eBook licences, copyright, and the future of Open Access books as an alternative

Caroline Ball, University of Derby
Lucy Barnes, Open Book Publishers

ISSUES: SALES

HIGH PRICES
Often x10-100 more than print

UNAVAILABILITY
Many texts unavailable for library purchase

BUNDLING
Titles often only available as part of larger package

IMPERMANENCE
Titles frequently removed from sale or withdrawn from packages

ISSUES: TECHNOLOGY

ACCESSIBILITY
Built-in accessibility features often inadequate

PLATFORMS
Many publishers use own bespoke platforms

DRM
Restricts what users can do (copy/download/search)

ISSUES: COPYRIGHT

LEGISLATION
Copyright exceptions limited

LICENSING SCHEMES
Not all publishers participate

TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION
Student support crosses borders

LICENSES
Limited and restrictive licences

#EBOOKSOS

Launched in summer 2020 in response to urgent need for digital resources during lockdown
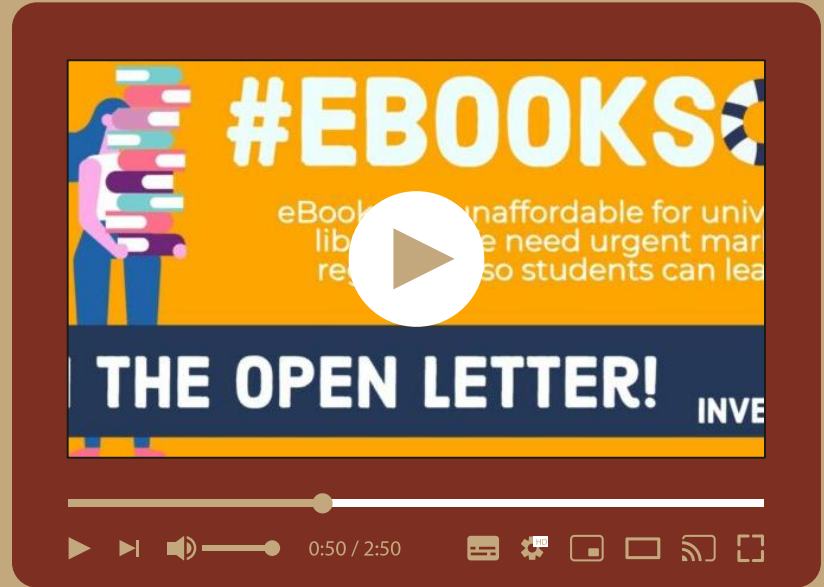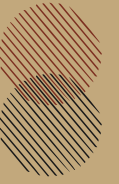
A GLOBAL ISSUE

ebookSOS newsletter has subscribers from 15 countries

IFLA report to WIPO surveyed 114 libraries and interviewed 28 librarians from 29 countries

Library Futures International Statement of Solidarity

PUSHING FOR CHANGE

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

INVESTIGATION

Market investigation

REFORM

Copyright reform

CDL

Controlled digital lending

CRITICAL COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Where does our money go?

OPEN ACCESS ALTERNATIVES

2020

Many publishers dropped paywalls

in response to
COVID

OA requires a mindset shift

From publishers

They would no longer control access: but their revenue models are (usually) built on doing so. They need to take a risk!

From libraries

Publishing costs still need to be met. How can libraries support this if they are no longer paying for access?
They need new solutions!

BOOK PROCESSING CHARGES

NOT EQUITABLE

This is essentially the 'pay for access' model flipped around.

AUTHORS DISLIKE

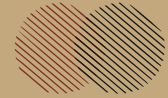It's expensive! Front-loading large fees onto authors is a stressful barrier to publication.

LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

The costs of book production and extent to which other revenue streams (e.g. sales) help to fund them are often not made public.

THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES!

Library membership

- Libraries pay an annual fee to a 'born OA' press e.g. Open Book Publishers

Leveraging backlist

Presses offer closed backlist for subscription to fund OA frontlist e.g. Central European University Press

A collective platform

The Open Book Collective brings smaller OA presses together for library support

Experimentation

These presses are all trying something new: taking a risk! But they need libraries to participate

COPIM Project

- **International (US, UK & Europe) partnership** of OA presses, universities, libraries & infrastructure providers

- **Grant-funded, non-profit and community-owned**

- **Enabling smaller presses to publish more OA books without BPCs**

- While retaining the press's existing **character, size and fit within a local context**

- Preserves **national publishing contexts, ways of assessing researchers and funding OA research**

But these programmes need library support!

FIND OUT MORE

Here are some resources to find out more about these
programmes and how to support them.

- COPIM, https://www.copim.ac.uk/
- Opening the Future, https://www.openingthefuture.net/
- Open Book Collective, @OpenBookCollect
- KU Leuven Fund for Fair OA, https://tinyurl.com/2p8cd8fz
- Open Access Books Network, http://oabooksnetwork.org/
- Open Book Publishers,
  https://www.openbookpublishers.com/
- 'Open Access Book Programmes: Answering Libraries'
  Questions', by Sharla Lair,
  https://openaccessbooksnetwork.hcommons.org/2021/10
  /27/open-access-book-programs-answering-libraries-
  questions/
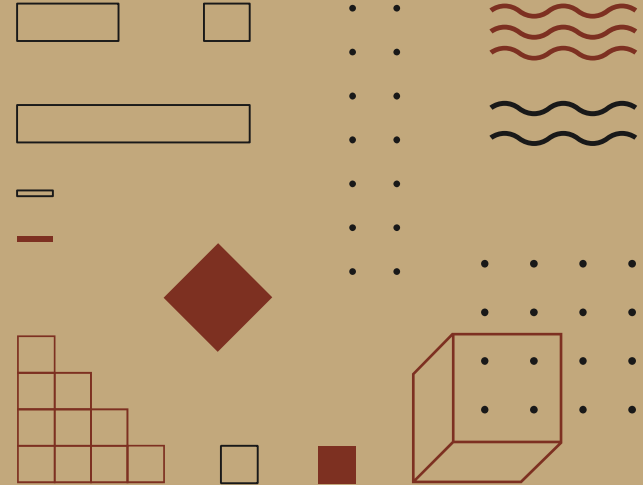
THANKS!

Do you have any questions?

c.ball@derby.ac.uk /
@heroicendeavour

lucy@openbookpublishers.com/
@alittleroad