OMP Under the Spotlight: Final Report

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Contents

THE RESEARCH QUESTION

How DOES CAN SHOULD PKP contribute to a thriving open book publishing ecosystem?

RESEARCH SUMMARY: USE OF OMP

At the outset, it was not clear how widely OMP was used, or how important it was to the publishing programs that had adopted it.

Through user interviews, review of support channels and exploration of OMP instances identified via Beacon data, we found that:

- There is extensive activity on many existing OMP instances (some with almost 2000 titles)
- Users are engaged and eager to contribute
- There is still a gap in the market for an open source book publishing workflow tool
- People are using OMP to publish and circulate knowledge in many forms and formats, beyond the typical ‘book’

RESEARCH SUMMARY: LANDSCAPE

Other tools in the market fall into four broad categories:

1. Workflow (e.g. OMP)
2. Production (e.g. Pressbooks, Ketty)
3. Presentation (e.g. Manifold)
4. Discovery & Dissemination (e.g. Thoth)

Most open source publishing solutions do not offer workflow support, and the majority of investment in open book publishing software development over the past 10 years has focused on production and presentation.

Overall, there are no clear, direct comparisons to OMP's offering in the open space, and no widely adopted proprietary platforms that it competes with. Combined with the use that has emerged organically since the platform's launch, this indicates substantial opportunity for growth.

OMP IN ACTION: EXAMPLES OF USE

Tuwhera Open Access Books

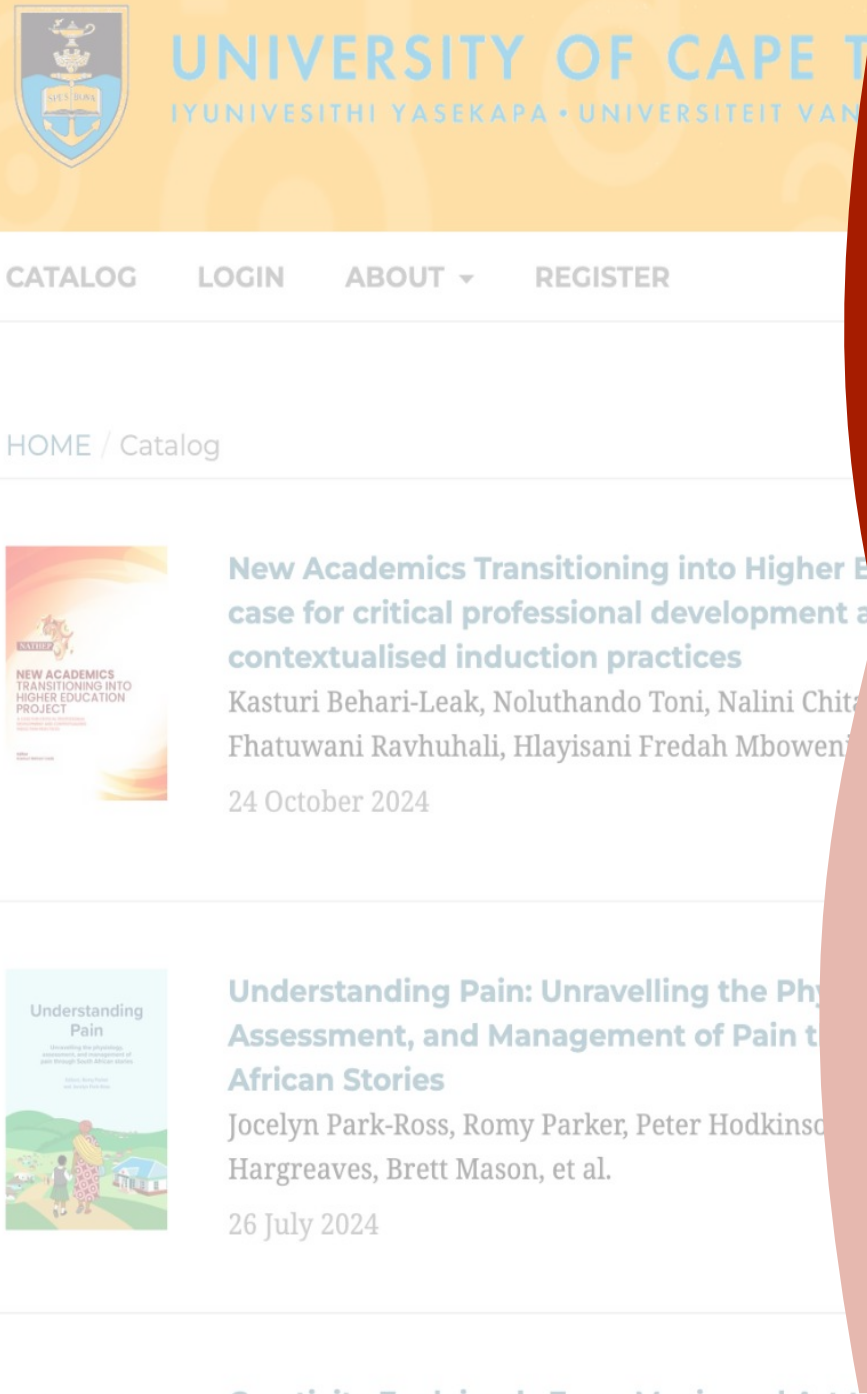
Host Institution:	Auckland University of Technology (NZ)
Content types:	Monographs, Edited Volumes
Total published works:	9
Notable traits:	Local/regional focus, recently established university open access program

Airlangga University Press

Host Institution:	Airlangga University (Indonesia)
Content types:	Textbooks, References Texts, Scientific Monographs, Anthologies, Pocket Books, Poetry, Novels, Educational Comics, Proceedings
Total published works:	1047
Notable traits:	Representative of booming OA activity in Indonesia

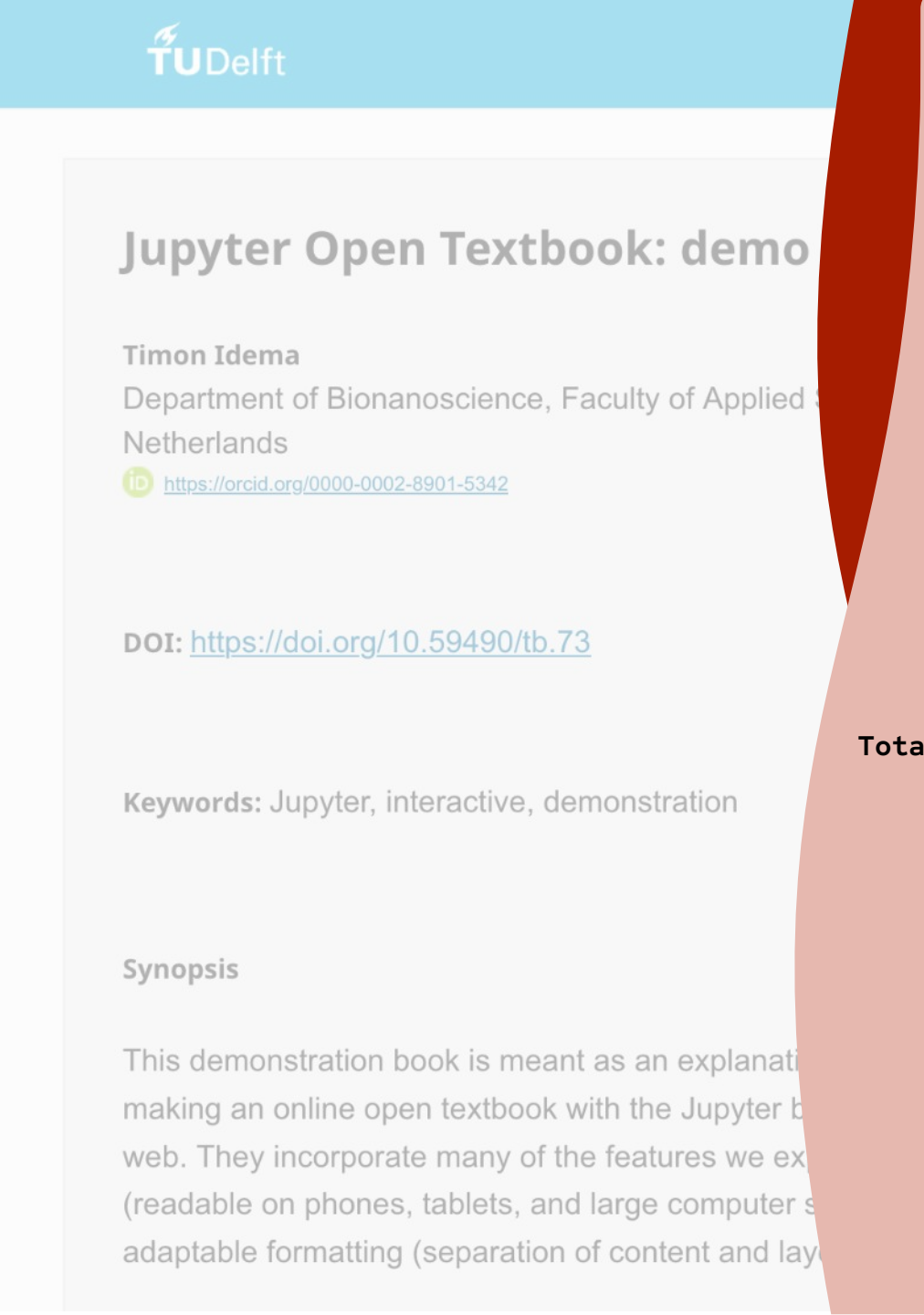
Edlciones de la FaHCE

Host Institution: Universidad Nacional de La Plata (Argentina)
Content types: Scholarly Books
Total published works: 229
Notable traits: Departmental publishing program (Faculty of Humanities and Education Sciences), all original works not published elsewhere



University of Cape Town Libraries

Host Institution:	University of Cape Town (South Africa)
Content types:	Monographs, Edited Volumes, Textbooks, Proceedings
Total published works:	29 (UCT Libraries) / 64 (UCT Press)
Notable traits:	Parallel UP and non-UP library publishing programs, supporting other African institutions to publish OA works

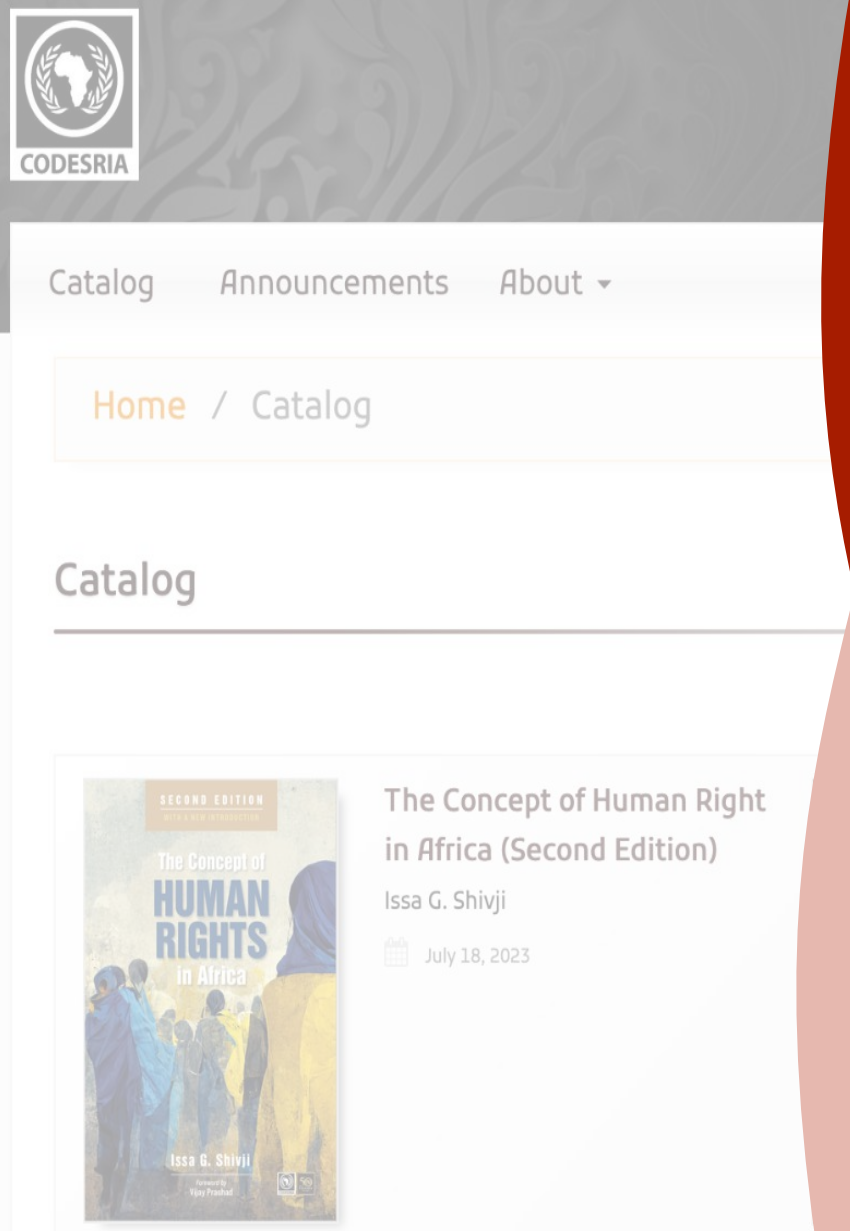


TU Delft OPEN Textbooks

Host Institution:	Delft University of Technology (Netherlands)
Content types:	Monographs, Conference Books, Textbooks, Interactive Textbooks, Previous Versions
Total published works:	133
Notable traits:	Extensive use for open educational materials, incorporation of interactive textbooks using Juypter

BookRXiv

Host Institution: Stichting Open Access Platforms (Netherlands)
Content types: Books, Proceedings
Total published works: 53
Notable traits: Experimental open-access repository designed for books and more, prioritises showcasing design and creativity



CODESRIA

Host Institution: The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (Senegal)

Content types: Books, Theses, Dissertations, Working Papers, Policy Briefs, Textbooks, Series

Total published works: 1899

Notable traits: NGO publishing program, operating at scale

A VISION FOR OMP

A VISION FOR OMP

With the right investment, OMP can become a best-in-class open source platform to develop and publish standalone scholarly content, including:

- Scholarly books
- Theses & dissertations
- Reports
- Creative works
- Non-traditional formats

… adopted and used by:

- Institutional publishing programs
- Open Access presses (university-affiliated and independent)
- OER creation programs
- Independent creators

A VISION FOR OMP

We do so by leaning into PKP's strengths and experience:

- Integration with scholarly publishing infrastructures to ensure alignment with good practices and broad discoverability
- Leverage of PKP's position and reputation in the open community
- Leadership as stewards of critical open infrastructure
- Experience working closely with open source contributors
- Revenue generation through hosted clients, sponsored development funding, and grants
- Position as a site for research into & education around open scholarly publishing

A VISION FOR OMP

This future for OMP is based on the following principles, which have emerged from the research process:

1. OMP is not just used for book publishing
2. OMP can and should support the future of publishing, not replicate the models of the past
3. Success for OMP lies in better supporting the people who have already adopted it
4. Success for OMP lies in creating flexibility, so it can be adapted to non-traditional use cases

HOW WE GET THERE

DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Dedicated development will be required to fulfil the platform's potential. The priorities can be broken into three main categories, and are based directly on user feedback:

- **Improve what's there:**
  - Chapter Handling
  - Publication Types
  - Accessibility & Theming
  - Press Settings & Terminology etc.

- **Achieve better parity with OJS:**
  - Crossref Plugin
  - QuickSubmit Plugin
  - Indexing etc.

- **Introduce new features:**
  - Proposal Workflow
  - Content Editing
  - Shared Catalogue with OJS etc.

CHAPTER HANDLING

PRIORITY: HIGH
COMPLEXITY: HIGH

Summary:

- Introduce support multi-author submissions
- Enable independent chapter workflows
- Review chapter metadata and display (incl. metrics)
- Improve display table of contents and chapter landing pages
- Improve chapter discoverability

Benefits:

- Resolves hard barrier to use reported by current and prospective users
- Better positions OMP for use in developing OER
- Creates flexibility for all kinds of content

CROSSREF PLUGIN

PRIORITY: HIGH
COMPLEXITY: MEDIUM

Summary:

- Develop plugin to enable Crossref DOI registration from OMP for top level publications and chapters
- User expectation is feature parity with OJS version

Benefits:

- Resolves high priority feature request from users
- Strategic importance for relationship with CrossRef
- Positive impact in ecosystem

QUICKSUBMIT PLUGIN

PRIORITY: HIGH
COMPLEXITY: MEDIUM

Summary:

- Develop plugin to enable users to publish pre-existing works, bypassing the OMP workflow
- Predicated on either an initial OJS rewrite or a new implementation that solves both at once
- User expectation is feature parity with OJS version

Benefits:

- Resolves high priority feature request from users
- Provides effective support for a widespread, marketable use case

ACCESSIBILITY & THEMING

PRIORITY: HIGH
COMPLEXITY: MEDIUM

Summary:

- Commission an accessibility audit of OMP back end & default OMP theme
- Remediate front and back end based on audit
- Produce VPAT/OMP-specific accessibility statement
- CONSIDER: Build a new, ADA compliant OMP default theme

Benefits:

- Improves user experience for all
- Meets compliance requirements for institutions in jurisdictions with related legislation

SUBMISSION TYPES

PRIORITY: HIGH
COMPLEXITY: LOW

Summary:

- Introduce press-level controls re: use of submission types
- Implement expanded submission type taxonomy
- Universalise edited volume author/editor settings
- Review submission type display
- Ensure proper handling in metadata exports

Benefits:

- Better aligns with existing user needs
- Better positions OMP for use by a wider target audience
- Demonstrates future-facing approach to publishing

INDEXING INTEGRATIONS

PRIORITY: MEDIUM
COMPLEXITY: MEDIUM

Summary:

- Develop DOAB submission bridge (scoped)
- Investigate submission to SCOPUS & build bridge (if viable)
- Investigate submission to OpenAlex & build bridge (if viable)
- Continue efforts to better index OMP content in Google Scholar
- Continue collaboration with Thoth Open Metadata

Benefits:

- Responds to high priority feature requests from users
- Better positions OMP for use by a wider target audience
- Positive impact in ecosystem

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

PRIORITY: MEDIUM
COMPLEXITY: MEDIUM

Summary:

- Review & improve submission form UX (e.g. chapter/ contributor order)
- Make print & sales fields optional in settings
- Add optional cover to announcement
- Add optional email to notify author of publication
- Create a path to the catalogue public view directly from the admin interface
- Replace "Press" as default term with "Publisher"
- etc.

PROPOSAL WORKFLOW

PRIORITY: LOW
COMPLEXITY: LOW

CONTENT EDITING

PRIORITY: LOW
COMPLEXITY: HIGH

SHARED OJS CATALOGUE

PRIORITY: LOW
COMPLEXITY: MEDIUM

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Beyond the development priorities presented in this report, we will need to develop supporting strategies across the organisation, including:

- Documentation
- Education & Training
- Communications
- Research
- Community Engagement

NEXT STEPS FOR PKP

- Develop detailed feature specifications with user input
- Assess & plan resources to deliver platform improvements
- Continue engagement with OMP user community
- Develop funding strategy, including partnerships, grants and sponsored development
- Commit to 6-monthly progress reports on implementation of this report's recommendations

FOR MORE, FOLLOW PKP ON...

- Mastodon
- BlueSky
- LinkedIn
- Facebook
- GitHub
- PKP Community Forum

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS PROCESS.