

JLSC

ISSN 2162-3309 | JLSC is published by the Iowa State University Digital Press | <http://jpsc-pub.org>

Volume 12, 1 (2024)

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Molls, E. & McCready, K. (2024). The Open Monograph Distribution and Acquisitions Gap: A Look at TOME (Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem) Titles. *Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication*, 12(1), eP15492. <https://doi.org/10.31274/jpsc.15492>

This article underwent fully anonymous peer review in accordance with JLSC's peer review policy.



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RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Open Monograph Distribution and Acquisitions Gap: A Look at TOME (Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem) Titles

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ABSTRACT

The Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem (TOME) network of universities, and the open access (OA) monographs that have been funded and published through this program, provide a unique opportunity to study the work done by university presses and academic libraries to distribute and acquire this content. TOME is a program that supports university presses' publication of OA monographs through locally funded subventions. Though the works have been published by universities, and the subvention programs that make them OA have largely involved the funding institution libraries in the process, the resulting OA works are not easily discoverable or accessible through library systems. Because it is so highly distributed across many academic institutions, the TOME collection of OA monograph titles offers the opportunity for libraries and publishers to more closely examine the process of creating OA content and provides the chance to study how we collectively make these works discoverable and accessible to our communities and more broadly in the world as well. The analysis presented in this paper offers insights into developing and refining procedures and management strategies at libraries participating in TOME. These recommendations provide insights into discovery of and access to OA monographs in general.

Received: 07/09/2022 Accepted: 02/12/2024



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IMPLICATIONS OF PRACTICE

The authors suggest that to improve the library discovery of OA books, libraries and leaders developing cooperative OA publishing schemes should engage in the following:

1. Publishers and libraries collectively must continue to urge acquisition tool providers (EBSCO, ExLibris, etc.) to further the work to make OA content known within their systems and to indicate which titles are available as OA editions in the acquisitions process. This also includes automatic download of MARC (machine-readable cataloging) records for selected titles and the ability for libraries to offer financial support for OA initiatives.
2. Participating publishers must be required to provide MARC records for all titles across the TOME collection and investigate wider visibility for these MARC records, such as OCLC's Collection Manager.
3. It should be required that MARC records include the book's OA status by using the 506 field.

INTRODUCTION

Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem (TOME), a joint effort of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), Association of University Presses (AUP), and Association of American Universities (AAU), launched in 2017 to provide a new business model for publishing open access (OA) scholarly monographs. Participating institutions provide \$15,000 grants to support monographs written by faculty from the paying institution. Publishers, participating university presses, apply the grant dollars to release an OA edition of the monograph. All monographs go through the press's existing editorial and review process (McCormick, 2019). As of December 2022, when the pilot came to a close, the TOME program has facilitated the publication of over 140 OA monographs through 27 participating presses (Maron, 2023).

The TOME network of universities supports university presses' publication of OA monographs, but many individual university presses have been engaging in OA monograph publishing for years, often doing so with a fundamental belief in the format and ability to reach wider audiences; however, the logistics (e.g., hosting, economics, and distribution mechanisms) are diverse and complicated. This paper examines TOME-funded titles to determine how presses and libraries are making these works discoverable. Limiting the scope to TOME publishers provides a unique opportunity to study variation; unlike other OA monograph initiatives, TOME publishers are existing university presses that use their own infrastructure

and workflows to distribute each book. The authors of this paper surveyed 18 participating TOME presses in January 2020 and in January 2023 to better understand the current distribution of TOME monographs. This analysis and comparative data is meant to assist in developing or refining procedures and management strategies at the authors' library, and for other libraries participating in TOME, and to also provide insights into discovery of OA monographs in general.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Open access scholarly monograph publishing

Though it is clear that, “when asked, a group of scholars express robust support for the importance of reading and writing monographs” (Wulf & Anderson, 2019), print material usage data from library collections does not support this assertion. Circulation trends reported by the Association for Research Libraries indicate that initial circulations of physical materials have decreased 58% between 1991 and 2015 (ARL, n.d.). Dan Cohen, Vice Provost for Information Collaboration at Northeastern University, outlined in *The Atlantic* that shrinking library budgets for monographs are perhaps justified by the declining use of print scholarly monographs (Cohen, 2019). He explained that the portions of scholarly monographs used in research are read for the key points. Cohen (2019) then wrote, “With the rapidly growing number of books available online, that mode of slicing and dicing has largely become digital. Where students or faculty once pulled volumes off the shelf to scan a table of contents or index, grasp a thesis by reading an introduction, check a reference, or trace a footnote, today they consult the library’s swiftly expanding ebook collection (our library’s ebook collection has multiplied tenfold over the past decade), Google Books, or Amazon’s Look Inside. With each of these clicks, a print circulation or in-house use of a book is lost” (para. 10).

The limited data on OA scholarly monograph usage, however, shows the opposite of physical material circulation. In Monica McCormick’s Educause Review article, McCormick (2019, para. 14) cited the example of Cornell University Press, “which learned that within about two years, its 77 OA books had received 100,000-chapter downloads and 200,000 views on JSTOR and MUSE from people in 152 different countries and had been downloaded 29,000 times on Amazon.” Additionally, the University College London Press (a strictly OA press) conducted an in-depth study of their publications’ usage. They found that “digital distribution is making it possible to understand the processes, audiences, and relationships involved in scholarly communication in new ways” (Montgomery, 2018, p. 336). They examined the usage data across four repositories (OAPEN Digital Library, UCL Discovery, The Internet Archive, and Unglue.It) where 14 of their books were hosted. Each book averaged

at least 50 monthly downloads over the lifetime of each title, with some titles coming close to 500 downloads (Montgomery, 2018). Similar statistics apply to the first 25 TOME books published, which, “as of July 2022 . . . had been downloaded an average of 7,754 times. These numbers were especially striking when viewed alongside print sales figures for these same titles. Based on data provided by the publishers, the print editions (cloth and paper) of the first 25 TOME books sold an average of 590 copies” (Maron, 2023, p. 19). We know anecdotally that readers and writers of monographs profess to want the material in print, but the data indicates that usage is much higher for OA ebooks.

Fortunately, despite the challenges that are present, many university presses and library publishing services are publishing OA editions of scholarly monographs. OAPEN, an online library and publication platform in Europe, currently hosts over just over 19,000 OA book titles while also operating the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB), which includes “over 50,000 peer-reviewed OA books from more than 550 publishers” (Stern, 2021, p. 9). Of course, this is very small in comparison to the estimated 2,210,000 books published worldwide each year, but it is a start (“Books Published per Country per Year,” 2022).

Libraries and open access monographs

Increasingly, libraries have been at philosophical and financial odds with commercial publishers who want to erect higher, more expensive paywalls to scholarship produced by university-paid scholars (Kell, 2019). Librarians have become advocates of OA publishing knowing that OA publications both are more heavily used and provide more equitable access beyond campus. Many academic libraries are using collection funds or other library resources to support OA publishing, most widely discussed because of the 2017 call to action by David Lewis, then dean of Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis Library, asking university libraries to collectively commit to investing 2.5% of their budgets to “support the common infrastructure needed to create the open scholarly commons” (Lewis, 2017, p. 3). Lewis’s letter came at a time when some libraries were rethinking established funds that paid solely for journal article processing charges (APCs) for campus researchers, in part because of increased criticism surrounding hybrid journals and “double dipping,” in which journals collected APC dollars and subscription dollars for the same journal titles (Eve, 2015; Reinsfelder & Pike, 2018). While libraries continue to spend dollars on open scholarship in a variety of ways, it is becoming increasingly important for libraries to be able to assess and track their investments, which means that for initiatives that result in the publication of OA content, libraries will need to ensure that these titles are included in the library discovery systems (e.g., online catalog) that serve their campus. Achieving this, however, means examining the current acquisition workflow.

Most monographs acquired by university libraries, including those in DDA and EBA¹ plans, are purchased through vendor systems, the most common being GOBI Library Solutions by EBSCO. The 2019 Library Acquisition Report from ITHAKA provides the most comprehensive and recent overview of modern academic library book acquisitions. The report, which surveyed 124 US higher education libraries on the acquisition activity of fiscal year 2017, found that, overwhelmingly, libraries acquire most of both print and ebooks using a single vendor, GOBI. GOBI print sales accounted for 74.9% of the market share, while GOBI ebook sales accounted for 91.5% of the market share. The popularity of GOBI means that for many US academic libraries, most print and ebook acquisition happens in the same system provided by the same vendor (Daniel et al., 2019).

GOBI, formerly named and owned by Yankee Book Peddler (YBP), was founded in 1971 and became an international bookseller specializing in book approval plans. Over the years, GOBI expanded to include ebooks but continued to operate using processes and infrastructure developed for the print era, likely because, as recent as 2017, academic libraries on average bought nearly 14 times the amount of print books than ebooks (Daniel et al., 2019). In some ways, the introduction of OA monographs has exposed similar challenges that library acquisition models faced when for-sale ebooks started to gain popularity. For GOBI, then YBP, internal tracking of the availability of electronic versions of print books in 2009 revealed major lags between e- and print format availability. That year, only 6% of books were simultaneously available as e- and print. YBP worked directly with publisher and aggregator partners to address the lag and, by 2013, only four years later, saw simultaneous availability of for-purchase e- and print reach 42% (Baker & Breaux, 2013). Currently, despite higher individual list prices, libraries are buying ebooks at an increased rate, partly to address space shortages but also because of the increased access that ebooks can provide to a campus, especially when materials are for course use (Novak et al., 2020).

Although GOBI has been able to incorporate ebooks into the platform, OA books were largely ignored until very recently. In a 2017 webinar, Vice President for Publisher Relations & Partnerships at GOBI, Michael Zeoli, noted that GOBI was still selling print copies of books to libraries that existed as digital OA copies, highlighting a title from University of California's Luminos model, in which GOBI sold 94 copies to libraries. This "accident," according to Zeoli, was because GOBI has "no way currently to identify these [books] as open access" (Choice Media Channel, 2017). Zeoli noted that almost all the purchases of Luminos titles in GOBI were made on auto-ship approval plans, meaning that the books matched a library's

¹ DDA (demand-driven acquisition) and EBA (evidence-based acquisition) are ebook purchasing programs in which library users have access to the full text of the entire collection, but selected titles are then automatically or selectively purchased for perpetual access based on actual usage data.

pre-existing criteria for selection and were ordered without the deliberate input from a librarian selector (Choice Media Channel, 2017). As of 2020, books available as OA editions were still being sold as print and ebooks through GOBI without an alternate edition note (Edmunds & Enriquez, 2020). As the most used ebook vendor, GOBI's lack of OA indicators impacted nearly all libraries.

This situation improved recently. In an interview in June 2023, Jon Elwell, Senior Vice President of Books at EBSCO Information Systems, reported that GOBI is now including OA publishers in their ordering system. Additionally, if a library selects the appropriate setting, the existence of an OA copy will kill an automated approval plan print copy shipment (personal email correspondence of Kate McCready with Jon Elwell, 2023). He also reported that their new ordering tool, Mosaic, which will replace GOBI, will seamlessly integrate OA monographs into the same distribution systems that print and pay-to-access ebooks use. For example, acquisitions librarians will be able to “acquire” an OA book into their catalog with MARC records. Future developments of the new system would also allow for the inclusion of OA monographs as part of approval plan acquisitions.

OA books are also included and findable by users in library discovery systems through additional workflows created by library staff. Libraries traditionally receive MARC records, the digital descriptions of the items libraries collect and catalog, directly from the vendors providing ebook packages. However, as noted by Thompson & Traill (2017, p. 2), “[T]he development of library services platforms, like Alma (Ex Libris) and WorldShare (OCLC), that integrate electronic resources management functions with traditional integrated library system (ILS) functions means that multiple sources for e-resource metadata are now available...” But as Thompson & Traill (2017) point out, more available MARC records do not equal more high-quality MARC records. Poor-quality MARC records from vendors have long permeated the ebook acquisition process for libraries, which has required libraries large and small to create additional cataloging workflows (Thompson & Traill, 2017). This work is essential to ebook discovery and access within library catalogs, and as Castro et al. wrote in 2019, “Quality MARC records are required by libraries. [...] This includes the delivery of robust and detailed MARC records for purchased content, in a timely fashion. Publishers and vendors need to provide this service while also examining methods aimed at improving this experience for libraries” (Castro et al., 2019, p. 217). The article’s authors concluded with a call to action for quality MARC records for purchased content. Similarly, records for non-purchased content (like OA monographs) require the same amount of improvement.

Jeff Edmunds and Ana Enriquez (2020) wrote about their efforts to increase the visibility of OA material at Penn State University Libraries. For Edmunds and Enriquez, OA materials

presented a discovery issue (can a faculty-authored OA article be found through the library?), an access issue (were users being required to log in to the university's proxy for OA content?), and an acquisitions concern (is the library buying copies of books that are freely available?). Edmunds and Enriquez's goal of increasing OA content visibility required them to first identify what materials *were* OA, which required a review of ebook MARC records. MARC records, they note, "generally contain no data making OA status apparent, even when the vendor has other metadata indicating the materials are OA" (Edmunds & Enriquez, p. 131). The authors also note that this lack of complete metadata and linked access indicators is directly related to the information void that prevents librarians from knowing whether a print book has an OA edition (Edmunds & Enriquez, 2020). Access indicators are also a challenge for library partners like OCLC because "[o]ften there is no standard text or code to look at when a record isn't part of WorldCat" (Bruner & Bromelia, 2020, p. 235), to which the authors propose the solution of having metadata creators "use the same set of identifiers that would preferably be numeric rather than text strings" (p. 235). This proposal is not far from the approved changes to MARC, which will add "access status" to the records (Library of Congress, 2020). This update will most certainly be welcomed, but it will likely require a continued combination of custom-built workflows in libraries' technical services in addition to the creation of quality MARC records from vendors and publishers.

Publisher-supplied metadata, ONIX data, is often a point of frustration for libraries, in part because libraries do not typically use it for cataloging or ingest. Even with the launch of an ONIX to MARC pilot program at the Library of Congress, the pilot team noted that "the [Library of Congress] and OCLC, which have done the most to implement use of ONIX in their workflows, are unique because they have direct links to publishers that other libraries rarely have" (Debus-López et al., 2012, p. 278). ONIX and MARC serve different purposes for different audiences, and as the authors of Digital Science's 2019 Report on the State of Open Monographs wrote, "The tensions between ONIX and MARC standards when it comes to OA ebooks may appear impenetrable" (Grimme et al., 2019, p. 10).

Users also find OA monographs in library discovery systems thanks to libraries' activation and inclusion of aggregators like DOAB. In a study published in 2017 that analyzed the discoverability of OA books, author Aaron McCollough found that, although OA books were not as discoverable in libraries as they could be, there is "a strong indication that aggregation of OA metadata by a trusted entity such as DOAB plays a significant role in facilitating OA book discoverability in library catalogs" (McCollough, 2017, p. 189). DOAB is a unique metadata aggregator in that it is OA-specific, publisher inclusive, and does not require any formal publisher-vendor contracts, instead using an application process that allows publishers to upload metadata by bulk or individual titles (DOAB, n.d.). When a

library includes DOAB in the discovery layer, every book listed in DOAB is available to users.

For some university libraries, OA collection development is more intentional and requires additional workflows. Emory University created a specific collection development policy for OA content ([Emory Libraries, n.d.](#)). For Emory, DOAB is included in the library's discovery layer, and other OA books can be requested for inclusion through Emory's internal committee structure and are then cataloged by technical service staff ([Palazzolo et al., 2021](#)). The addition of a policy like Emory's requires dedicating staff time to content that might be "free," while also continuing time commitments on content the library purchases. This commitment to open content works toward the kind of action called for by David Lewis, and as Bruner and Bromelia (2020, p. 236) noted of Emory's policy, the inclusion of "open content in collection development strategies signals to the community that these are valuable resources to be sought out and provides selection criteria to aid collection development and acquisitions librarians, or even teams of reviewers, in making decisions." Emory's acquisition of OA monographs represents a two-pronged approach that includes the activation of a large, shared collection, DOAB, and the selection of individual books by subject librarians or acquisition staff.

Edmunds and Enriquez (2020) described the added workflows their institution, Penn State University Libraries, employs to collect and make OA monographs available through library discovery systems. Penn State Libraries assigns technical services staff to batchload MARC record sets provided by three publishers, Springer Nature, Peter Lang, and Cambridge. The three publishers' MARC records, however, are fraught with challenges. The article's authors note the following:

...Only Springer Nature routinely includes a consistent marker of a title's OA status in the MARC record: a 506 field containing the string "Open Access." Cambridge University Press's MARC records are inconsistent in their treatment of OA status: some records contain a 500 field stating, "Open Access title" and some do not; none of their records use field 506. Peter Lang's MARC records for OA titles include no metadata indicating their OA status. It should be added that Peter Lang's MARC records for OA content are generally substandard in quality, lacking, for example, subject headings and added entries for additional authors and editors ([Edmunds & Enriquez, 2020](#)).

The 506 field access indicator is, however, a very new addition to MARC records and was created to adopt the OCLC/German National Library proposal to further clarify the designation of OA and license information for resources ([Library of Congress, 2018](#)). The authors

hope that more publishers and MARC record creators will more widely use the 506 field moving forward.

Penn State librarians also illustrate challenges with Knowledge Unlatched (KU), an OA initiative that publishes solely OA titles. Like TOME, KU is not a single publisher but rather a business model for publishing OA monographs across participating publishers. At the time of their article's publication, KU did "not routinely include metadata in its MARC records to make OA status explicit" (Edmunds and Enriquez, 2020, p. 131). As they indicated, KU moved all of their titles in 2020 to a centralized hosting platform called Open Research Library (Edmunds & Enriquez, 2020). Part of KU's roadmap includes "enhanced metadata, improving metadata supplied by publisher" (Open Research Library, n.d.). At the time this paper was written, KU provided all MARC records for download directly from the program's website and provides MARC records through OCLC Collection Manager (Knowledge Unlatched, n.d.).

Libraries' strategies and workflows for acquiring OA monographs are solutions that attempt to patch a pipeline built to distribute and acquire paid books. The examples included above require supplemental workflows that fail to address the larger publisher-to-library OA monograph distribution, a worry to libraries looking to commit more dollars to the creation of OA content and the support of non-commercial OA publishers.

METHODS

This study was intended to examine how participating university presses distribute TOME-funded OA scholarly monographs and gather basic background information on open monograph publishing as it relates to academic library acquisitions. A 13-question Qualtrics survey was sent electronically to the 18 participating university presses with a published TOME monograph. The survey was distributed initially in January 2020 and again in April 2023. The data collected reflects the practices happening at the responding institutions at those moments in time. The authors assumed that some university press practices would change during the five-year pilot of TOME, especially how TOME books are distributed.

Population sample

The survey was sent to the following university presses: Cambridge University Press, Cornell University Press, Duke University Press, Fordham University Press, Indiana University Press, Manchester University Press, MIT Press, Ohio State University Press, Oxford University Press, Penn State University Press, SUNY Press, University of California Press, University of Cincinnati Press, University of Michigan Press, University of Minnesota Press, University of North Carolina Press, University of Washington Press, and University Press of Florida.

Each of these presses have published at least one OA edition scholarly monograph using subvention funds provided through the TOME initiative. Seventeen of the eighteen presses surveyed responded to the 2020 survey. Fifteen of the eighteen presses responded to the 2023 survey.

The survey asked presses to provide some basic information related to the press's history related to OA monograph publishing. The range of OA publishing experience varied significantly among the respondents. In 2020, four of the university presses, nearly one quarter, either had not published OA monographs prior to publishing TOME works or had published fewer than four OA monographs outside of the program. Two of these publishers had never published any OA monographs.

RESULTS

All 17 presses that responded to the 2020 survey indicated that in addition to making TOME-funded titles available as an OA ebook, they also make the titles available for purchase. Ten of the presses indicated that TOME titles are available for purchase as both ebooks and print books. Seven of the presses offer TOME titles for purchase only as print books.

It is important to restate here that libraries are financially supporting OA publishing at many levels, including the title level. These investments are not transparent, making it difficult for libraries to evaluate their return on investment. This lack of transparency also causes libraries to make purchasing decisions without complete information. They may purchase a for-sale version without knowing that an open version is available elsewhere (even one funded by their own institution as done through TOME). It is this exact concern that led Penn State librarians to investigate the availability of OA books in their library catalog ([Edmunds & Enriquez, 2020](#)). It is unclear, and not within the scope of this survey, whether the for-sale ebook version of TOME titles were available to purchase by libraries through existing ebook packages and established vendor relationships.

In 2020, only four of the surveyed university presses made TOME titles available directly on the press's website. This has improved substantially, but there is still room for improvement. As of July 2023, 13 of the university presses studied display their OA editions sufficiently, and five seemed to be actively working to hide the existence of the OA edition.

- Five (5) of the university presses' websites for the TOME funded titles do not visibly mention that the OA version is available. Even after clicking, the OA edition is buried and the link may only say "open access."

- Six (6) of the university presses' websites provide some mention of the OA edition on the book's primary page, but these were not prominently displayed (e.g., the reference is lower on the page, the link language is obscure, etc.).
- Seven (7) of the university presses' websites very prominently display the OA edition of the book. The best of these placed the OA text in the top center of the page directly below the title and next to the book cover image.

Fully understanding the status of an individual title's access options is critical to decision making. For example, Emory's previously mentioned OA collection development policy notes that OA monographs not included in DOAB should not be requested for inclusion on a title-by-title basis, but rather by the publisher's entire OA title list (Palazzolo, 2018). Identifying the access status of university press titles can pose a challenge if presses are not linking to OA content directly from the press's website.

All of the presses surveyed used the ONIX metadata standard to distribute book data. ONIX is the international standard for print and ebooks, but is primarily used by book distributors, as the standard includes sale information. Libraries rarely work directly with ONIX, and instead use MARC. Of the surveyed presses, five presses indicated that TOME titles do not have associated MARC records, two presses did not answer this data point, and 10 presses indicated that TOME titles do have associated MARC records. It is concerning for libraries that not all TOME books have associated MARC records; furthermore, as indicated in the above literature review, it is possible that the available MARC records for TOME titles do not consistently indicate access. Unlike KU, the TOME program does not currently collect, and make available for download, MARC records for all titles, so a library looking to include all TOME titles in their collection would have to rely on third-party, vendor-provided MARC records. Vendor-provided MARC records for TOME titles are likely to recreate the issues discussed by Thompson and Traill and will require added library workflows. (Thompson & Traill, 2017)

Metadata has real implications for the use of OA monographs because discoverability drives usage. Titles published under the TOME program are published by presses with experience publishing for-sale books and do not impose strict guidelines around metadata, instead opting for a checklist of minimal fields (Potter, 2019b). The combination of dually existing for-sale and OA ebook versions and the lack of available MARC records across all participating TOME publishers make it clear that existing distribution systems and metadata standards used by publishers are primarily created to drive sales.

Presses in our survey were asked to identify distribution points for the OA edition of TOME-funded books (Figure 1). The distribution points included in the survey question were pulled

directly from TOME documentation, which identified the following: OAPEN Library, HathiTrust Digital Library, Internet Archive, JSTOR, and MUSE Open (Potter, 2019b). Additionally, options were added related to institutional repositories based off of language included in the Guidelines for TOME Funding Institutions (Potter, 2019a). The chart below shows which OA platforms the 17 presses indicated they use to distribute TOME titles in 2020.

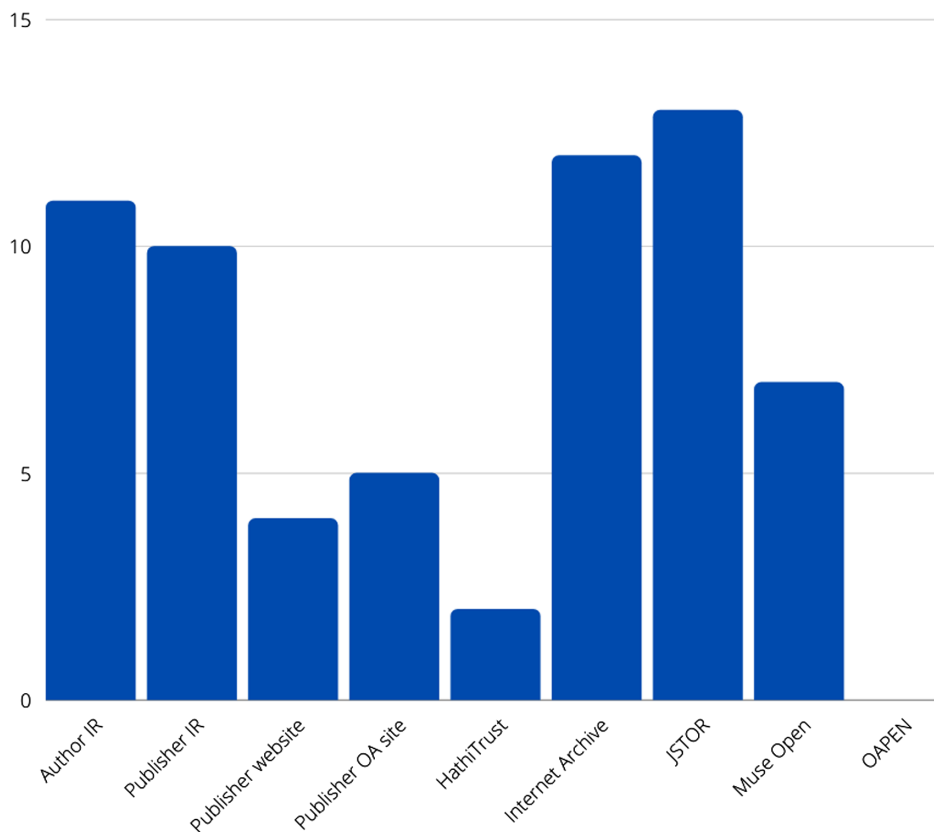


Figure 1. Distribution points for the OA edition of TOME-funded books, according to 2020 survey data.

On average, presses identified between three and four OA platforms for TOME title distribution. Three presses identified only a single platform for distributing these titles.

JSTOR was identified by 13 of the 17 as the presses in 2020 and in 2023, which could be in part to pre-existing partnerships between presses and JSTOR. As indicated by one press in the 2020 survey, JSTOR can distribute monographs at the chapter level, which can in turn provide presses with finer detailed usage statistics. While outside the scope of this paper, ebook usage requires additional research. Much of this research is currently underway through the

“Developing a Pilot Data Trust for Open Access Ebook Usage” out of the Educopia Institute (2019).

Although some respondents indicated that TOME titles are distributed through the author’s institutional repository, this is likely to vary title by title. Partially, because TOME funding institutions (that of the author) are responsible for shaping the contract between the funding institution and the identified press. Presses may also be providing authors the ability to deposit the published monograph into their institutional repositories (made even more possible if presses are publishing TOME titles with Creative Commons license), but it would require action on the part of the author or the participating library as a facilitator.

Zero respondents indicated the usage of OAPEN at the time of the 2020 survey. However, as of September 2023, OAPEN now has a TOME collection that contains 99 titles (all included titles were added after February of 2020), and 10 presses indicated OAPEN as a distribution point for TOME titles in the 2023 follow-up survey.

It is unclear whether the “institutional repository of the Publisher’s institution” are publicly available repositories that distribute the titles, especially since most institutional repositories are managed by university libraries. Most participating TOME presses are not managed by a university library. However, for university presses that have in-house digital publishing platforms, it could be possible that the platform is built on a repository infrastructure.

There was no single OA distribution platform that was selected by every respondent, in the original 2020 survey or the 2023 follow-up. For libraries and readers, this means that there is no central location for accessing all TOME titles. Not included by name in this survey (but included in the TOME documentation sent to participating publishers) is TOME’s [figshare repository](#). It is unclear whether the use of this repository is reflected in respondents’ answers. Unlike other platforms noted in the survey (OAPEN Library, HathiTrust Digital Library, JSTOR, and MUSE Open), Figshare is not regularly integrated into library discovery systems but is indexed in Google Scholar ([Figshare, n.d.](#)).

The survey responses were found by the authors to not be reflective of all actual practice. For example, 14 presses responded in 2020 that they deposit a copy with the Internet Archive ([archive.org](#)), but after a manual check of the 62 titles included in TOME’s Figshare, as of December 2020, the authors found that only one press has copies of their works deposited there ([TOME, n.d.](#)). A review of the other platforms was not conducted, but this data point indicates that there is a disconnect between how presses think of their OA book distribution and how readers, or libraries, are able to access OA titles. Additional follow-up research should be

done as to the discoverability and availability of TOME books in the venues identified by presses in this survey.

DISCUSSION

University presses and libraries are both facing financial challenges. Libraries have declining or flat budgets while university presses have lower revenues and decreasing subsidies. Presses support OA publishing but have not found a financial model that allows for the creation and dissemination of OA editions that does not rely on releasing for-sale editions as well. Because of low use of the print, libraries are moving to ebook purchasing and support for OA initiatives over print material acquisitions. Both university presses and libraries recognize and support scholarly monographs as being core to the academic mission and purpose of the university. Both also recognize that OA publishing is worth the investment because OA content reaches a much broader audience, and the usage of the scholarship increases dramatically. Libraries are making more and more decisions based on usage data, on the value of the investment, and on the ability to provide more access to content at a lower cost. Libraries want to fund OA initiatives, especially those that are academy-owned, because they stand to achieve all of these aims.

Programs like TOME are an excellent step in bringing university publishers and libraries together to pilot OA publishing of scholarly monographs; however, challenges remain as to how to prioritize the OA editions in acquisitions and discovery systems. The authors suggest that to improve the library discovery of OA books, the program should

- encourage participating publishers to work together—and with GOBI (EBSCO)—to improve the “acquisition” of OA editions by libraries, including access to the MARC records upon selection of the titles or collections and even offering processes for providing financial support for OA initiatives;
- require participating publishers to provide MARC records for all titles across the TOME collection and investigate wider visibility for these MARC records, such as OCLC’s Collection Manager; and
- require MARC records to include the book’s OA status by using the 506 field.

CONCLUSION

TOME, as an initiative, can engage publishers and libraries collectively on these and other related topics. The loosely assembled group of TOME institutions has built a foundation for OA publishing. Further work is needed to ensure the content is integrated into library

systems for users to find and use. A common OA distribution point should be required, but more importantly, the development of collective practices that allow for system differences, verify quality, and are reliant on standards is needed for this project and within the larger OA monograph ecosystem.

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APPENDIX

University Press Survey

1. How many TOME books has your press accepted for publication?
2. How many TOME books has your press published?
3. Excluding TOME-funded books, how many other open access books has your press published?
4. What year was your press's first open access book published?
5. Excluding open access books, does your press publish other ebooks?

If Yes, 5a. Excluding open access books, does your press publish other ebooks?

6. What formats are your TOME-funded titles available in? (Select all that apply)
 - Open access ebook (epub, html, via Manifold, via Fulcrum, etc.) (1)
 - For sale ebook (PDF, epub, mobi, html) (2)
 - For sale print book (hardcover, cloth, paperback, etc.) (3)
7. Where does your press make TOME titles available (Select all that apply)
 - Institutional repository of the Author's institution
 - Institutional repository of the Publisher's institution
 - Publisher's main website
 - Separate publisher's website devoted specifically to OA content
 - HathiTrust Digital Library
 - Internet Archive
 - JSTOR's Books - Open Content
 - MUSE Open
 - OAPEN Library
 - Other (please specify)
8. Does your press use ONIX? Yes or No
- 8a. If yes -> Which distributors/retailers does your press send ONIX data to?
9. Does the press make ebook metadata available via OAI-PMH? Yes, No or Don't Know

10. Does the press participate in the Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data (CIP)? Yes, No or Don't Know
11. Do TOME-funded books have associated MARC records? Yes, No or Don't Know
12. As the number of OA books on your list grows, what is the biggest challenge you and your press face?
13. Do you believe OA monograph publishing is here to stay? If so, what is the biggest hurdle to its ultimate success?