

# Publishing Musical Scholarship in the Age of Open Access

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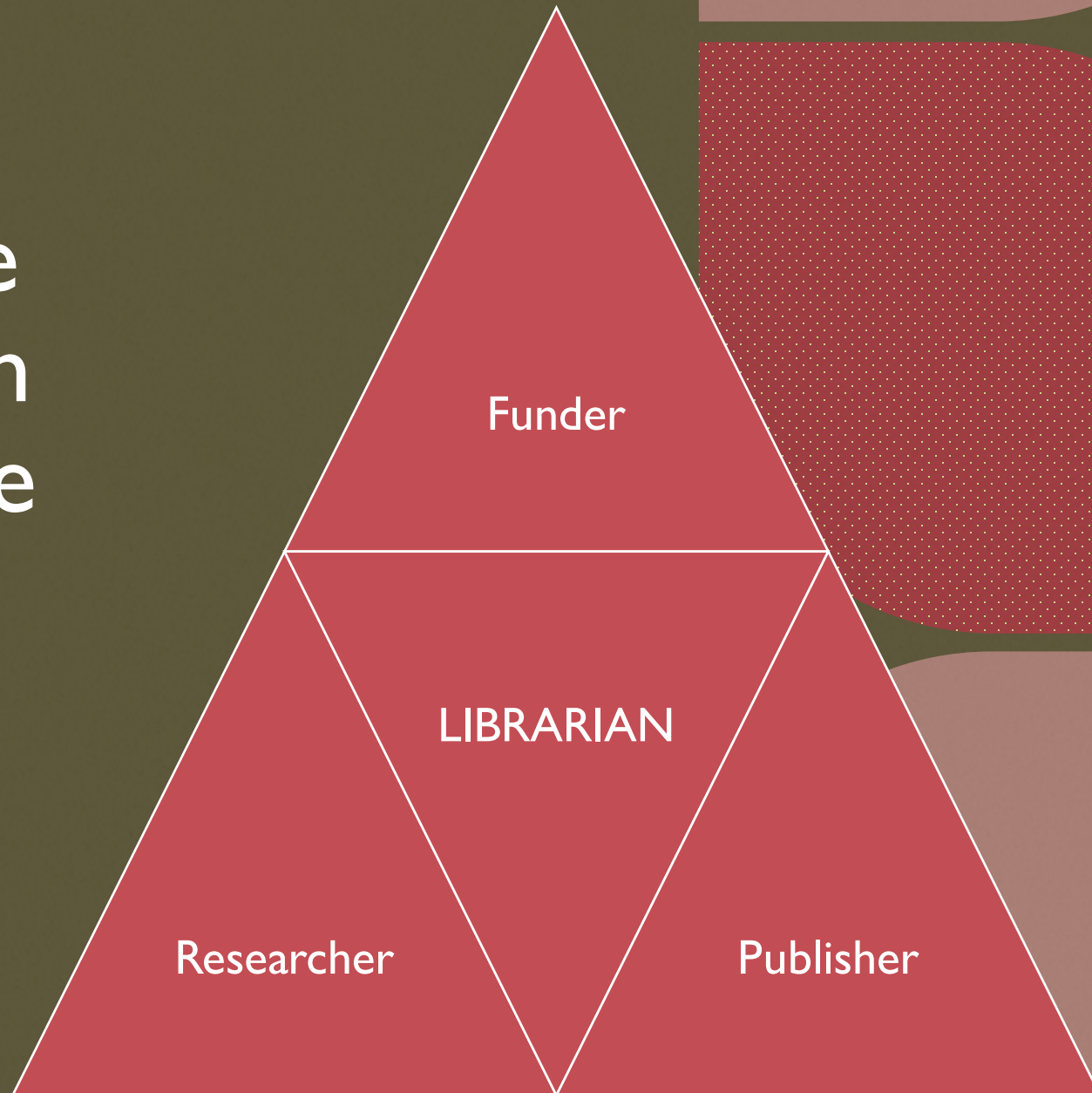
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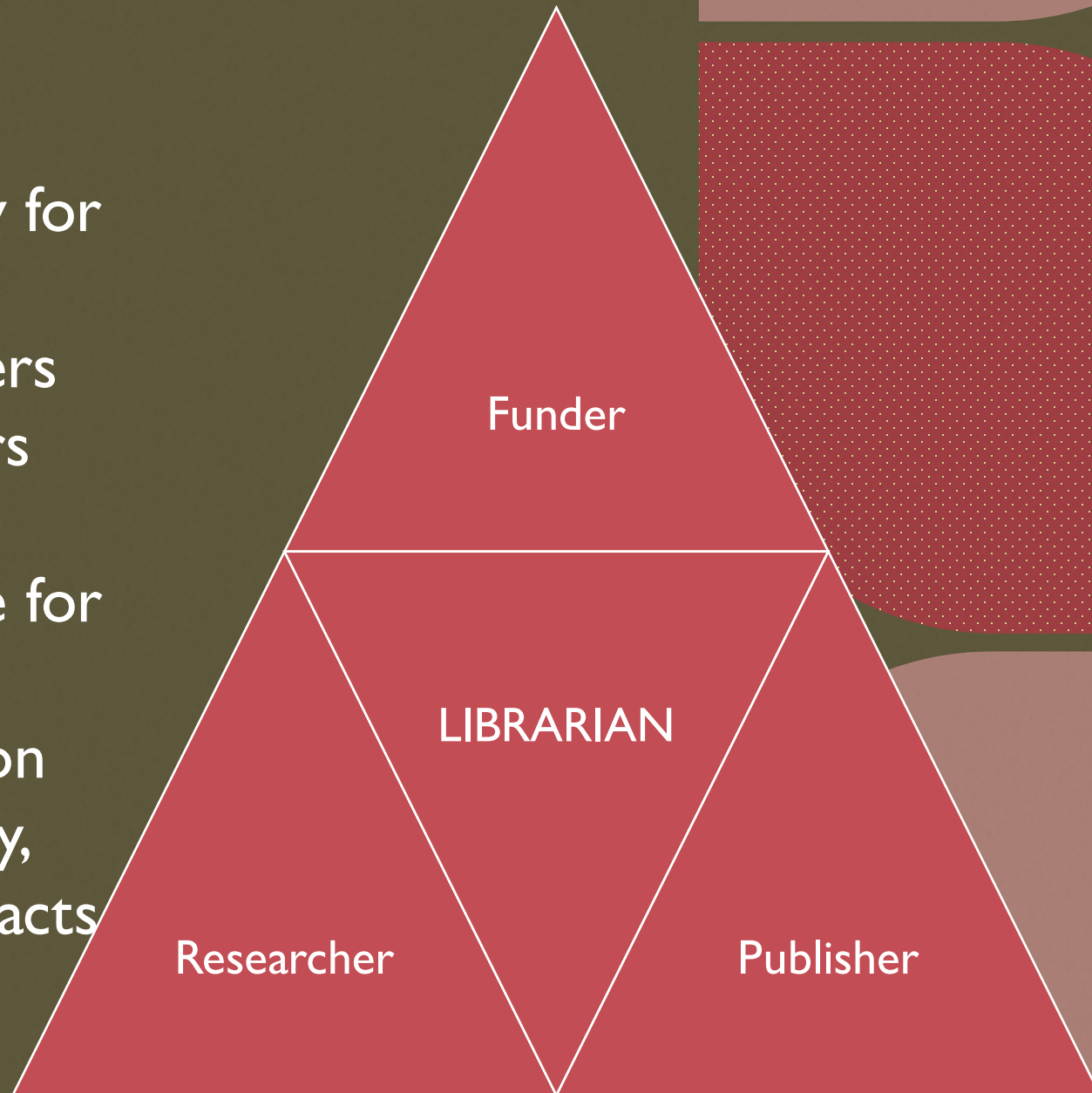
# My vantage point(s)

- Musicologist by background
- Working at a research-intensive university where:
  - Over £500m research grant income covered by OA policies/eligibility criteria
  - Researchers publish between 10k and 12k articles per year
- I'm a member of the Jisc UUK Content Strategy Group and I chair the national Content Expert Group
- I've been a member of national negotiations teams
- I've contributed to many OA policy sessions with funders

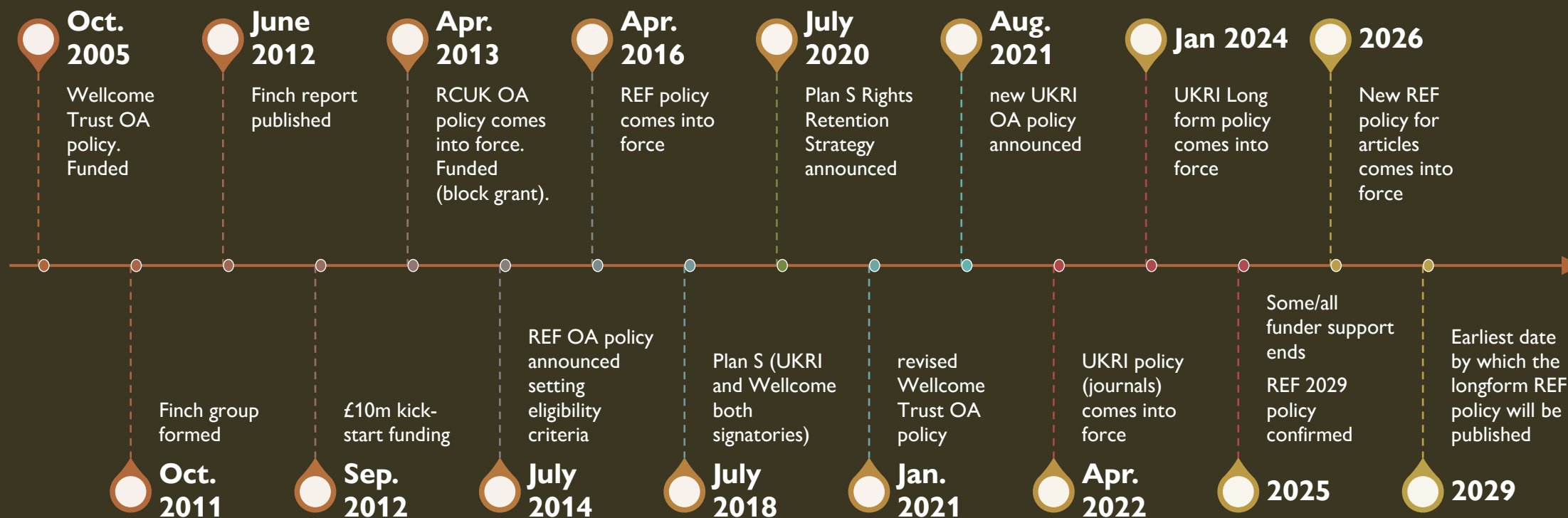
Librarians operate  
at the intersection  
between the three  
main actors



- Interpreting funder policy for researchers
- Negotiating with publishers to ensure that researchers can meet their funder obligations and be eligible for the REF
- Feeding back to funders on the impacts of their policy, including operational impacts



# A blizzard of policy: UK Open Access Policy Timeline



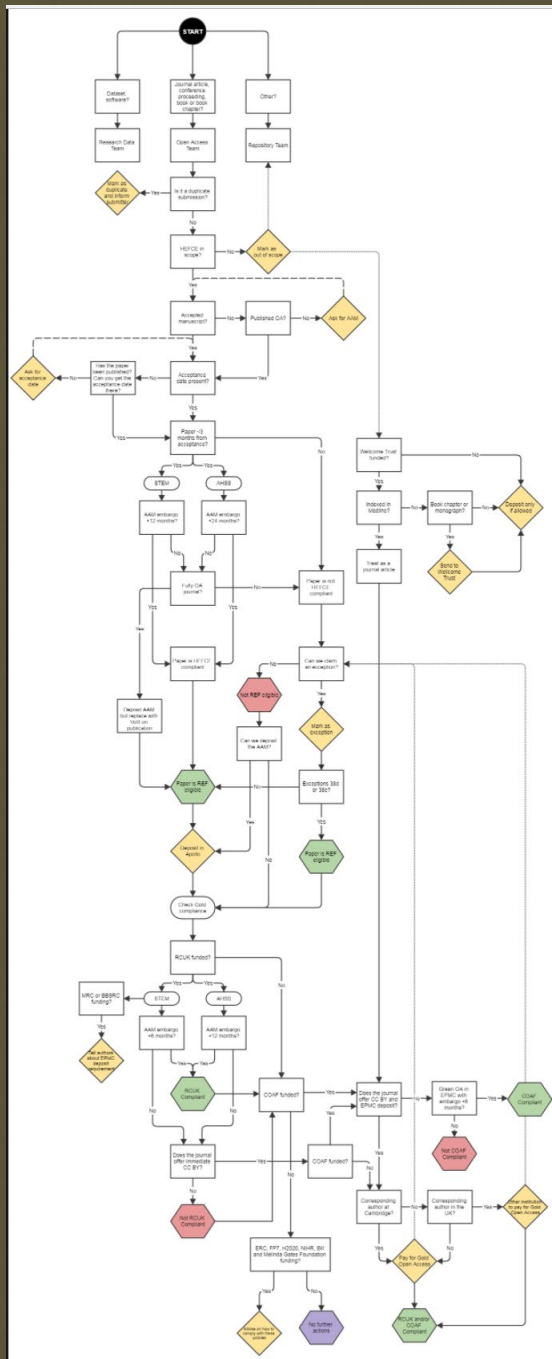


A specific UK challenge

# Funder obligations + REF eligibility

# It's Complicated (2016)

- You've had your idea
- You've applied for your research grant
- You've hired the staff, done the research, crunched the data and written your findings up
- ... then this – all in aid of working out whether your work is compliant with your funder(s) and eligible for the REF




Arthur Smith, *On Access policy, procedure & process at Cambridge*  
<https://unlockingresearch-blog.lib.cam.ac.uk/?p=1613>

# The root cause of the policy stack

“The policies start stacking up, so we have funder policies, then institutional ones. Then, in parallel, publishers introduce their own policies and some create different policies for the same journal which are dependent on who has funded the research in the first place. Academics seeking publication ask for a simple set of instructions and become suspicious that librarians have made everything really complex just for the fun of it. Believe me, we have not”

Focusing upstream: supporting scholarly communication by academics

Authors: Chris Banks 



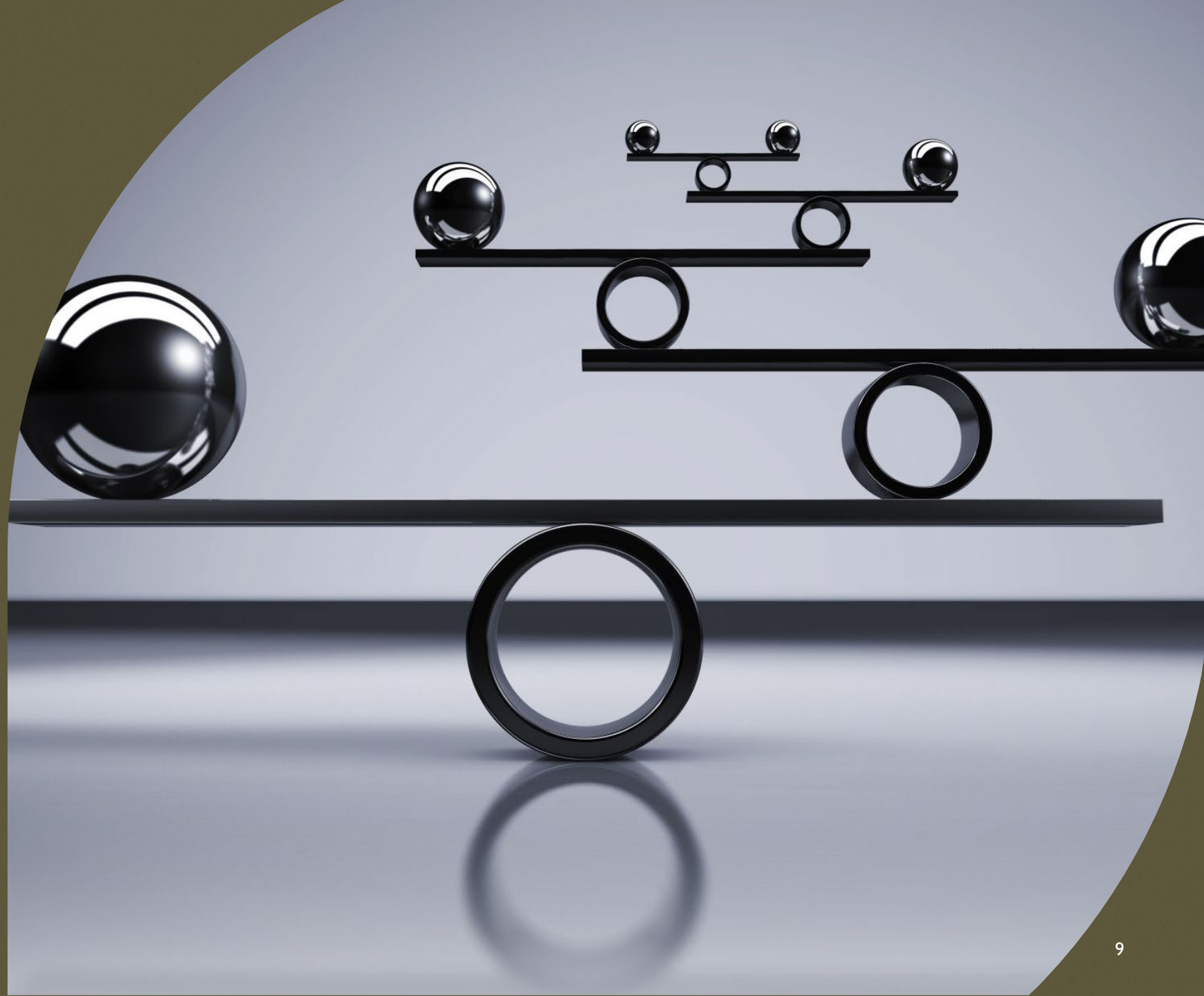
## Abstract

This article discusses the broad and complex funder open access (OA) policy environment in the UK and describes some of the challenges libraries face in providing frictionless services to support academic compliance. It offers a view on the actions of publishers in this policy environment, as well as outlining how strategic discussions have moved beyond the library to include the whole institution. Finally, it outlines the work being undertaken at Imperial College London to develop a new OA policy and licence which could support academics and institutions with compliance and HEFCE Research Excellence Framework eligibility in a single step.

<https://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.292>

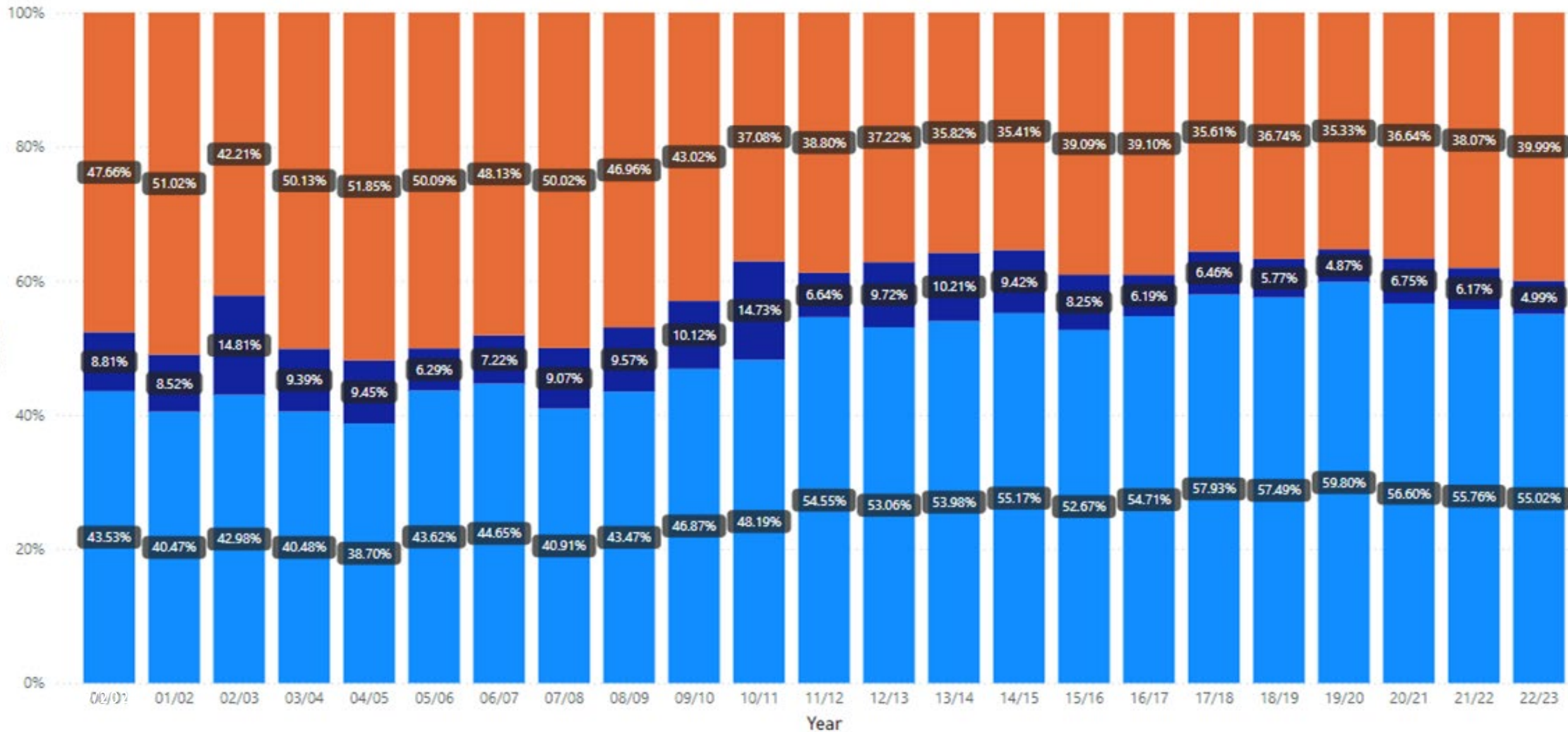


# Big Deals and major cost pressures

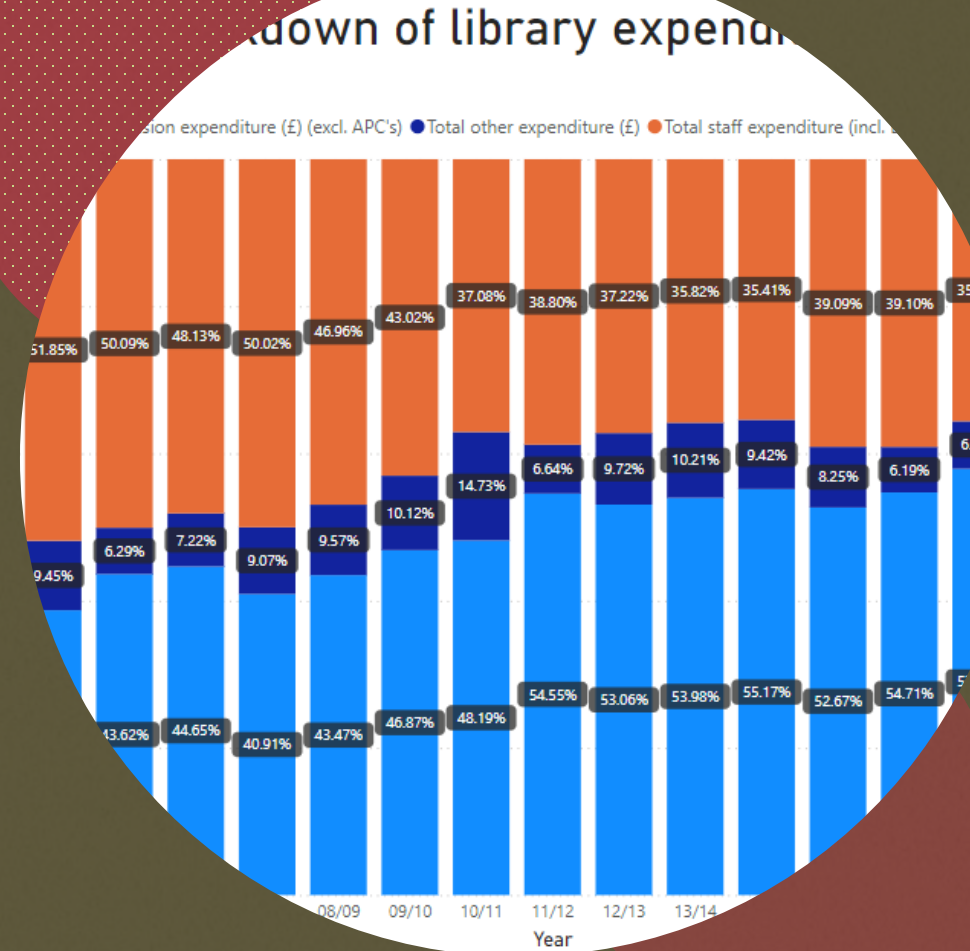


# Breakdown of library expenditure

● Total information provision expenditure (£) (excl. APC's)
 ● Total other expenditure (£)
 ● Total staff expenditure (incl. London Weighting) (£)



As a % of my budget,  
the cost of content  
has risen from ~ 40%  
to nearly 60%



# Publisher Models

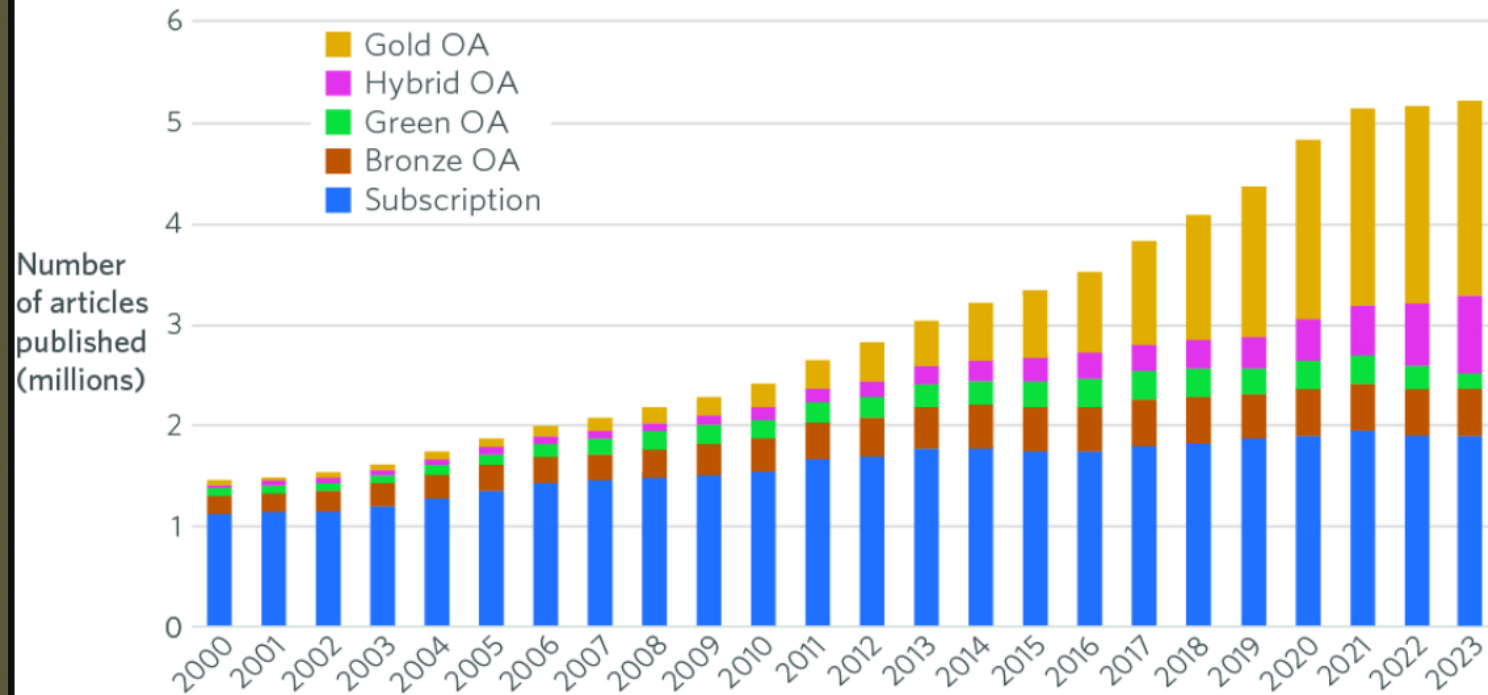
- Fully Open Access journals: all articles are free to read. Payment is made by the author/the author's institution/the author's funder
- Hybrid OA: some articles are published OA, others remain behind a paywall. Payment is made by the author/the author's institution/the author's funder (Ts & Cs apply)
- Diamond OA: neither the author nor the reader pays. Publishing costs are covered by other funding, e.g. by groups of libraries or by an author's institution



# Growth of OA publishing

- Subscription publishing (blue) remains steady
- Gold and hybrid (for which individual APCs are payable) have grown considerably
- Green (repository) OA is declining

Published article volumes by business model, 2000–2023



Article classifications are per Dimensions. Green OA articles for 2023 are underrepresented in this data, as many articles are subject to a 12-month embargo, which had not expired at the time of data collection. Results filtered to eliminate non-journal article content, such as conference abstracts, retraction notices, and front/back matter.

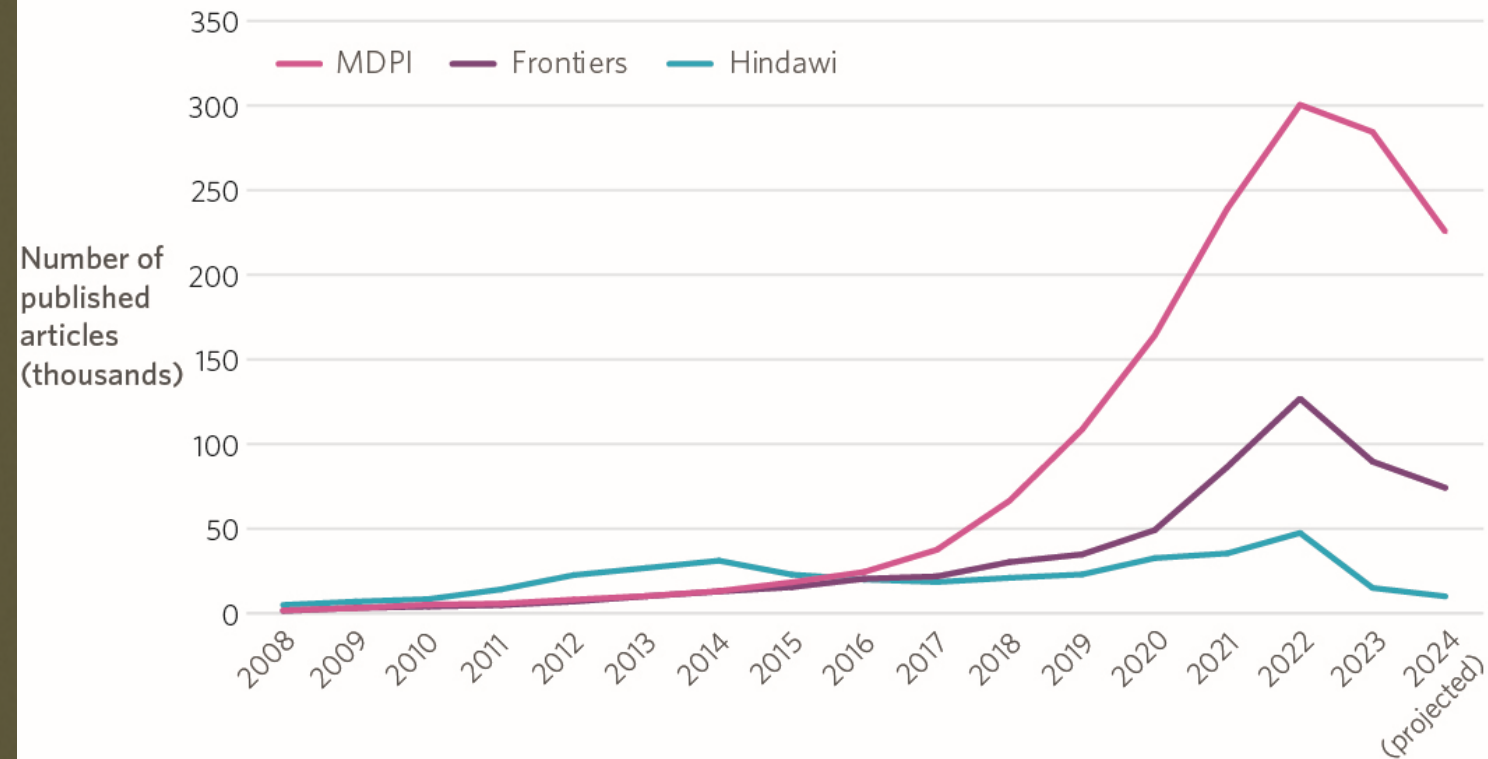
Source: Dimensions ([www.dimensions.ai](http://www.dimensions.ai)).

© 2024 Clarke & Esposito, adapted from *Scholarly Journals Market Trends 2024*.

# Unsustainable growth

- In an article-based economy, growth can be fueled by
  - Publishing more articles
  - Charging more per article
- An acquisition of the OA publisher Hindawi by Wiley, followed by the revelation that article growth had been paper-mill driven wiped \$400m from Wiley's stock value

Published article volumes for MDPI, Frontiers, and Hindawi, 2008-2024



2024 projections extrapolated from first half year data. Results filtered to eliminate non-journal article content, such as conference abstracts, retraction notices, and front/back matter.

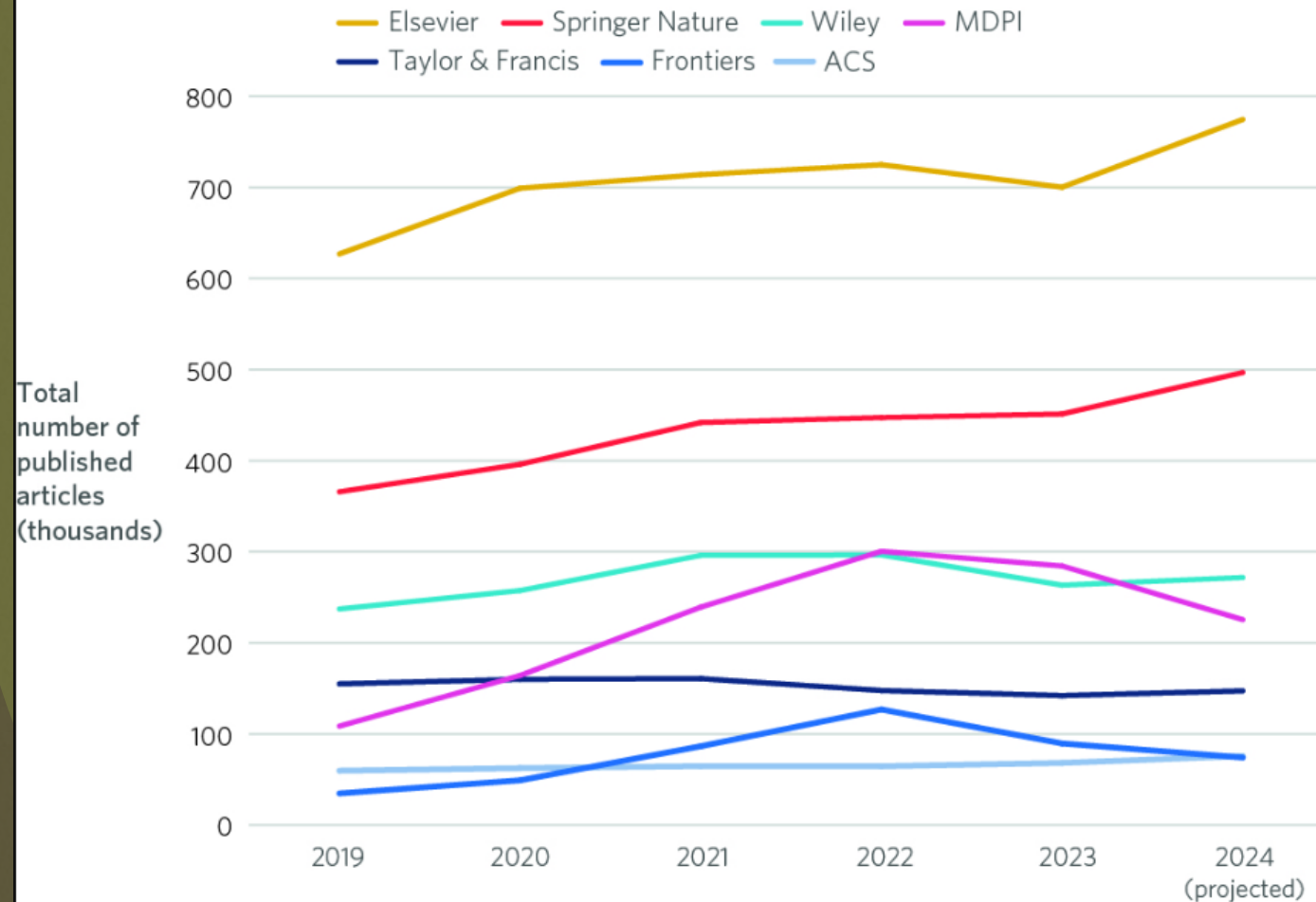
Source: Dimensions ([www.dimensions.ai](http://www.dimensions.ai)).

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# Market consolidation

- The largest publishers are growing
- For most commercial publishers, journal titles are owned by the publisher, not by the editors/learned society

Total published article volumes for selected publishers, 2019-2024



2024 projections extrapolated from first half year data. Results filtered to eliminate non-journal article content, such as conference abstracts, retraction notices, and front/back matter.

Source: Dimensions ([www.dimensions.ai](http://www.dimensions.ai)).

# Publisher income - Journals

- Committed up front – libraries often enter into multi-year agreements with publishers without knowing what will be published
- Publishers have an underpinning of stability with multi-year commitments for journal publishing
- For the vast majority, income is for online subscriptions, print is a declining part of the business model



# Publisher income: monographs

- Upfront commitments to purchase are fewer – most will make the decision following publication
- Considerable work undertaken post-acceptance making the AAM much less acceptable to authors
- There is a print business model – there are those who still prefer print, including print-on-demand

**£264,725,379.38**

funding UKRI has allocated to support open access publishing between 2012 and 2023/24

During this period more green OA has transformed to hybrid than hybrid to full OA

At the current pace, the earliest publishers will transform to OA is 70 years

Transformative agreements have deepened inequity in the UK and globally

# Finch report and the preference for “gold”

Was it a big expensive experiment?

To what extent was this preference unduly influenced by the publishers?

To what extent has publisher activity since Finch been focussed more on securing a proportion of the additional funding made available to support gold rather than effecting a meaningful transition?

Given the commercial nature of publishing, to what extent is the UK preference for gold sustainable? Other countries have not gone down the “Finch” preference for gold/funded route?

# Challenges for the arts and humanities

- Third party rights clearance
- Whilst the AAM and the VoR may be sufficiently similar for Green/AAM OA to be acceptable for journal articles, this is not the case for longform publications
- The UKRI OA block grant for journal articles is not available to all institutions – the conservatoires in particular
- Read & Publish deals, whilst negotiated nationally, are not affordable by small/less well-off institutions, including conservatoires



# Challenges for libraries

- Research-intensive institutions face increased costs for VoR OA publishing – those who publish more pay more
- Operational costs increase – we'd been transacting at the “big deal” level but now also need to transact at the article level
- Conservatoire libraries / libraries at less well funded institutions are unable to afford big deals, and are less likely to be able to operate an institutional repository
- Financial pressure of our institutions



# Inequities – who loses out?

- Researchers at smaller/less well funded institutions
  - Researchers without affiliation
  - Researchers without funding
  - ECRs
- 
- .... And that's just in the UK

# Do any models work?

- Models whereby libraries collectively pay to “unlock” open access
- Has worked in the humanities





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The Open Library of Humanities is an award-winning open-access publisher of internationally leading academic scholarship. Our mission is to support and extend open access to scholarship in the humanities – for free, for everyone, for ever. Our goal is to liberate university research from commercial control. We believe that scholarship should be academic-led and community-owned.





Blog

# A new approach to supporting scholarly communications: announcing the open access community framework (OACF)



by Helen Dobson 24 February 2022

Supporting the transition to open access (OA) requires a multi-pronged approach. A k



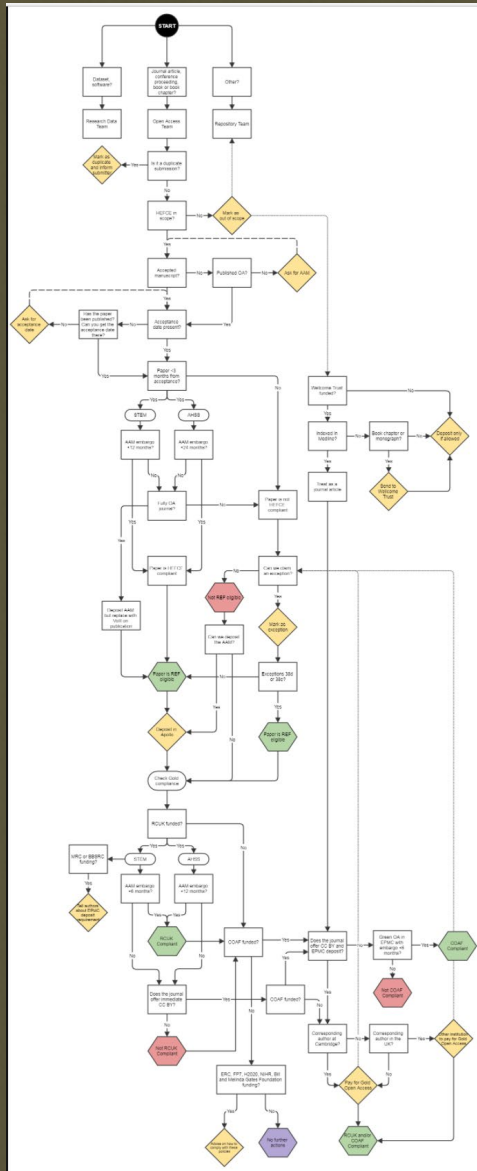
# Knowledge Unlatched

Open Access made simple

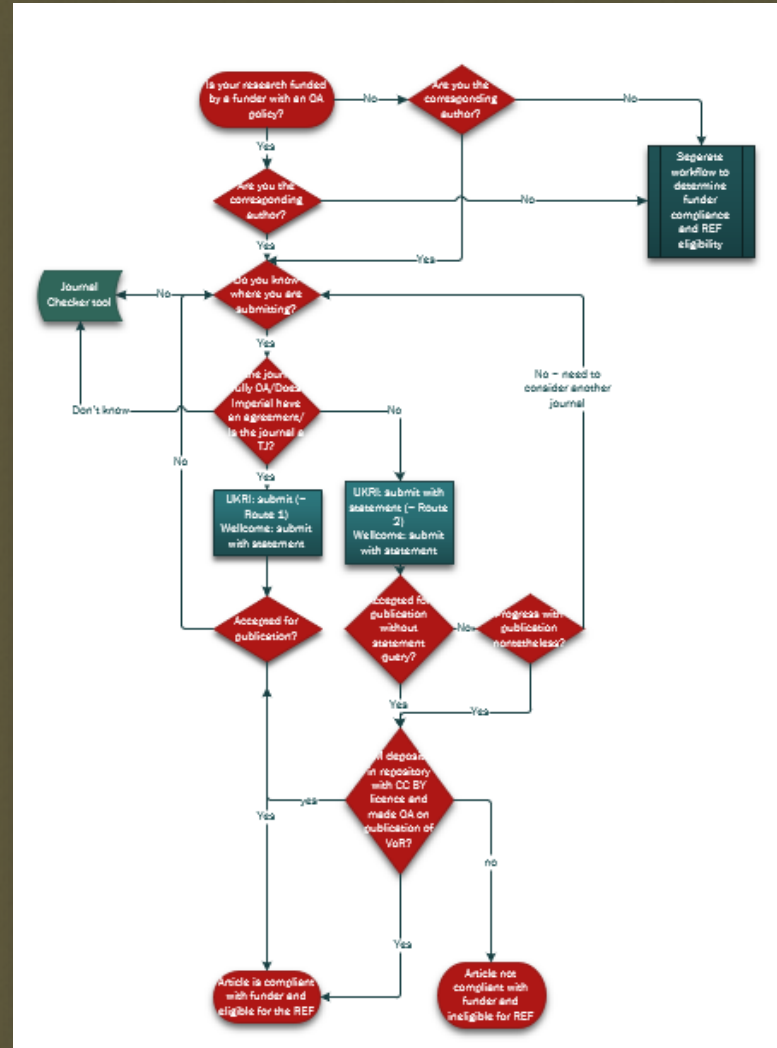
Knowledge Unlatched (KU) makes scholarly content freely available to everyone and contributes to the further development of the Open Access (OA) infrastructure. Our online marketplace provides libraries and institutions worldwide with a central place to support OA collections and models from leading publishing houses and new OA initiatives.

# Has anything got easier?

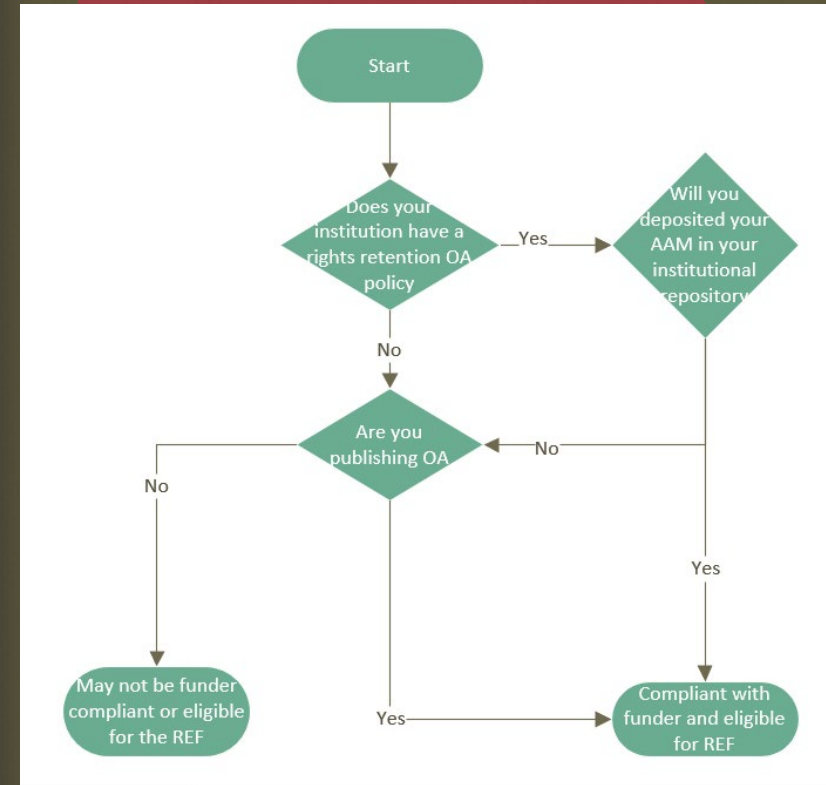
# 2016



# 2020



# 2022







# Publishing musical scholarship

Journals and monographs are only two of the scholarly communications mechanisms

What are the other and emerging channels, and (how) can OA enable those?

Thank you

