

Towards an interactive map of Open Access book publishers

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Recent moves towards the digital technologies and Open Access has opened up a range of innovative possibilities and business models for book publishing. However, a significant barrier to their establishment is that in the heavily fragmented book publishing landscape many of these new models and services for Open Access books remain invisible to scholars, librarians, and funding institutions. Navigating this rich and dynamically evolving landscape clearly shows the demand for easy-to-use and openly accessible services enabling authors to find publication services that fit their special needs and circumstances.

In response to this need, our ambition is to develop an Open Book navigator service that provides a convenient and easy way for book authors from around Europe to get informed about all available publishing resources and choose the best venue for their work. Considering multilingualism and variety of national policies and mandates concerning the publication of scholarly books, we propose to realize the service in the form of an interactive map presenting for each European country the available open book publishing venues, their costs, advantages and disadvantages.

By developing a set of guiding criteria for the selection of a publisher or a service provider such as language of publication, funding options, desired output formats, the availability of multimedia enrichments etc. we do not only aim to connect authors with the publishing services that fit best their particular needs but also intend to encourage planning ahead and increased awareness of the range of decisions made in the course of the publication processes, from submission to effective dissemination.

In the realization of such service, we are aiming to re-use already existing infrastructural components from the DARIAH network such as the DARIAH-CLARIN Digital Humanities course registry.¹

Our presentation will allow us to solicit early feedback from authors, readers, and publishers of scholarly monographs and edited volumes in how to best align the Open Book navigator service with their needs. We wish to encourage the conference attendees to join the discussion, share the challenges they face when looking for a publisher for their works and participate in the development of the platform.

¹ <https://registries.clarin-dariah.eu/courses/>