

Fig 5: Collective THOTH catalogue (draft)



### OBC fees

The OBC runs on a not for profit basis. It does, however, charge both publishers/service providers and libraries/other supporters for its work, to enable it to cover its running costs and to provide support to the broader OA book publishing ecosystem.

An overview of the process by which OBC obtains its revenue is shown on the next page (Figure 6).

### Running costs via the OBC Management Fund

OBC running costs are broadly shared between publishers/service providers & libraries/other supporters. All revenue used to cover running costs is allocated to the 'OBC Management Fund'.

+ **Libraries:** OBC charges a 5% service fee to libraries/other supporters on top of the cost of supporting their chosen membership packages.

+ **Publishers/service providers:** OBC retains a portion of the revenue from libraries/other supporters.

- For new memberships, OBC retains 7.5% of membership income;
- For renewals, OBC retains 5% of membership income.

The higher sign-up fee for new memberships reflects the additional work required in attracting and setting up the payment and administrative structures involved in a new library membership. It is also designed to help incentivise outreach activities by the OBC.

### OBC Collective Fund

The OBC aims not just to support individual publishers/service providers, but also the broader OA book publishing ecosystem.

To achieve this aim, the OBC also requires publishers/service providers to contribute to the collective 'OBC collective fund'. This is a fund to which current and prospective members of the OBC can apply to support their publishing / service provision work.

The creation of this fund is rooted in the belief that the futures of OA book publishing can only be secured by collective as well as individual action.

OBC retains an additional 5% of membership income from publishers / service providers to fund the OBC Collective Fund.

### Future fee reductions

As a non profit, we hope to revise fees downwards as the platform size grows or if we successfully attract funding from other sources.

### Contractual arrangements

The details contractual relationships will be structured as follows, with further details to be finalised in due course:

+ **Publishers/service providers contract with the OBC**, committing to providing periodic information required by the OBC (e.g. updates on publishing/infrastructural activity, business model, first copy costs). OBC commits to pass on membership revenue, less the fees as outlined.

+ **Libraries/other supporters contract with the OBC**. Libraries/other supporters commit to paying service fees on memberships. The OBC commits to pass on any membership revenue to publishers/service providers, less the fees outlined and to ensure publishers provide the updates/benefits as outlined in their membership package.



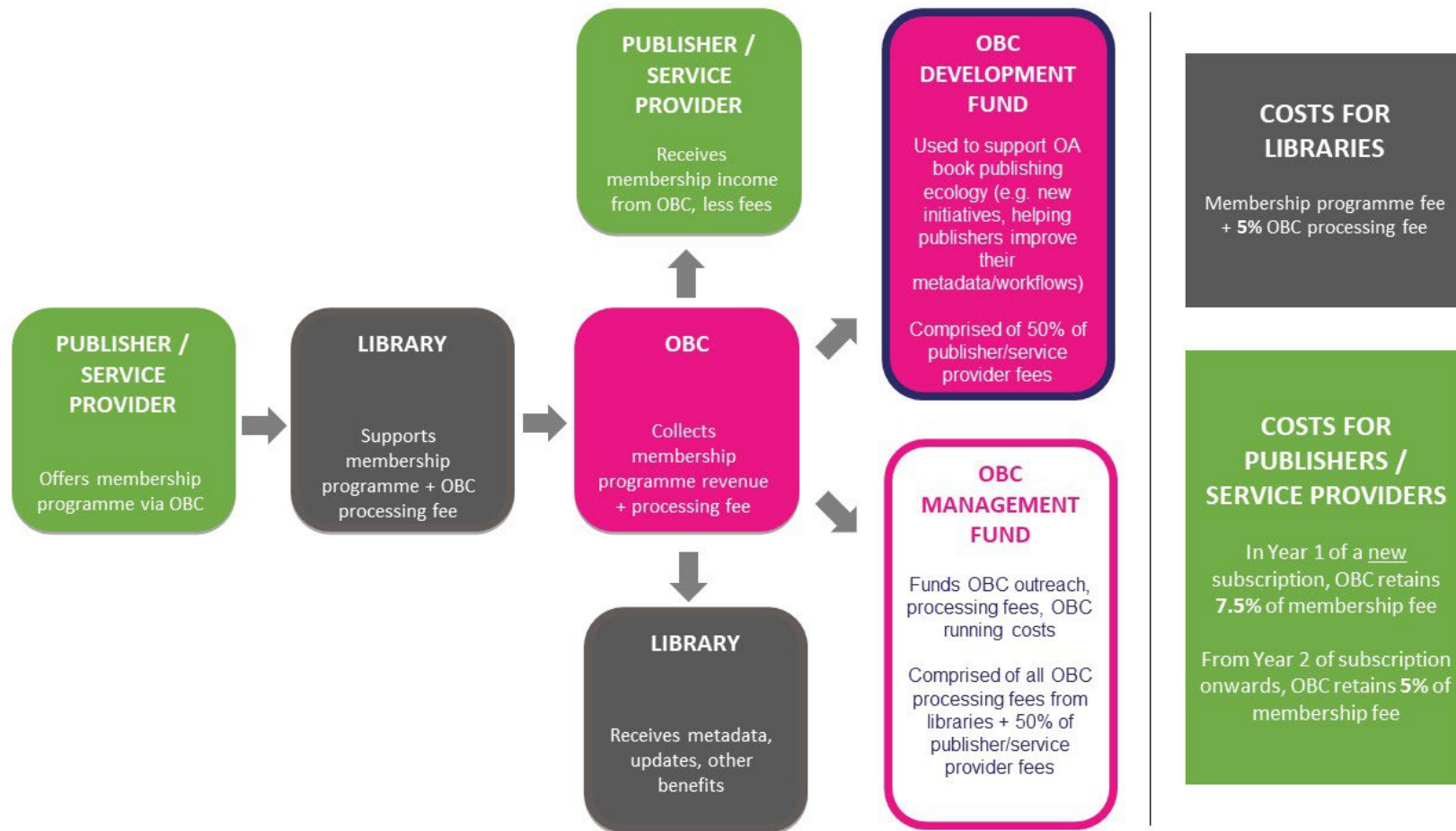


Fig. 6: Overview of OBC revenue management process



## Governance

The Open Book Collective (OBC) is an incorporated UK charity with a community-led governance model designed to ensure that all of its various stakeholders can contribute to its governance.

### OBC Board of Stewards

The OBC 'Board of Stewards' will have independent control over, and legal responsibility for, the management, administration, and oversight of the organisation.

Stewards are answerable to the UK Charity Commission and take on a role that in other UK charities is often referred to as a 'Trustee'. Day-to-day management of the OBC will be handled by an OBC office with paid staff, whose work will be overseen by the Stewards.

The initial Board of Stewards will be appointed by the COPIM project, with appointments thereafter to be made via (self-)nominations via the 'Assembly of OBC Custodians' (see below). The Board has nine members in total. It will comprise two representatives from each caucus that makes up the Assembly (two publisher representatives, two infrastructure services providers, two library representatives), as well as three OA experts.

This structure ensures that no one group has a voting majority. In addition, in part to avoid any conflicts of interest, those who receive funds raised via the OBC (publishers and infrastructure services providers) will not have a majority on the Board. Stewards themselves are also bound by a strict conflicts of interest policy, which requires that a Steward both declares any personal interest (whether financial or not) in an item being discussed and/or voted upon and withdraws from any such discussions or votes.

The composition of the Board is also designed to reflect OBC's commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), with a diverse range of Stewards from different national and linguistic contexts. We would expect these principles to continue throughout the life of the OBC, in line with the OBC DEI policy (currently being drafted).

### OBC Custodians

The key mechanism for steering the work of the OBC is the 'Assembly of OBC Custodians'.

At the heart of the Assembly are three distinct 'caucuses', representing the key groups with financial interests in the OBC: a library caucus, an infrastructure services provider caucus, and a publisher caucus.

Any publisher or infrastructure services provider offering a membership package on the OBC, and any library or other supporter who pays to support one or more of the initiatives within the OBC, is invited (but is not required) to take part in the governance of the OBC by becoming a 'Full OBC Custodian'.

Full Custodians are expected to attend and take part in binding votes on annual 'General Assembly of Custodians' (GAC) meetings and have the right to (self-)nominate, appoint, and remove Stewards and amend the charity's Articles of Association.

OBC members that opt out of being involved in its governance automatically become 'Associate OBC Custodians'. They nonetheless have the right to attend GAC meetings and to vote on non-binding votes. They can transition to becoming 'Full Custodians' at any point.



### Type of charity

The OBC is a Charitable 'Company Limited by Guarantee' (CLG) and plans to transition to a 'Charitable Incorporated Organisation' (CIO) as soon as practicable.

CLGs have the advantage of being very quick to legally incorporate. CLGs can act as a charity immediately, even while they are in the process of making a formal application to the UK Charity Commission (this is a process that can take some months to complete). As soon as registration with the Charity Commission is complete, the OBC will begin the process of transitioning to a CIO.

Legally and administratively, the differences between a CLG and a CIO are relatively minor. However, given the OBC wants to avoid any perception of being driven by commercial motives, a CIO is our preferred legal structure.

### Membership criteria for publishers/service providers

The precise membership criteria for publishers/service providers wishing to offer membership packages on the platform will be confirmed in due course and are subject to approval/ratification by the OBC's Board of Stewards and Membership Committee. However, it is our expectation that they will require:

- + A broad alignment with the values of the OBC
- + A strong commitment to peer reviewed Open Access, and preferably so-called 'Diamond' Open Access book publishing

- + Membership packages that are priced fairly, according to publisher/service provider needs/business models (as declared to and assessed by the Membership Committee, including information as relevant about costs of running infrastructures, production costs for OA titles, publishing history and future expectations)
- + For publishers that charge BPCs, a commitment to reduce, and potentially wholly transition away from, a reliance on BPCs
- + For hybrid publishers, a roadmap for increasing OA book production and that this should be evidenced through transparent indicators (including on their profile pages and annual reports)
- + For hybrid publishers, a commitment to using revenue accrued from the OBC purely for the production of OA works and that how OBC revenue is used is evidenced on profile pages and in annual reports.
- + That members shall not be large commercial-conglomerate entities, as judged by the Membership Committee
- + That any conflicts of interests with the OBC are declared and are appropriately managed, as relevant