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## **Motivations and barriers to publishing open access book chapters and monographs: An institutional perspective**

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## PRACTICE ARTICLE

# Motivations and barriers to publishing open access book chapters and monographs: An institutional perspective

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Recent years have seen an increase in publishers exploring open access for monographs and book chapters. Programs like the Direct to Open from MIT Press and JSTOR's Path to Open have provided avenues for libraries and authors to support open access monographs generally, but not campus authors specifically. On our campus, we have seen an increase in requests for and questions about publishing monographs and book chapters open access.

**Description of Program:** We offer several options for support for open access article publishing, including transformational agreements, institutional memberships, and an open access fund, but have limited resources and strategies for supporting book and chapter authors to make their publications open access. To gauge our authors' awareness and interest, we surveyed faculty who recently published a book or chapter about their publishing experiences with a focus on open access publishing. In addition to our survey, we conducted interviews with faculty to gain a better understanding of open access publishing from their perspective as recent authors.

**Next Steps:** In response to this research, the library has explored new methods of supporting open monograph publishing and plans to develop open education resources and webinars about the open monograph publishing process.

**Keywords:** Open Access, Academic Libraries, Monographs

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## INTRODUCTION

Like many other academic libraries, the libraries at East Carolina University (ECU) provide multiple means for campus authors to make their journal articles open access (OA). Strategies range from direct support for ECU authors to participation in initiatives that benefit the scholarly communication ecosystem as a whole. Direct support mechanisms include an institutional repository for hosting green and gold OA articles, and an open access fund to which authors can apply. To increase efficiency and reduce unit costs for OA articles, the Libraries have entered institutional memberships and agreements with individual publishers. These agreements include some large OA publishers like PLOS and Frontiers and transformational agreements with publishers, including Wiley and Springer Nature. Most of these publisher agreements were negotiated through our membership in the Carolina Consortium.

To offer solutions more broadly, our library began hosting Open Journal Systems for the publication of journals that have some affiliation with our university and Omeka as a platform for locally created digital scholarship. Additional infrastructure initiatives include direct-to-open and subscribe-to-open programs such as those offered by MIT Press, Annual Reviews, and the grandparent of distributed OA support, SCOAP3.

What was missing? The remaining major gap was monographs. As OA has continued to evolve, we are now seeing more options for authors to make their book chapters and monographs OA. These may include publishing partners, platforms, and interest in funds for individual book or chapter OA publishing. ECU is fortunate to partner with UNC Press, which began offering OA publishing services with grant support in 2019. Several of our campus authors have had projects published through this partnership. The platform we selected was Pressbooks, which we began offering in 2023. However, we have had a few inquiries about supporting individual books or chapters, and began to wonder what level of interest there might be.

The authors embarked on this institution-specific case study in part to ensure that the library services we were offering already were aligned with our authors' experiences, and in part to inform strategic planning for future services that will be sustainable for library personnel. We identified faculty members who had recently authored books and chapters to hear directly from them about their level of interest in and motivations for publishing OA, who they believe should pay for publishing, and not only the benefits they perceive for OA but also the hurdles preventing them from adopting it.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Monographs are a vital part of the scholarly ecosystem, particularly for humanities scholars. In addition to the longer format being ideal for fully constructing the context of research, some researchers argue that monographs are better for expressing the independence and autonomy of humanities research (Cheshire, 2014). Cheshire (2014) also expresses a desire for increased open monographs as a reader since it will reduce researcher expenses in the same way that digital primary sources have reduced researcher stress and travel budgets.

It is difficult to determine exactly how many monographs are published a year, but estimates range from around 57,000 to 136,500 depending on how it is measured (Grimme et al. 2019). There is possibly an “undersupply” of publishers given the prominence of monograph publishing in humanities and social science. The high cost of publishing monographs is partly to blame for this undersupply.

OA is a growing consideration in academic faculty’s scholarly outputs, and monographs are no exception. Universities like MIT have had OA policies since the mid-2000s and continue to create new strategies to increase OA publications. While most of these have focused on journal articles, MIT’s 2019 updates included adding an OA policy for scholarly monographs (MIT OA Task Force, 2019).

The interest in open monographs has also caught the attention of large publishers. In a podcast interview, Moore et al. (2019) discussed the challenges posed by decentralized funding in US higher education for funding expensive projects like open monographs. Extra challenges arise when considering that there is not necessarily one price for all books. While \$15,000 is the “sticky number” that Moore et al. (2019) refer to as the imagined price of an open monograph, the actual number is difficult to calculate and varies by project. This, of course, makes it difficult for universities to budget for and fund.

Many traditionally-published monographs never make enough profit to cover the cost of their publication (Wright, 2018). The monograph publishing industry is less stable than journals due to the lack of subscriptions. Because of their longer shelf life, publishers also sometimes add a longer embargo period to books, making green OA difficult. Green OA models for journals are also impractical since repositories are designed for articles and monographs are still print-centric (Bargheer et al., 2017).

There are a variety of monograph funding models, including “freemium,” institutional support, book processing charges, and hybrid models where the online version is OA, but all of these models are unsustainable for most libraries (Mongeau, 2018). In fact, there are so many

various ways to support OA book publishing that 12% of librarians said they could not keep up (Roncevic, 2021).

Despite the difficulties, there are a variety of reasons why researchers would want to publish OA. MIT Press found that the books published through their Direct to Open (D2O) model received more citations than comparable non-OA books (21% more for HSS and 15% more for STEAM) (MIT Press, 2024). But the advantages go beyond academia. Watkinson et al. (2017) discovered that 34% of end users surveyed about their use of an OA book identified themselves as non-academics. Taylor (2020) noted, “Both OA books and chapters have significantly higher use on social networks, higher coverage in the mass media and blogs, and evidence of higher rates of social impact in policy documents” (p. 2523). However, tracking exact citations of OA books is difficult because of the variety of webpages a book could be downloaded from.

Zhu (2017) found that humanities were less likely to publish OA in general because there are fewer OA opportunities for monographs. Zhu (2017) also found that older researchers were more likely to have experience with both green and gold OA. Additionally, different fields utilized different types of OA. For instance, medical and life sciences published in gold OA journals, natural science leaned more towards green OA, and arts, humanities and social science were less likely to have any experience in OA. Looking closer at fields within humanities and social science, Asian studies scholars were more likely to be interested in OA because of the focus on international readership while fields like classical studies were more focused on prestige than openness (Frankl, 2023). However, Frankl’s (2023) research also showed that the age, gender, and career stage of a researcher had more impact on their view of OA than field. Looking beyond demographic information, this research was conducted to explore general opinions and views of open monographs from scholars who have experience publishing books and chapters.

## DESCRIPTION OF CASE STUDY

### Methods

ECU is a public, regional institution in the southeast with medical, dental, and engineering schools. Total student enrollment is 26,785, and the total faculty and staff is 5,805, of which 2,005 are faculty (ECU, 2023). The authors conducted a mixed-methods research project, with a survey and interviews, in spring 2024. The survey received Institutional Review Board approval as an exempt study. Identified faculty had published a book or chapter within the prior three academic years. The Qualtrics survey consisted of 17 questions (Appendix A). Additionally, we selected faculty from our initial author list to request interviews. Interviewees

represented different disciplines across our main and medical campuses, varied author or editor roles, and different types of publications. The interview included 12 questions ([Appendix B](#)).

Reports from the university's faculty activity reporting system covered a three-year time period for academic years 2020–2021, 2021–2022, and 2022–2023. There were 107 unique books and 356 unique chapters reported by 315 authors. The 315 total ECU authors included 27 faculty members who had left the university and so were excluded from the survey and interview. The authors also removed 11 faculty members whose works were excluded because we could not verify all publication details via GOBI, Books in Print, or WorldCat. Nine of the remaining 277 were library faculty. The College of Arts and Sciences yielded the largest number of authors, with 94, followed by the College of Education (53), the Brody School of Medicine (34), and the College of Health & Human Performance (34). Traditional humanities disciplines, English, Foreign Languages & Literatures, History, and Philosophy, were represented by 43 authors, or only 16% of the included 277.

There were 30 authors with OA content—2 books and 30 chapters, with 21 unique publishers. Although 2 had left the university, 28 remained. The researchers were particularly interested in these authors' awareness of, experience with, and motivations to publish OA books and chapters.

Researchers divided the 277 authors into two groups, one for survey invitations and the other for interview invitations. We attempted to identify representatives from a variety of subject areas and all colleges to invite for interviews. To make sure we included at least some interviews with OA authors, we made the decision to oversample this group, sending invitations to 15 of the 30. A total of 24 authors were invited to interview. Survey invitations were sent to the remaining 252. See [Table 1](#) for the author summary by college.

## Results

The 107 books written by ECU faculty members were published by 51 different publishers. The top publisher was Routledge, with 13 titles, followed by Springer with 8. Cognella, Palgrave Macmillan, and Rowman & Littlefield all produced 6 ECU books, with Information Age right behind them at 5. McGraw Hill, Kendall Hunt, and Lexington Books followed. We also identified 3 self-published books. The largest number of publishers, 32, only published one title each. Two of the books were already OA; they were published by Archaeopress and MDPI Books.

College	# Authors	Interview?	Survey?
Left ECU	27	N/A	N/A
Works Excluded	11	N/A	N/A
Arts & Sciences	94	8	86
Education	53	2	51
Medicine	34	3	31
Health & Human Performance	34	2	32
Fine Arts & Communication	14	2	12
Business	12	1	11
Libraries	9	2	6
Engineering & Technology	8	1	7
Allied Health Sciences	7	1	6
Nursing	7	1	6
Integrated Coastal Programs	4	1	3
Dental Medicine	1	0	1
Grand Total	277	24	252

**Table 1.** Author Summary by College

The 356 chapters were contained within 275 unique books by 98 unique publishers. To confirm, this means that some books contained multiple chapters by ECU authors, and that several publishers produced multiple books each. Thirty of the 356 chapters (8%) were already OA. Twenty different publishers produced OA chapters, including some top commercial publishers like Springer and Routledge as well as university presses like the University Press of Colorado, Cambridge University Press, and Stanford University. There were 46 publishers that only had one chapter by an ECU author. The majority of these top chapter publishers have robust OA journal programs and so may also have OA options for book chapters, but the researchers cannot know whether any OA option was offered to ECU’s authors. See [Table 2](#) for top chapter publishers.

### Survey results

Researchers received 39 responses to the survey, for a rate of only 15%. The largest number of responders (19) were from social sciences disciplines, followed by humanities with 10, dropping to 4 responders from biomedical disciplines, 3 from arts, 2 from physical sciences, and 1 library faculty member. There were 7 colleges represented, with responses from 22 departments. The largest department represented among the survey results was English, with 7.

Publishers for Chapters (sorted by highest number of chapters)	Unique Book Titles	Total # Chapters	# OA Chapters
Springer	42	57	OA: 1
Routledge	30	33	OA: 3
Elsevier	20	23	
Cognella	5	22	
IGI Global	15	17	OA: 2
Wiley	9	14	
Rowman & Littlefield	6	10	
Palgrave Macmillan	5	10	
Oxford University Press	9	9	
American Psychiatric Association Publishing	3	9	

**Table 2.** Top Chapter Publishers

By far, tenured faculty were the ones who most participated in the survey, with 34 of the 39 results; there were 4 tenure track responders, and 1 fixed term faculty member.

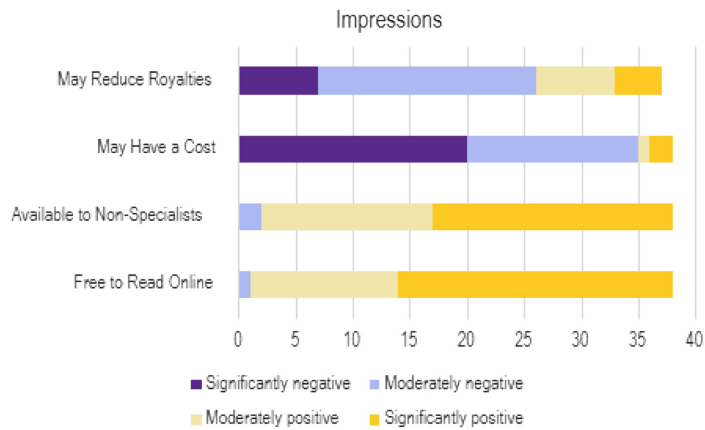
When asked the format of their most recent publication, 21 of the responders said they were answering about a book, while 18 specified a chapter. They categorized their publications more often as edited collections (26) than single-authored books (13). Very few of the publications (only 3, or 8%) had any funding support. Responders were generally not writing only for teaching purposes—when asked if the publication was intended to be used as a textbook, only 13 said yes, while 26 selected no.

The next group of questions asked about OA options for that publication and sharing any other non-OA publications. The majority of respondents said they were not offered an OA option for that publication (25), and a significant minority were not sure (9). Four faculty affirmed yes, they were offered an OA option, and one person did not respond. The succeeding question was “Did you publish your book or chapter OA? Why or why not?” There were 8 who did not respond. Of the 4 who were offered OA, only one person answered the next question yes, they did indeed make that publication OA. Of the other 28 responses, 21 gave some variation on the reason that OA was not an option presented to them, 3 said something about not considering OA at that time, and 2 others replied that the costs were prohibitive. The other 2 answers were simply “No” without elaboration. The next question asked whether the faculty member had made this or any other recent non-OA books/chapters available online in another way. Twenty-four (62%) had not, while 15 (38%) have shared their publications via ResearchGate or Academia.edu (7) or personal or other websites (3); 2 authors



indicated that the library had purchased an e-book copy, and another 1 specified sharing their publication via the institutional repository. One person indicated that the publisher made their work OA.

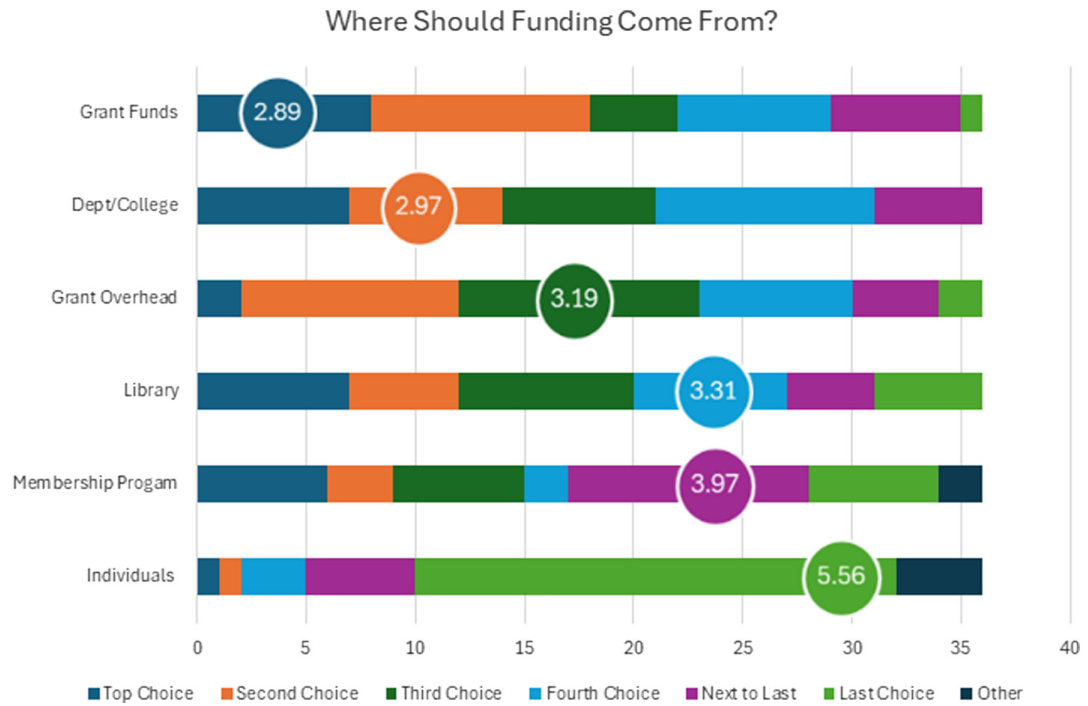
A short series of questions were aimed at the authors’ impressions of several characteristics of OA publications. The four named characteristics were that OA publications are free to read online, are available to non-specialists in your field, may have a cost to the author or the author’s sponsor or institution, and may reduce opportunities for royalties. As could be expected, costs and the potential for reductions in income were perceived negatively, while having their content free to read online and available to a wider audience were perceived more positively (see Figure 1, “Author impressions about OA...”).



**Figure 1.** Author impressions about OA publishing for book chapters and monographs.

Researchers asked, “Where should funding for OA publishing costs come from?” and asked respondents to rank a variety of options. Options included the individual authors themselves, grant funds, F&A (Facilities & Administrative Costs, or grant overhead), the institution or department, the library, or a membership benefit (e.g., JSTOR’s Path to Open). Respondents largely favored grants, the institution, or grant overhead. The library slightly edged out memberships, while individual authors were by far least favored. See the ranges with average scores in Figure 2 (“Author choices on where...”).

Some respondents did select “Other,” and a few left comments. One respondent suggested “federal or state governments,” while another suggested “royalties.” It is unclear whether that person meant royalties from print sales. Two comments caught the researchers’ attention: one person wrote “Knowledge should not live behind a paywall accessible only to those with



**Figure 2.** Author choices on where funding should come from for OA publishing.

means,” while another confided “I am currently rethinking why we use publishers that cash on our work.”

The researchers were also interested in whether these authors would publish OA in the absence of the primary objection, whether they perceived OA in books/chapters as important as it is for journal articles in their discipline, and whether they have published any journal articles OA. Respondents indicated that they would largely be willing to publish OA if the costs were covered. Twenty-three (59%) selected yes, and only 6 (15%) said no, while the remaining 10 (26%) chose “Depends on…” and included comments about the publisher, prestige, royalties, and instructors adopting the text for their classes. A slight majority of respondents indicated that the importance of OA publishing for books and chapters is about the same as it is for journal articles: 22 (or 56%). Only 3 suggested OA books are more important than OA articles, while 14 (36%) admitted it was less important. Many of these respondents, 23 (or 59%), have previously published OA journal articles, compared to 16 (41%) who have not.

Researchers asked, “Would the OA status of a book or chapter be factored into your department’s promotion or tenure committee deliberations? Why or why not?” There were 37

answers to this question, and only 2 of them started with “yes.” The largest number said no (21 [58%]), while 13 (36%) indicated they were not sure. Most of the comments that were included could be coded with key terms, including publisher reputation (7), the review process (5), and the quality of the work (3). Among other comments were mentions of royalties (1) and unit code requirements (1).

The last pair of questions asked about the most important benefit of and the most significant concern about OA publishing for books and chapters. There were 32 responses to the question about the most important benefit, and 26 of these focused on wider access to the content. Three comments included eliminating costs for readers, and 3 suggested the potential for increased use or impact. The question about the most significant concern related to OA publishing had 31 responses. Ten of them referred to costs as a barrier, and another 8 expressed concerns about loss of royalties. Eight respondents indicated that there were no significant concerns or that they were not sure of any, and another 2 expressed concern about the publisher’s reputation.

### Interview results

Thirteen faculty authors participated in interviews, for a response rate of 54%. They represented 9 different departments across 5 colleges, including the university libraries. Five of the faculty members were in biomedical fields, 4 were in the arts and humanities, and 4 came from social science fields (including the libraries). Six of the 13 had at least one OA publication in our data set.

Authors described their most recent book or chapter publication, which included projects ranging from textbooks to handbooks, covering topics as varied as ethics, rural health, and sports. Six interviewees described books, while 7 of them talked about chapters. When asked whether this publication was (or was in) a single-authored book or an edited collection, we found that the majority (9) discussed edited collections, while 4 talked about single or co-authored books. Two of these 13 publications were intended to be textbooks, while 6 were not. There were 5 others that were “maybes,” in the sense that the authors had at least considered that all or portions of the books could be used for teaching and for students.

The next group of questions asked whether they were offered the option of publishing this book or chapter OA, whether they did, and whether they have published any book or chapter OA. Only one author agreed that yes, they were offered the option to publish their chapter OA. Eight of the interviewees said they were not offered the option, and the other 4 did not remember. One of the faculty members who said they were not offered the option raised the question with the editor and did end up publishing the chapter OA. The faculty member who

was offered an OA option did not take it because of lack of funds. The other 11 faculty members reported that they did not publish that particular book or chapter OA. During their responses, 4 faculty members expressed concern over costs; 2 authors expressed some confusion over exactly what OA referred to; and 1 faculty member wondered whether publishing OA might lead to a less rigorous peer review.

When asked whether they had published any OA book or chapter, 8 respondents answered no, while 5 said yes. Our interviews included 6 faculty authors with OA publications. Three of those 6 agreed that yes, they had previously published a book or chapter OA, but it was concerning that 3 of them stated they had not. Among the 7 other faculty authors, 1 said they had published an OA chapter, and another said they had published an OA book review. The others did not claim any prior OA books or chapters, although 2 expressed interest in doing so. All these prior OA publications were chapters in edited collections.

The next question focused on publishing costs and asked who should pay them. A few themes emerged in the answers we received. The most significant ones were that the institution (whether the university, department, or library) should pay, mentioned by 7 of the respondents, and that the author should not, mentioned by 8 of the respondents. Other potential sources of funds included grants (4) and the publishers themselves (3). Two other responses caught our attention: one was an answer beginning “That’s a good question, and a political one...” And the other was a somewhat tongue-in-cheek proposal for Coca-Cola or other corporate sponsors to underwrite OA publishing.

The follow-up question asked whether the author would publish OA if the costs were waived or covered, and all 13 interviewees agreed they would. Seven authors added comments favoring the wider availability of their research that OA would permit, with 2 of them explicitly addressing students, 2 others mentioning audiences outside the United States, and another more general, non-academic readers. One of the faculty members pointed out that another advantage of OA is that the resulting text can be updated as needed.

The researchers were curious about whether OA status for books or chapters impacts tenure and promotion decisions, but it seemed like most of the respondents had not previously considered the question, and several indicated confusion around what promotion and tenure (P&T) committees value when considering a candidate’s work. Three of the authors stated no, their P&T committees would not consider OA in the evaluation of a candidate’s work, but the majority, 8 of them, gave variations of “I don’t know” or “I don’t think so” to the question. Across all respondents, peer review and the prestige of the publisher were issues that stood out with 4 comments each. There were 6 comments about needing to address OA in the faculty manual and/or unit code, which govern P&T processes; other significant

issues included the importance of the peer review status of publications (with 4 comments) and the prestige of the publisher (also 4 comments). A couple of authors noted that books and chapters “count for less” than journal articles in their disciplines, without clarifying the potential ramifications on whether an author should pursue OA for books and chapters. Three respondents expressed more positive thoughts that OA *should* count (without affirming that it currently does).

We also asked a pair of questions about the most important benefit of and the most significant concern about OA publishing for books and chapters. Greater readership, including frictionless student use and availability for people outside the academy, were mentioned by 12 of our 13 interviewees. One of the authors described OA as offering a “democratization of knowledge” that is “particularly important in the era of disinformation...” and that sharing knowledge is “our societal obligation.” Another person pointed out that students can keep OA copies of books to refer to as they begin their professional careers, and that OA directly benefits the participants in the kind of community participatory research that they conduct. Several responses mentioned increased impact in citations and availability to media outlets that would permit additional reach for the scholarship. One of the interviewees also described OA as a way to create a type of virtuous circle by using OA materials and then creating new OA materials that could continue to feed future research.

On the other hand, costs were the most frequently mentioned concern, with 6 comments (plus a couple of comments about the lack of royalties). The potential for plagiarism was also mentioned 5 times, and each time the respondent acknowledged that plagiarism is detectable and no more likely with OA materials than any other. Four interviewees brought up a concern about authors not really understanding OA business models. More specifically, the reputation of the publisher was the subject of a couple of comments, as was a concern about the perception of the review process. One person expressed a concern about “creating sustainable models where peer review is still [an] absolutely free service that we’re all giving, but somehow we’re paying for the end result.” This person talked about trying to avoid “extractive models” like this.

The last question of the interview was “How can the library support you in publishing future books or chapters, whether they are OA or not?” Most of the respondents included in their answers an appreciation of what the library already provides. Among the requests were continued education on what OA is and the services the library already provides, and 7 responses mentioned the library providing additional funding to help with OA publishing fees. One of the respondents suggested that the library help with publicity and promotion of newly published scholarly works; 2 respondents expressed interest in help negotiating publishing

contracts and the publishing process; and 2 others specified the library providing access to materials.

## LESSONS LEARNED

One general theme from the research was respondents' confusion about the characteristics of OA and how it differs from traditionally published e-books. This confusion came out more clearly in the interviews when the respondents could provide additional details. In some cases, faculty conflated online access of e-books with OA. In other cases, faculty were not aware that a previously-published chapter or monograph was available OA. Some faculty members also saw this confusion about OA as one of their top concerns about OA publishing, saying, "I think just that people don't understand how it works." As noted in our results, some faculty had published OA. However, some authors were not aware that their publications were available OA. Some faculty shared that they went with what the editors chose for the publication: "I just did what the editors ask—I didn't have a choice about this." Additional support and education on OA publishing, especially related to book chapters and monographs, would be helpful. This could come from publishers, funders, institutions, and/or libraries. Some interviewees noted more familiarity with OA publishing for articles. Based on our findings, more information about OA publishing for monographs and chapters is needed on campus.

While there was some confusion as to the mechanism of making chapters and monographs OA, many respondents were interested in the potential benefits of publishing OA. Respondents discussed wanting to have OA work available to everyone in an institution or the ability to print out or download open monographs—both of which are allowed under open licenses. Overall, respondents noted a positive impression for OA work being available to non-specialists and being free to read online. Faculty also saw OA publishing as an opportunity to increase engagement and, potentially, citations to their work. As one interviewee noted about availability of OA publications, "that means you're [going to] get cited more often. More people are able to engage [with] your work. So, you're moving science forward."

Overall, the biggest barrier was publishing costs in survey and interview responses. Interviewees unanimously said they would publish a chapter or monograph OA if the costs were waived. This concern was also connected to providing service and/or free labor but needing to pay for publication. Several interview respondents mentioned not wanting to write or provide peer review for free and then needing to pay to publish. One respondent shared, "I think it's inappropriate for the author to not only be writing for free, but then paying to have it published. It just seems like a double whammy of sadness." In the survey and interviews, royalties for monograph publications did come up. The majority of faculty noted that reducing royalties from publications would be moderately negative. Some faculty noted that OA publishing with the

cost burden on the author benefited the publisher the most. One respondent noted, “It removes the publisher’s need to promote the book. They already recouped their investment.” Additional monetary support for publishing could result in more OA work. Some publishers offer options that include an OA version of the book and a print volume, which can result in some royalties. Other options include providing more monetary support to pay for the OA publishing fees.

Large publishers our authors have used offer options to publish OA monographs, but they do require a substantial publishing fee. Additionally, it can be difficult to locate cost information and self-archiving policies for OA monographs and book chapters. However, some publishers provide helpful information that can be located publicly, which is useful for authors and librarians. Sage (2024) provides a helpful archiving policy for book content that includes the version that can be archived, embargoes, and archive locations. Oxford University Press (2024) discloses OA charges for monographs and book chapters alongside their OA options for journals. Additionally, Oxford University Press references OA within the proposal step of monographs. Some other large publishers are more transparent with the costs associated with OA articles. This can be an extra challenge for book and chapter authors who may already have concerns about costs associated with OA publishing.

An area that we are starting to explore on our campus is supporting OA monograph publishing more broadly. We recently started a subscription to Pressbooks, an OA monograph publishing tool, which is heavily used for publishing open educational resources (OER). Through our Open Education Network membership, we have access to Manifold, another OER publishing platform. As part of the University of North Carolina System, we have collaborated with UNC Press to help faculty publish OA monographs. The monograph publishing is not free, but the rates are reasonable, and they can be offset by departmental support and/or funding provided by the Thomas W. Ross Fund Publishing Grant at UNC Press (UNC Press, n.d.). Finally, we could approach faculty members who have recently published textbooks through publishers like Cognella to gauge their willingness to use Pressbooks or another library-supported platform to publish OER instead.

Additional concerns about OA chapters and monographs include the credibility of the publisher. While there are deceptive publishers, there are many credible and prestigious publishers that offer OA options or are exploring sustainable OA models. Concerns shared in the survey and during the interviews include OA monographs or book chapters having no or little peer review and lower credibility. These concerns are not surprising and align with concerns that are still seen with OA journals (Shook and Vecchione, 2022). While these concerns will likely continue even with advancements with OA monograph publishing, library or campus support and education could alleviate some concerns.

## NEXT STEPS

As a response to the survey and interview results, the researchers have looked for more avenues where the library can support open monographs. One of those avenues opened in the summer of 2024, when the library began an OA membership with IGI, a company that has published 2 ECU books and 53 chapters over the last 5 years. In addition to funding gold OA journal articles, this membership will allow us to “open up” book chapters that have already been published with IGI. Additionally, the library has sought more opportunities to participate in collective funding for open monographs such as JSTOR’s Path to Open and Knowledge Unlatched. In addition to those initiatives, we are also now supporting a Central European University Press membership. Another change the library has made to support ECU authors has been to add book chapters as an eligible content type for the OA fund. This fund works better for book chapters as OA monographs due to funding limits. The researchers plan to include eligibility for chapters and monographs as long as the fund continues to be active.

One limitation of our study is a low response rate to our survey. To gather more data, the researchers plan to conduct virtual focus groups in the fall with faculty who were previously invited to the survey. Results from the focus groups, interviews, and survey will continue to inform future OA memberships and/or publishing support. Our study did not explicitly explore faculty perceptions of various licenses that can be applied to OA publishing materials. This is an area to explore more in-depth in a future study. Other plans include developing educational materials on OA publishing for monographs and book chapters. These educational materials should include information on self-archiving OA books and chapters. In addition to these educational materials, the researchers will offer workshops on monograph publishing that will highlight OA options in addition to traditional methods of publishing.

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## **APPENDIX A:**

### **Book and Chapter Publishing Survey Questions**

Q1 Which of the following most accurately qualifies your current ECU teaching appointment?

- Fixed-Term
- Tenure Track
- Tenured
- Clinical
- Visiting
- Other

(Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Q2 Was your most recent publication a book or chapter? (Please answer questions 3 - 7 about this most recent publication.)

- Book
- Chapter

Q3 Was this publication a (or in a)...

- Single-authored book
- Edited collection

Q4 Was this publication intended to be used as a textbook?

- Yes
- No

Q5 Was this publication supported with funding (eg., grants, fellowships)?

- Yes
- No

Q6 Were you offered the option of publishing this book or chapter open access?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Q7 Did you publish your book or chapter open access? Why or why not?

Q8 Have you made this or any other recent non-open access chapters/books available online in another way? (eg., institutional repository, ResearchGate, personal website)

- No
- Yes, how?

Q9 Please rate your impression of the following characteristics of open access (OA) book & chapter publishing:

	Significantly negative	Moderately negative	Moderately positive	Significantly positive
OA publications are free to read online	○	○	○	○
OA publications are available to non-specialists in your field	○	○	○	○
Open access publishing may have a cost to the author or the author's sponsor or institution	○	○	○	○
Open access publishing may reduce my opportunities for royalties.	○	○	○	○
Other (Please specify)	○	○	○	○

Q10 Where should funding for open access publishing costs come from? (Drag and drop: 1 is most important and 6 is least important.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Grant funds (line item in budget)
- \_\_\_\_\_ F&A (grant overhead)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Your college or department
- \_\_\_\_\_ Individuals (you and/or your coauthors personally)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Library
- \_\_\_\_\_ Membership benefit (eg., MIT's Subscribe to Open or JSTOR's Path to Open)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (Please specify)

Q11 If the publishing costs were waived or covered by the institution or sponsor, would you publish your book/chapter open access?

- Yes
- No
- Depends on...

Q12 Is open access publishing of books and chapters equally important as open access publishing of journal articles in your discipline?

- Less important
- About the same
- More important

Q13 Have you published any journal articles open access?

- Yes
- No

Q14 Would the open access status of a book or chapter be factored into your department's promotion and tenure committee deliberations? Why or why not?

Q15 What's the most important benefit of open access publishing for books and chapters?

Q16 What's the most significant concern about open access publishing for books and chapters?

Q17 Do you wish to be contacted for further information?

- No
- Yes, here's my email:

**APPENDIX B:  
Book and Chapter Interview Questions**

1. Tell us about your most recent book or chapter publication?
2. Was this publication a (or in a) single-authored book or edited collection?
3. Was this publication intended to be used as a textbook?
4. Were you offered the option of publishing this book or chapter open access?
5. Did you publish this book or chapter open access? why or why not?
6. Have you published any book or chapter open access? why or why not?
  - a. If yes, was this a textbook, single-authored scholarly manuscript, or an edited collection?
7. Open access publishing has costs associated with it (software, copyediting, etc.). Who should pay those costs?
8. If the publishing costs were waived or covered by the institution or sponsor, would you publish your book or chapter open access? Why or why not?
9. Would the open access status of an open access book or chapter be factored into the department's promotion and tenure committee deliberations? Why or why not?
10. What's the most important benefit of open access publishing for books and chapters?
11. What's the most significant concern about open access publishing for books and chapters?
12. How can the library support you in publishing future books or chapters (open access or not)?