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Policy Alignment of Open Access Monographs in the European Research Area

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Shaping the Future of Open Access Books: Recommendations for OA Book Policies

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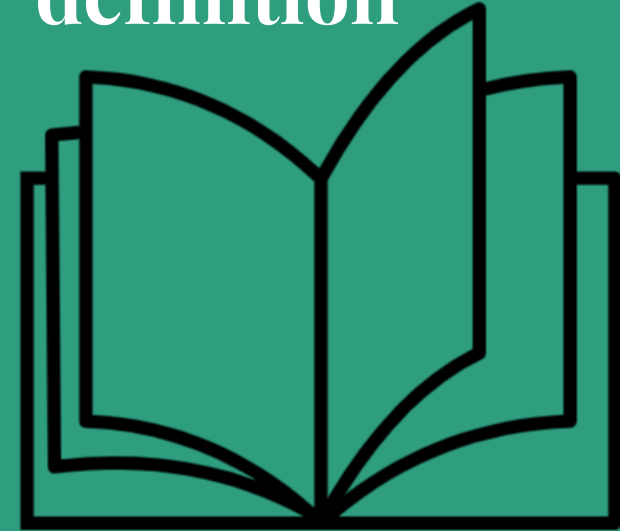
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The PALOMERA Recommendations for Open Access Books

Open Access books:

- **Scholarly, peer-reviewed books including monographs, book chapters, edited collections, critical editions, and other long-form scholarly works.**

- Textbooks and popular science books are not included.

- Open textbooks should take into account expertise on Open Educational Resources. This is beyond the remit of the PALOMERA project.

OA Books:

definition

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Recommendations that are:
- Evidence-based
- Aligned across stakeholders
- Actionable
- Short/medium/long term timeline

Evidence based recommendations: Knowledge Base (WP2) and OA books policy landscape analysis (WP3):

- 650 policy and policy-related documents of 39 ERA countries
- over 40 anonymised interviews with stakeholders from across the ERA
- 95 existing OA policy research articles and reports (not in KB because of copyright issues)

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Stakeholder engagement events revealed a lack of policy alignment between stakeholders

Recommendations that are **aligned across stakeholders** and thus allow for complementary OA academic book policies

Practical, structured recommendations that distinguish between **general** recommendations and **stakeholder-specific** ones
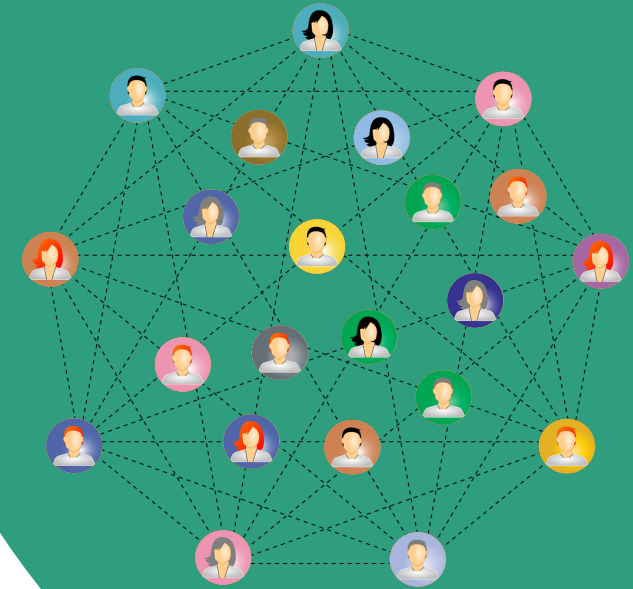
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8 types of stakeholders

(1) Research Performing Organizations (RPOs) and research institutes,

(2) Public and private Research Funding Organizations (RFOs),

(3) National policymakers,

(4) Academic and national libraries,

(5) Researchers,

(6) Learned societies,

(7) Open Infrastructure Providers,

(8) Academic publishers.

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The PALOMERA Recommendations for Open Access Books

Recommendation #1:
Address OA books specifically in OA policies

Recommendation #2:
Use simple language in OA book policies

Recommendation #3:
Raise awareness about OA books at all levels

Recommendation #4:
Consider funding mechanisms for OA books that do not involve BPCs.

Recommendation #5:
Engage in collaboration with related stakeholders

General recommendations

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Recommendation #1:
Consider appropriate reward and recognition mechanisms for OA books

Recommendation #2:
Provide appropriate funding mechanisms for OA books

Recommendation #3:
Put in place mechanisms that monitor OA book policies

Recommendation #4:
Develop awareness about rights and licences

Recommendation #5:
Contribute to improving the infrastructure for OA books

Common recommendations for RFOs, RPOs, and national policymakers

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Recommendation #1:
Incorporate existing policies about OA books into institutional action plans that are publicly available and monitored for compliance.

Recommendation #2:
Raise institutional awareness about OA book publication.

Recommendation #3:
Ensure that the missions of affiliated academic publishers are aligned with the OA policies of their institution.

Recommendation #4:
Include metadata in institutional research services and research output documentation

Stakeholder-specific recommendations –

(1)Research Performing Organizations (RPOs)

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Recommendation #1:
Raise awareness about OA books at all levels

Recommendation #2:
Provide flexible funding in research grants for OA book costs

Stakeholder-specific recommendations

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(2) Research Funding Organizations (RFOs)

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Recommendation #1:
Consult with all national stakeholders

Recommendation #2:
Formulate a national policy for OA academic books

Recommendation #3:
Establish mechanisms that fund OA academic books, programmes, and infrastructure

Stakeholder-specific recommendations –

(3) National policymakers

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Recommendation #1
Promote OA books in the institutional OA publication policy

Recommendation #2:
Raise awareness of the importance of OA books and their benefits

Recommendation #3:
Make OA books more visible

Recommendation #4:
Provide researchers with clear information on OA books

Recommendation #5:
Set financial and institutional incentives for OA books

Recommendation #6:
Consider playing a role in the archival and long-term preservation of OA books

Stakeholder-specific recommendations

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(4) Libraries

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Recommendation #1:
Ask publishers for explicit information on OA policy

Recommendation #2:
Understand the publishing process

Recommendation #3:
Explore resources and support

Recommendation #4:
Share positive experiences about publishing OA books

Stakeholder-specific recommendations
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(5) Researchers

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Recommendation #1:
Develop discipline-specific publishing standards and practices for OA books

Recommendation #2:
Incentivise OA book publishing

Recommendation #3:
Advocate for disciplinary needs with respect to OA books in OA policies

Stakeholder-specific recommendations

(6) Scholarly societies

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Recommendation #1:
Encourage collaboration between open infrastructure providers

Recommendation #2: Ensure alignment of terminology

Recommendation #3: Develop and adopt authority files

Recommendation #4:
Encourage and participate in national publishing platforms

Recommendation #5:
Allow metadata sharing with and reuse by national libraries, publishing platforms and institutional repositories

Recommendation #6:
Define a set of monitoring criteria in collaboration with RFOs and national policymakers

Stakeholder-specific recommendations

(7) Open infrastructure providers (OIP)

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Recommendation #1:
Provide clear information on publisher OA book policies

Recommendation #2:
Increase awareness of OA and its possibilities

Recommendation #3:
Improve the discoverability of published OA books

Recommendation #4:
Improve metadata for OA academic books

Recommendation #5:
Publish OA books in many formats

Stakeholder–specific recommendations – (8) Publishers

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Q&A