

OPERAS^{PL}



A scalable methodological model for fostering open access: findings from participatory research with stakeholders in the Polish publishing ecosystem

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A stylized logo featuring a blue square with rounded corners and a purple circle, both partially overlapping. To the right of the logo, the text 'Otwarta humanistyka' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with 'Otwarta' on the top line and 'humanistyka' on the bottom line.

Otwarta
humanistyka

mission:
empower humanities as an open and impactful scholarly field



targeted audiences:

publishers, researchers and
decision makers



funding scheme:

Ministry's grant for
strengthening social impact of
academic work



risk mitigation:

agile management and openness
to stakeholders' input



primary goals and milestones:

develop open access models
for publishing monographs

foster open scholarly
communication in Polish SSH
community

improve evaluation criteria
for open monographs

methods and tools:

design thinking methods

will help us to analyze the publishing process,
map the main "pain points" and recognize
usability issues restraining stakeholders from
joining the OA community

agile management

project results will benefit from frequent team
meetings and constants communication with
stakeholders regarding their needs and
expectations



Munin Conference 2022 poster

develop open access models
for publishing monographs

What is OPERAS

OPERAS is a Research Infrastructure supporting open scholarly communication in the social sciences and humanities (SSH) in the European Research Area. Its mission is to coordinate and federate resources in Europe to efficiently address the scholarly communication needs of European researchers in the field of SSH.

OPERAS-PL is

- > A National Node of OPERAS infrastructure disseminating its objectives, services and products in Poland
- > A research-driven initiative responding to actual needs of the humanities community in Poland
- > A knowledge hub about research infrastructures, business models and good practices supporting open access in the humanities

 Otwarta
humanistyka

Blog dla tych, którzy chcą
zmieniać humanistykę

Czytaj artykuły

#O projekcie

O nas

Kontakt

About the project
#openhumanities

DZIAŁY

in English (1)



**Diagnoza pot
podsumowan**

Our case study

The Polish ecosystem in the area of open access monographs in the humanities.

 Otwarta
humanistyka

Open access publishing in the humanities in Poland

- Widespread diamond model in journal publishing
- Monographs as a less open format than journal articles due to a strong tradition and prestige of a printed book
- Relatively low culture of digitization of publishing processes, linked to low quality of open metadata
- Novel digital genres of digital humanities in open access are not a subject of evaluation process in academia



We aimed to

- > recognise the open access publishing ecosystem in the Polish humanities and its challenges,
- > diagnose shortages on its way to implementing open access solutions,
- > identify possible ways in which a national-level collaborative model could help eliminate them.

How?

Through participatory research

We assumed that our research will be informed by the participatory approach that argues in favour of the possibility, the significance, and the usefulness of involving research partners in the knowledge-production process (Bergold & Thomas, 2012)



Three steps

1

Exploration

Survey and in-depth interviews with actors to discover open access publishing ecosystem and its actors

2

Insight

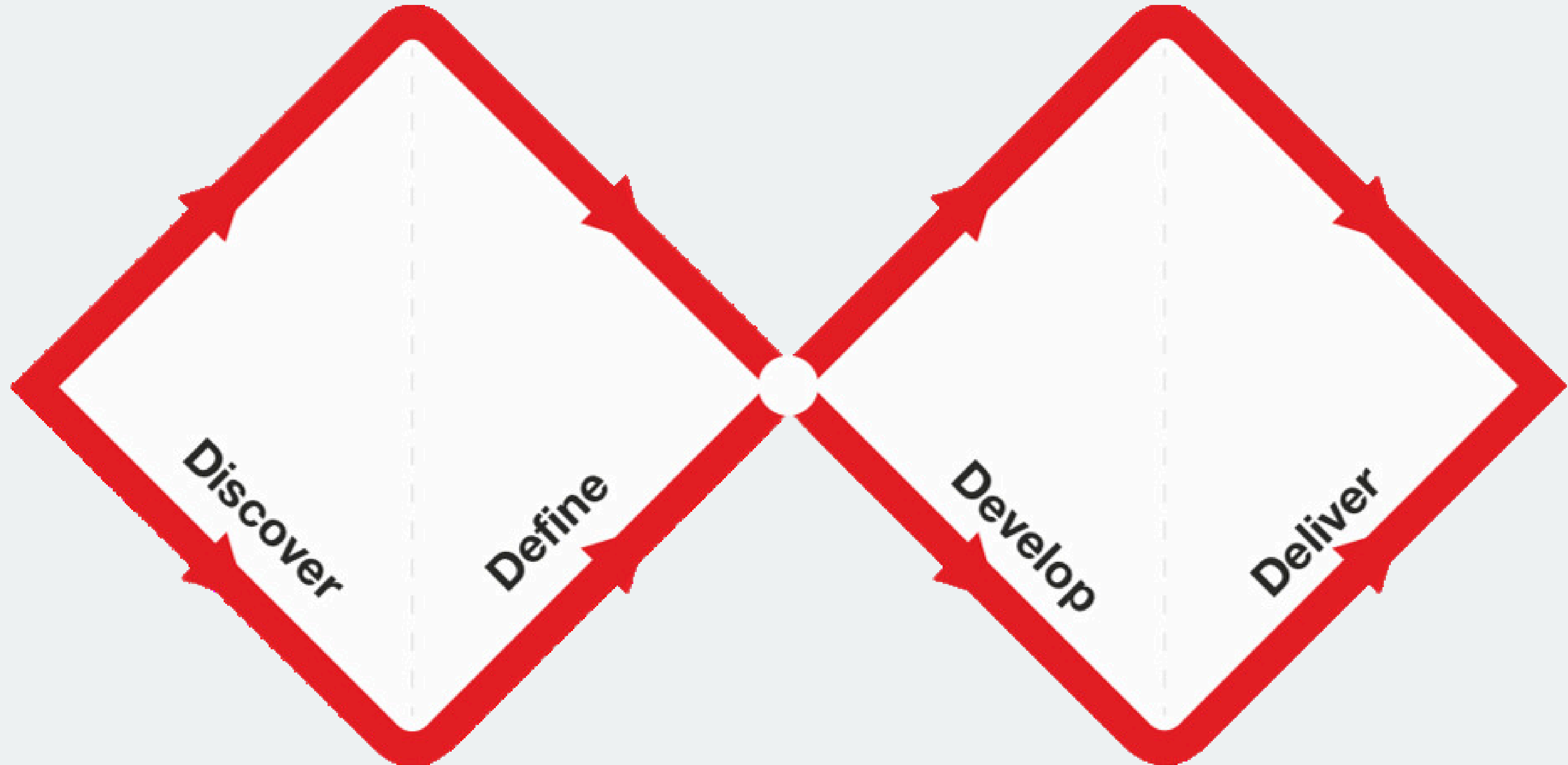
Design thinking workshop to define the problem.

3

Engagement

Prototyping solutions:
OpenEdition Freemium model,
and collaborative models

Design thinking



Double Diamond by Design Council, 2003, CC BY.

Double Diamond



Discover

The first diamond helps people understand, rather than simply assume, what the problem is. It involves speaking to and spending time with people who are affected by the issues.



Define

The insight gathered from the discovery phase can help you to define the challenge in a different way.



Develop

The second diamond encourages people to give different answers to the clearly defined problem, seeking inspiration from elsewhere and co-designing with a range of different people.



Deliver

Delivery involves testing out different solutions at small-scale, rejecting those that will not work and improving the ones that will.

Methods applied

- 1 **Survey study** targeted at Polish publishers and editors diagnosing the state of OA practices and crucial technological needs (May-October 2022) (in cooperation with Dariah.lab).
- 2 **Semi-structured interviews** with selected stakeholders regarding technological needs, publishing process as well as concepts and ideas for further development of OA models in Poland (November-December 2022).
- 3 **A design thinking workshop** with representatives of publishing houses and technology service providers, conducted in The Double Diamond model to analyse the whole publishing process, map the main "pain points" and recognize usability issues restraining the industry from joining the OA community (March-April 2023).
- 4 **Comparative analysis of current trends** in OA publishing worldwide as well as diagnosis of needs and challenges for its development (April-May 2023).

Survey study

- Survey sent to 126 publishers, responses collected from 34 entities.
- 25 out of 34 presses published at least one book in OA in 2021, 22 of them specialise in the humanities.

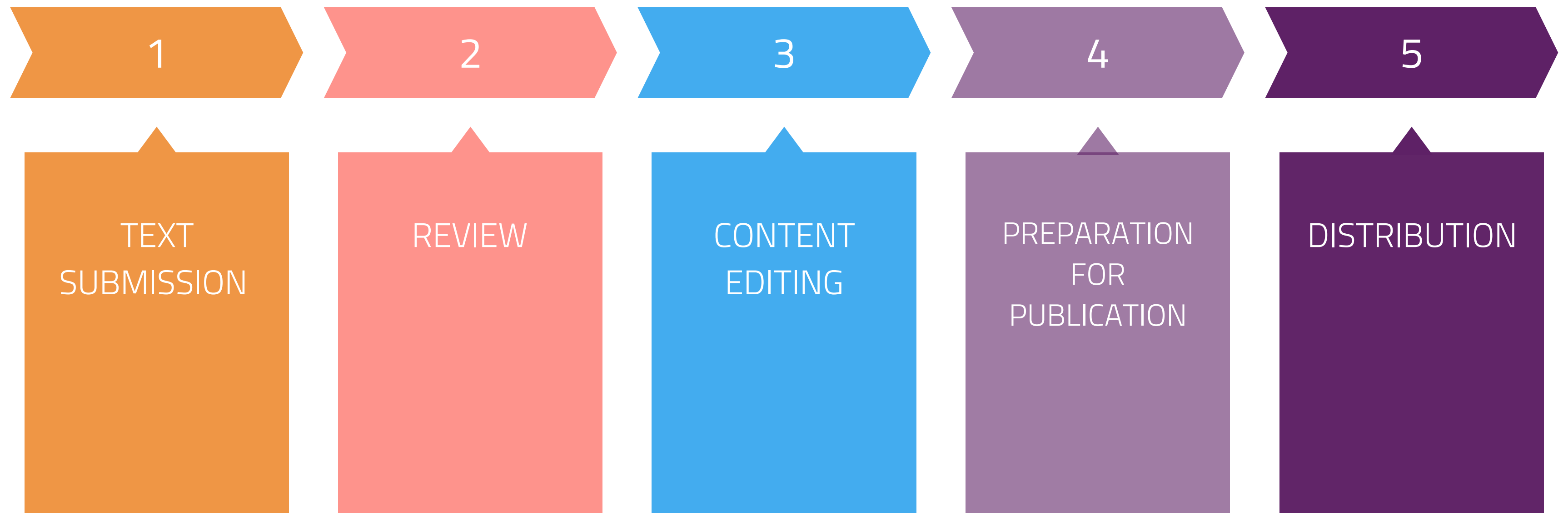


Interviews

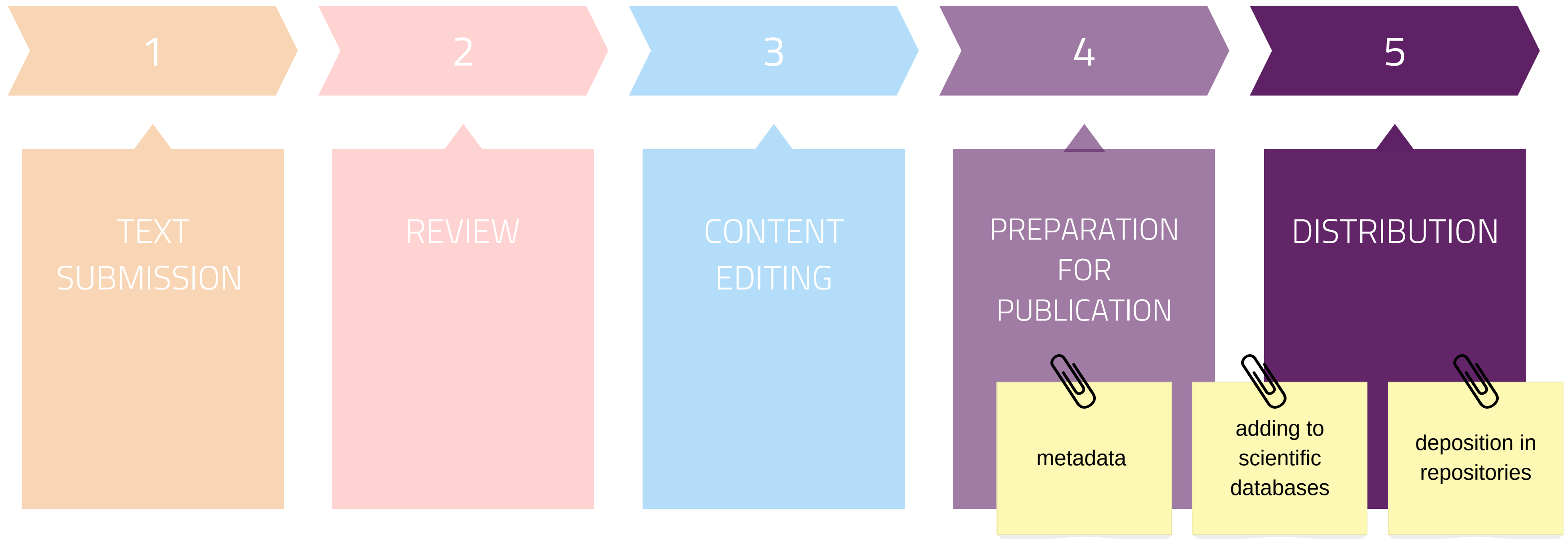
4 follow-up semi-structured interviews with selected publishers who publish in Open Access
2 additional interviews: with a Polish NGO publisher and a foreign publisher



Publishing process



Publishing process



Design thinking workshop

23 participants from 13 entities: 11
publishers ,1 infrastructure provider
and the organiser IBL PAN



Needs Challenges Shortages

Design thinking workshop: 23
participants from 13 entities: 11
publishers 1 infrastructure provider
and the organiser IBL PAN)

Visibility and metadata

- Visibility is becoming more important than sales income.
- Editors devote more and more time to preparing metadata.
- There is a need for automatisisation of metadata preparation and sharing.

Needs Challenges Shortages

Design thinking workshop: 23
participants from 13 entities: 11
publishers 1 infrastructure provider
and the organiser IBL PAN)

Standards and legal issues

- Publishers are very bothered by the lack of standardized rules for online access they could use in their daily practice.
- Licensing and contracts with authors for open access are still a challenge.

Needs Challenges Shortages

Design thinking workshop: 23
participants from 13 entities: 11
publishers 1 infrastructure provider
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Technical capacity

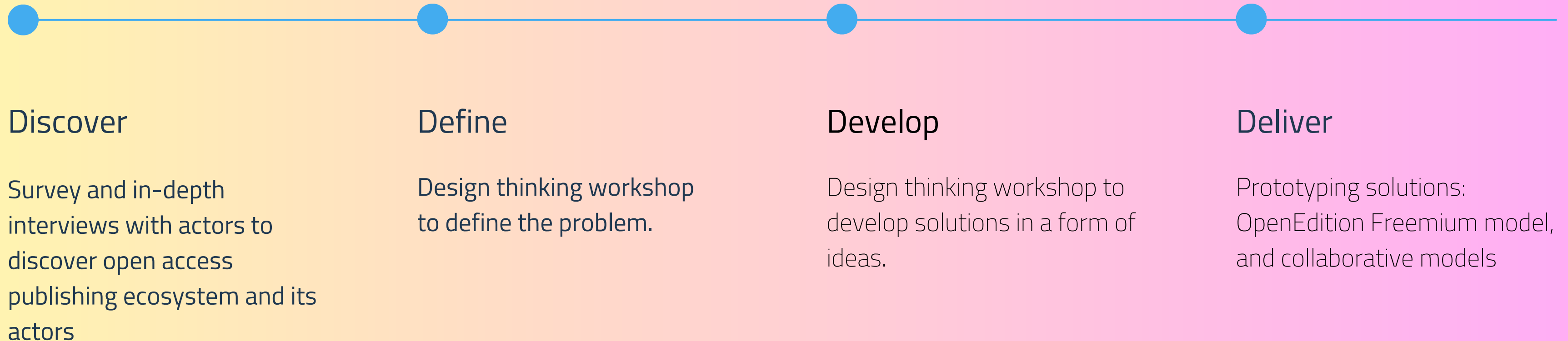
- Small entities have low access to softwares and machines.
- Editors need more technical training, which could help them implement small changes, such as automatisatisation of specific tasks.

Diverse collaborative models as a solution

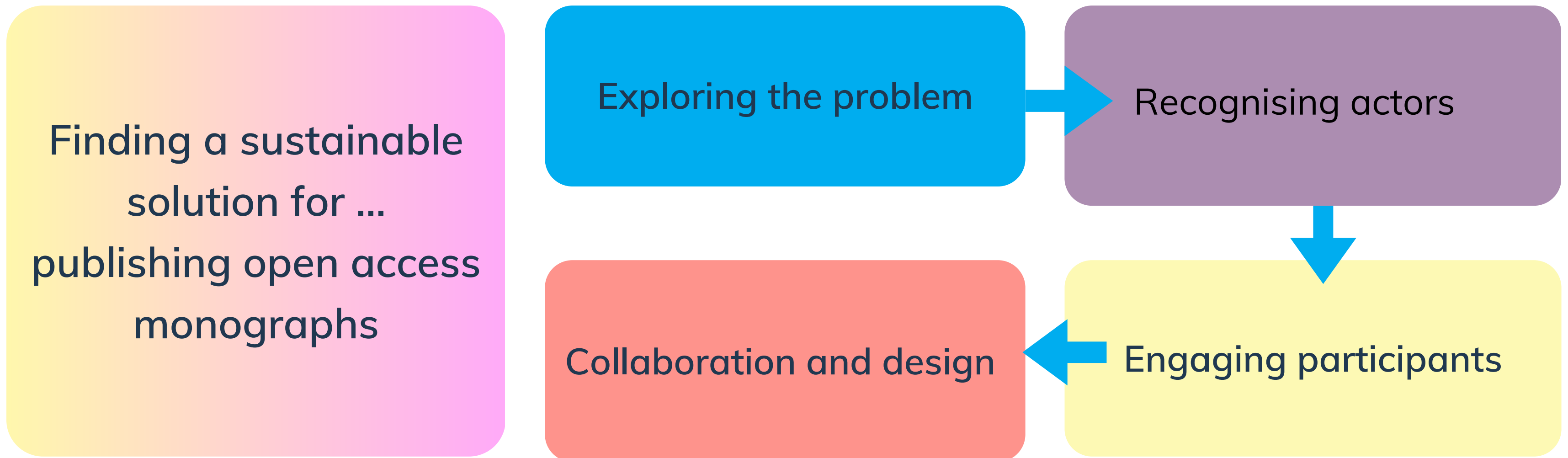
- Data aggregator for monographs metadata
- Common platform for editors
- Common standards and good practices
- Mailing lists, meetups and knowledge exchange

Our case study

The Polish ecosystem in the area of open access monographs in the humanities.



Methodological model for fostering open access publishing



Advantages

- Simple and easy to perform
- Based on concrete, reproducible methods: survey, interviews and double diamond
- Requiring a short amount of time (3-6 months)
- Engaging and building relations between the stakeholders and the researchers/organisers

Description of research objectives and tools on Zenodo

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Takk!