

# The ScholarLed Consortium

## OA Monograph Publishing and 'Scaling Small'

Lucy Barnes

ScholarLed and Open Book Publishers

# Overview

- OBP and ScholarLed – who we are
- The ‘Scaling Small’ concept that underlies our work
- How this can grow Open Access book publishing
- The COPIM (Community-led Open Publication Infrastructures for Monographs) Project

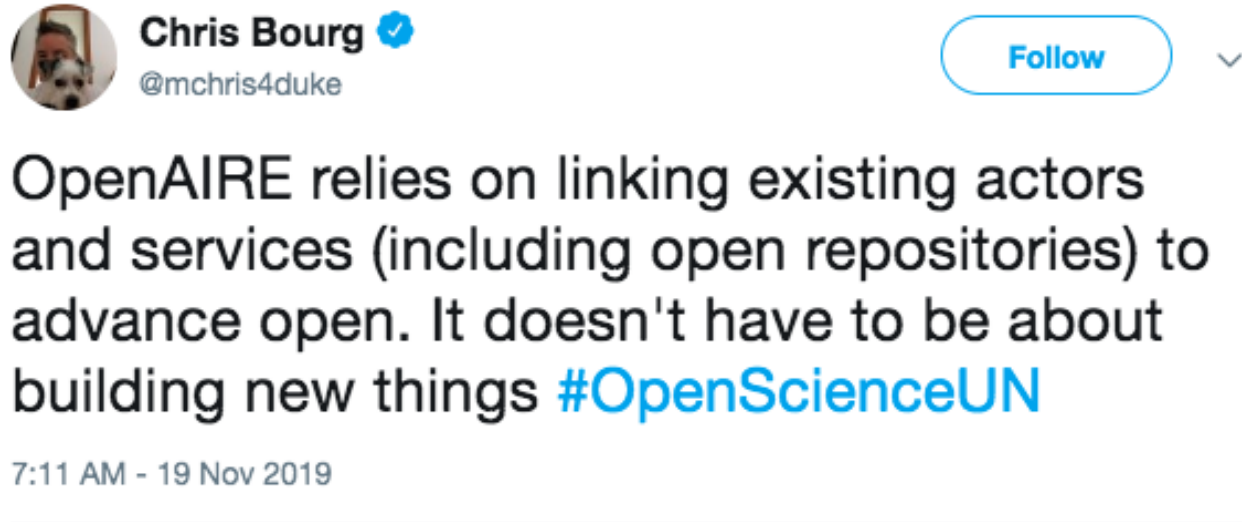
# Open Book Publishers

- Award-winning Open Access book publisher
- Not for profit & academic-led
- 158 titles published – at least 24 every year
- No Book Processing Charges for authors
- An emphasis on innovation
- Publishing is a community activity



# ScholarLed





New Platforms  
for Open Access  
Book  
Distribution



## What defines ScholarLed?

- Five OA book publishers – different sizes, business models and editorial aims
- All not-for-profit & academic-led
- No Book Processing Charges for authors
- **Seeking to work in collaboration, not competition**



Coko

- Home
- Explore
- Notifications
- Messages
- Bookmarks
- Lists
- Profile
- More

Tweet



**ScholarLed**  
3,062 Tweets

**ScholarLed**  
@ScholarLed Follows you

Scholar-led OA Book Presses: Scaling Small: Mattering Press, meson press, Open Humanities Press, Open Book Publishers & punctum books.

📍 North America, UK & Europe [scholarled.org](https://scholarled.org) 📅 Joined August 2018

577 Following 882 Followers

Followed by St Andrews Open Research, Conservation Biology in Sub-Saharan Africa, and 115 others you follow

Tweets Tweets & replies Media Likes

📌 Pinned Tweet

**ScholarLed** @ScholarLed · 17 Jun

ScholarLed to Pilot Major International OA Project for a Community-led Ecosystem for #OpenAccess Book Publishing: £2.2 million awarded from @ResEngland #ScholarLedOA #RadicalOA #OABooks 🎉👏

Welcome to ScholarLed's blog. We are a consortium of five scholar-led, not-for-profit, open access book publishers.

HOME POSTS BY SCHOLARLED MAIN WEBSITE



OPEN ACCESS

**Recruiting a COPIM Research Associate**

The Community-led Open Publishing Infrastructures for Monographs (COPIM) project is looking to recruit a Research Associate to work on two of the project's key work packages

1 MIN READ



COPIM

**DARIAHOpen OA Week Special Edition: Interview Questions for the ScholarLed Team**

DARIAHOpen asked to interview us about the formation, ethos and ambitions of ScholarLed. We were delighted to accept!

11 MIN READ



JOURNALS

**The Bonds that Fail to Tie Us Together: The Search for Sustainable Open Infrastructure in the UK and Beyond**

How can the open community put in place a sustainable infrastructure that helps to support Open Access to scholarship and retain some ownership of the research ecosystem?

4 MIN READ



DIVERSITY

**Safekeeping Diversity in Scholarly Communication: How 'Transformative' Are**



SCHOLAR-LED

**Open \*By\* Whom? On the Meaning of 'ScholarLed'**

“This is great, but  
**how does it scale?”**





Photo by Campbell Boulanger on Unsplash

# Diversity is valuable

- Editorial outlook
- Subject areas
- Innovation (Deville et al, 2019)
- Adema & Stone (2017) note emergence of new OA university presses (3) and scholar-led publishers (7) in previous 10 years

# How do we scale that diversity?

## Scaling Small

- Over 500 books from ScholarLed presses
- Over 80 new titles in the forthcoming year
- **Multiply that by 5, by 10, by 20...**

- Working to capacity
- A range of sizes
- Sustainable – financially, workload, technology
- Effective: able to distribute books widely

‘Scaling small’ involves creating an environment in which a large number of OA publishers of whatever size can thrive...

...which means to be financially sustainable, without the need to charge authors to publish Open Access, and with the means to support and disseminate work that they believe in.

# We need infrastructure!

...systems that allow diverse scholarly publishing initiatives to operate collaboratively, and so to foster a **robust, inclusive and community-managed publishing ecosystem** in partnership with all actors involved in scholarly publishing (including scholars, libraries, and funders).



Photo by Campbell Boulanger on Unsplash





Photo by Ludovic Fremondriere on Unsplash

# Open and community-governed

‘Everything we have gained by opening content and data will be under threat if we allow the enclosure of scholarly infrastructures’

(Bilder et al, 2015)





# Leaked document prompts fears of big publisher 'lock in'

Elsevier could sell Dutch universities a bundle of journal access rights and software, raising concerns that universities could become stuck in one publisher's software ecosystem

November 20, 2019

By [David Matthews](#)

Twitter: [@DavidMJourno](#)

Big publishers could "lock in" universities so that they are unable to switch research management tools, open access advocates have warned, after a leaked negotiating document between Elsevier and Dutch universities suggested that the



‘The open availability of content is a **radical step** in making knowledge freely available, but it is **only a first step.**’

(Barnes and Gatti, 2019)

# COPIM

- Community-led Open Publication Infrastructures for Monographs
- An international partnership including the ScholarLed presses, universities, libraries, & infrastructure providers
- £2.2 million funding from Research England and £800,000 from Arcadia Fund
- **Creating open, community-governed infrastructures to support OA book publishing**

Project  
Management

Revenue  
Infrastructures  
& Management  
Platform

Knowledge  
Exchange &  
Piloting  
Alternative  
Business Models

Community  
Governance

Building an  
Open  
Dissemination  
System

Experimental  
Publishing,  
Re-use and  
Impact

Archiving &  
Digital  
Preservation

‘Our view is that the success of Open Access depends utterly on **open and inclusive forms of collaboration**, to enable the creation of infrastructures that respond to the diverse needs of different users. In this respect, the COPIM project depends very much on collaborations that it has not yet established.’ (Deville, 2019)

# Contact us

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- [info@scholarled.org](mailto:info@scholarled.org) (@scholarled)
- COPIM website forthcoming
- Until then: <https://scholarled.org/#infrastructure>

Thanks for listening!