The ~~Middleman~~ Middle*person*: Community-led Open Infrastructures and Diversifying the Research Landscape

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OAPEN & DOAB Foundations

What are OAPEN and DOAB?

OAPEN Foundation: our platforms

OAPEN promotes and supports the transition to open access for academic books
by providing open infrastructure services to stakeholders in scholarly communications

OAPEN Library (2010)
Hosts, distributes, and preserves 30,000+ peer-reviewed open access (OA) books from 400+ publishers in 60+ languages
Full-text available to download for free
Approximately 1,000,000 COUNTER compliant downloads per month

The Directory of Open Access Books - DOAB (2013)
Free, searchable global index of 75,000+ peer-reviewed OA books from 650+ publishers in 70+ languages
All services free to use and all data freely available
Services including PRISM and the DOAB Trusted Platform Network

OAPEN OA Books Toolkit (2020)
A free, public information resource offering articles on many topics about OA book publishing and tackle common myths
40+ articles based around the research life cycle

oapen.org
doabooks.org
oabooks-toolkit.org

Governance

A shared mission and values

Mission

- Increase discoverability and visibility of OA books

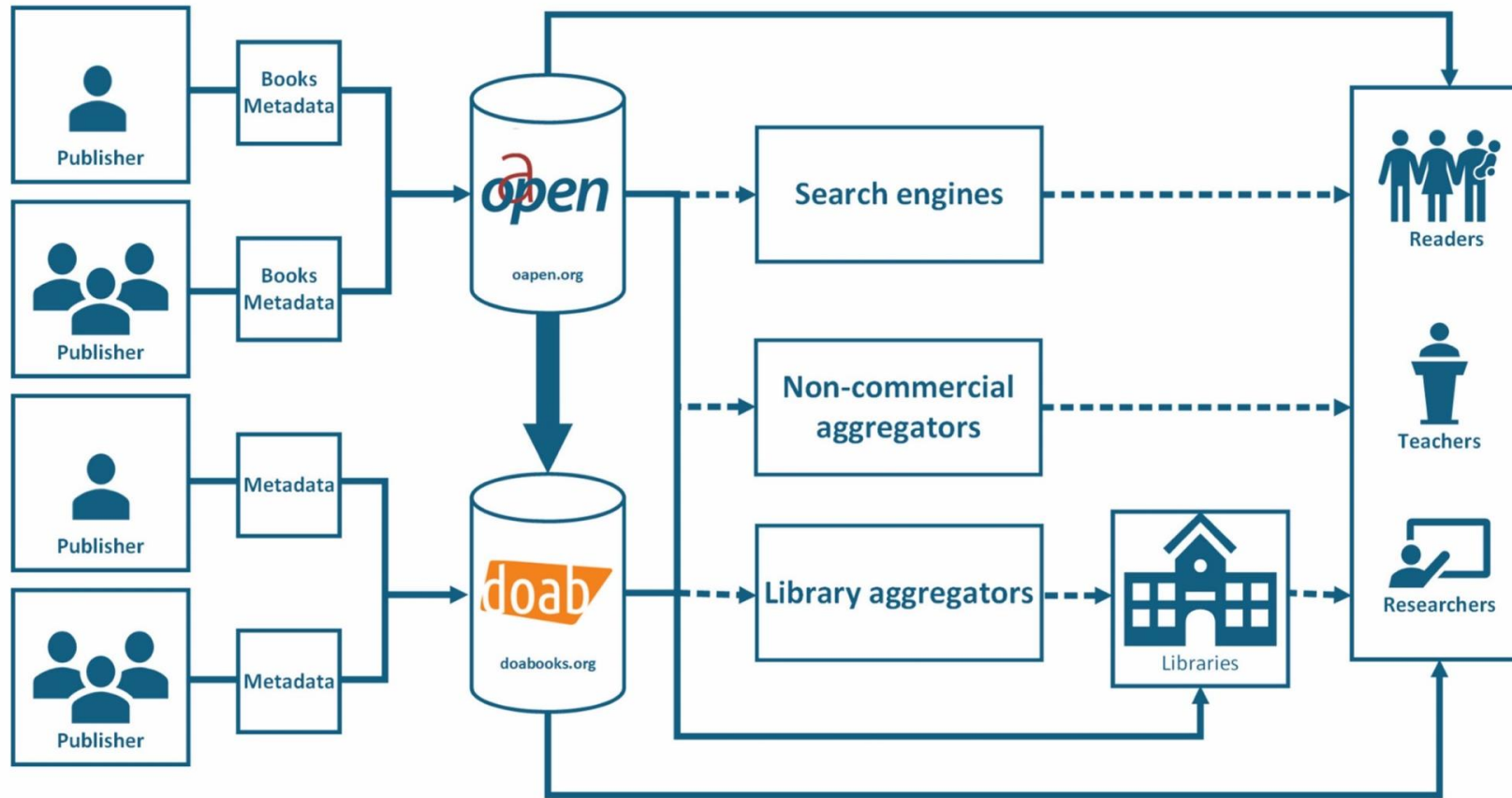- Promote and build trust in OA book publishing

Values

- Not-for-profit (cannot be sold or acquired)

- Guided by POSI

- Transparent and community-driven

The OAPEN 2022 Stakeholder Report is available to read on our website

An Open Infrastructure for Scholarly Books

What does "community-led" mean?

Initiatives developed, led, and maintained by a variety of stakeholders in the scholarly communications ecosystem

Can also be termed: "scholar-led", "academic-led", "library-led", "community-driven"

Differences between publishing initiatives and infrastructures

In UK/US context, "community-led" tends to be the umbrella term encompassing: "institution-led", "library-led", "university-led", "society-led", "scholar-led"

Steiner, Tobias. 2023. 'Lost in translation? Revisiting notions of community- and scholar-led publishing in international contexts'. *ScholarLed.*
https://blog.scholarled.org/lost-in-translation-revisiting-notions-of-community-and-scholar-led-publishing-in-international-contexts/

What is an Open Infrastructure?

The Cambridge Dictionary defines "infrastructure" as "the basic systems and services that a company or industry needs in order to work effectively"

In an open science context, "infrastructure" refers to the scholarly communication resources and services, including software, that we depend upon to enable the scientific and scholarly community to collect, store, organise, access, share, and assess research
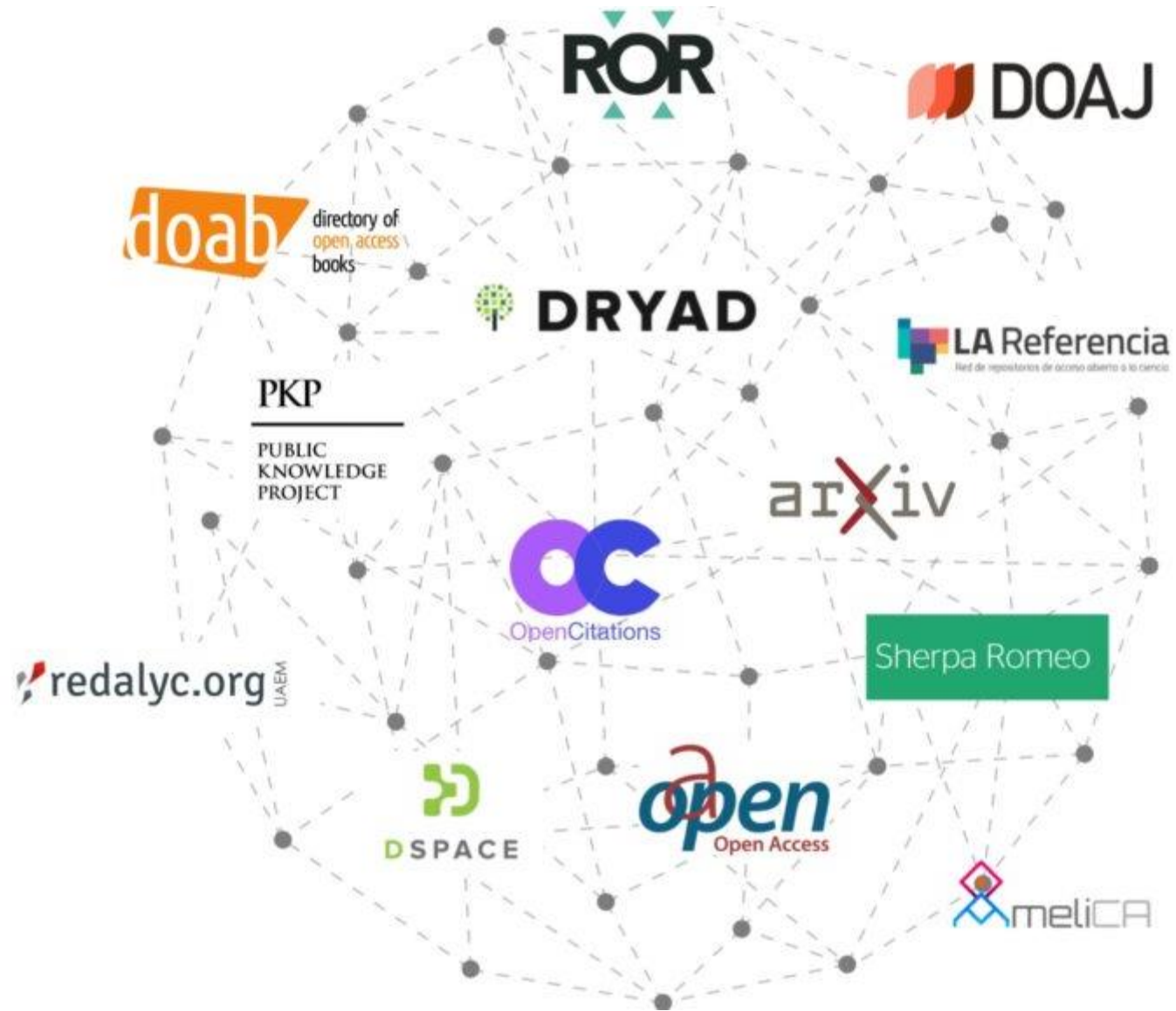
Cambridge Dictionary. (2023). 'Infrastructure'. In *dictionary.cambridge.org.* Retrieved October 18, 22023 from
https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/infrastructure
Defining open infrastructure – SCOSS – The Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services. (n.d.).
https://scoss.org/what-is-scoss/defining-open-infrastructure/

What do Open Infrastructures do?

> "The purpose of open infrastructure and standards is to provide a foundation on which other services may be built"
>
> – Ball, Campfens, and Mellins-Cohen (2023)

- Transform the scholarly publishing ecosystem
- Create a fairer and more equitable research environment
- Drive the transition towards open access for academic research
- Increase trust in open science

Ball, Joanna, Campfens, Yvonne, and Mellins-Cohen, Tasha. (2023). 'Who's afraid of open infrastructures?' *Research Information.*
https://www.researchinformation.info/analysis-opinion/who-s-afraid-open-infrastructures

Why should Open Infrastructures be supported?

- Work towards a common good
- Support open science
- Are accountable to the community
- Add balance to a commercially-dominated ecosystem
- Can be interoperable
- Tend to be more transparent
- Can be flexible and adaptable
- Help build a more robust and sustainable ecosystem

Challenges for Open Infrastructures

Open Infrastructures and Equity

OAPEN Library downloads by country

OAPEN Library downloads - Oct 2022 - Sep 2023
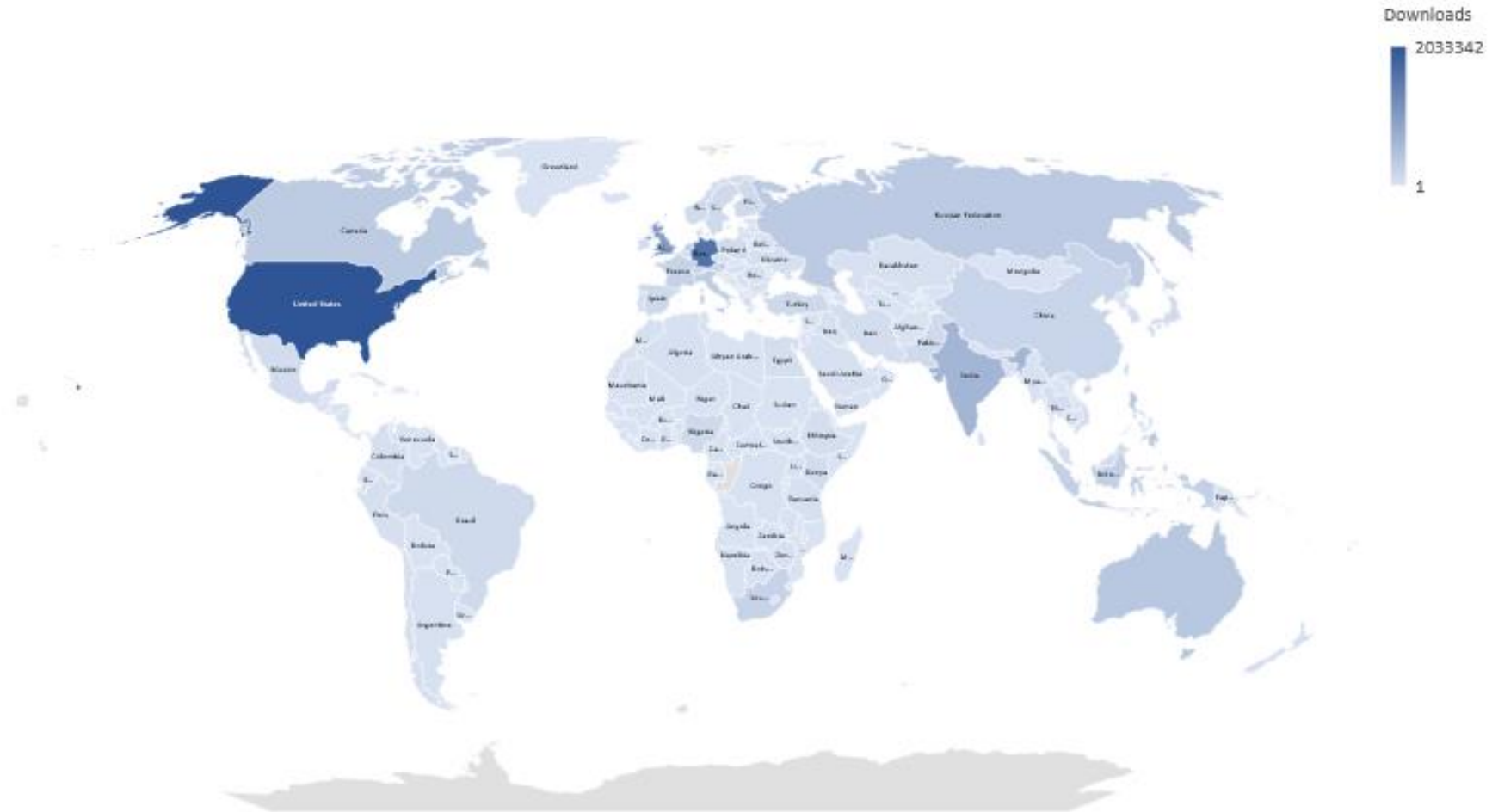
Language disproportion

10,000+ (35%) non-English language OA books available for download in the OAPEN Library

30,000+ (42%) non-English language OA books indexed in DOAB
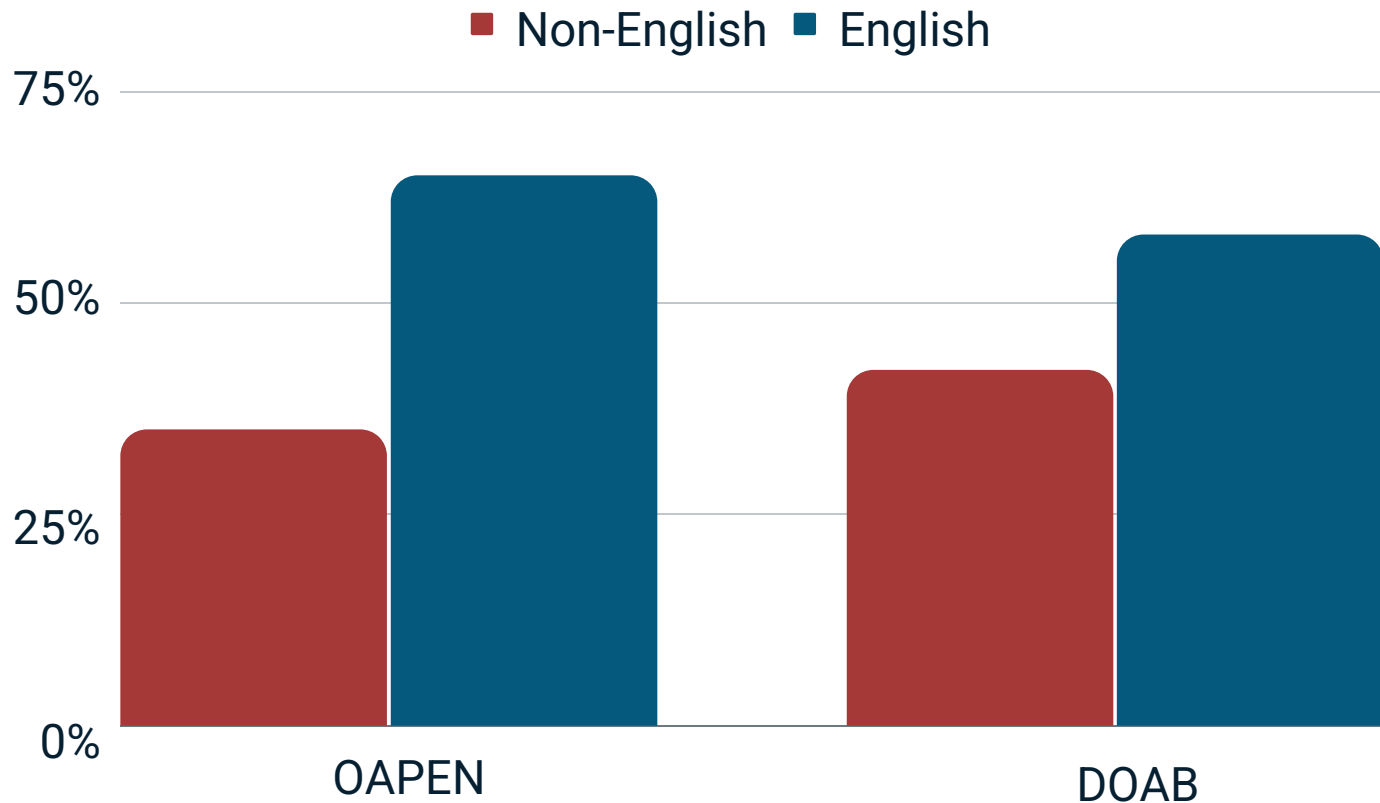
How are we combatting this?

DOAB in Africa

Address publishers' equitable access to OA distribution channels and discovery services in Africa

Support **bibliodiversity** to ensure that publishers of any size or shape fulfilling the core DOAB requirements can benefit from the discoverability provided through library systems and web services

How you can support Open Infrastructures

- Contributing financially
- Signing up to newsletters
- Turning up for webinars
- Engaging with them at conferences
- Get involved in Boards, Advisory Groups, Working Groups – any way you can!
- Use Open Infrastructures where you can by embedding them into your systems and activities

Further reading and info

- DOAB 10 Year Anniversary blog

- OAPEN & DOAB POSI self-audit

- Assurance on OAPEN's not-for-profit status

- Invest in Open Infrastructure (IOI)

- The Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services (SCOSS)

- OPERAS

- Thoth Open Metadata

- Stern, Niels and Snijder, Ronald. 2023. 'Guest Post — Towards Global Equity for Open Access Books'. *The Scholarly Kitchen*. Retrieved 19 June 2023 (https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2023/06/14/guest-post-towards-global-equity-for-open-access-books/).

- Snijder, Ronald. 2023. 'Books in a Bubble: Assessing the OAPEN Library Collection'. *JLIS.It* 14(2):75–92. doi: 10.36253/jlis.it-498.

- Ferwerda, Eelco, Ronald Snijder, and Niels Stern. 2023. 'Open Access to Books – the Perspective of a Non-Profit Infrastructure Provider'. *The Journal of Electronic Publishing* 26(1). doi: 10.3998/jep.3303.

- Mackay, Caroline. (2022). 'Infrastructure is key to supporting the sector's shift towards open access for monographs.' *Jisc*. https://beta.jisc.ac.uk/blog/infrastructure-is-key-to-supporting-the-sectors-shift-towards-open-access-for-monographs.

- Hudson Vitale, Cynthia. (2023). 'US National Science Foundation Shows Commitment to Year of Open Science with Strategic Investments in Infrastructure and Learning'. *ARL Views*. https://www.arl.org/blog/us-national-science-foundation-shows-commitment-to-year-of-open-science-with-strategic-investments-in-infrastructure-and-learning/.

- Ferwerda, Eelco, Tom Mosterd, Ronald Snijder, and Pierre Mounier. 2021. *UKRI Gap Analysis of Open Access Monographs Infrastructure*. UKRI. doi: 10.5281/zenodo.5735021.

- Snijder, Ronald. 2021. 'Open Access Book Usage Data – How Close Is COUNTER to the Other Kind?' *Insights* 34(1):9. doi: 10.1629/uksg.539.

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