



Boydell  
& Brewer

**Essential Info**  
**2026-2028**

**OPENING**  
THE FUTURE

# Summary of the OtF model

*Opening the Future* funds BPC-free open access book publishing while also broadening your own collection through an affordable subscription to closed content.

We're reshaping how knowledge dissemination is funded and accessed, by leveraging the collective contributions of academic libraries worldwide. Your *Opening the Future* membership funds the press to publish new OA monographs, while your library benefits from access to closed content, and no single institution bears a disproportionate burden. For a modest annual fee your library gets DRM-free, unlimited access to a closed-access selection of our backlist, with perpetual access after three years. The membership revenue is used by Boydell & Brewer solely to produce new frontlist OA monographs, moving towards an affordable, sustainable model for academic publishing and creating a collection of OA books that are open for the world.

Through investing in OtF, your local collection grows while funding future OA books at a fraction of the price usually required by publishers to cover Book Processing Charges for a single OA book.

Publishing the frontlist OA titles is a rolling process with no thresholds to meet: as soon as we have accrued enough membership funds to produce a title the press publishes the next book in line, and so on.

Be part of something special. Join over 100 Universities around the world already committed to Opening the Future.

# Opening the Future in a nutshell

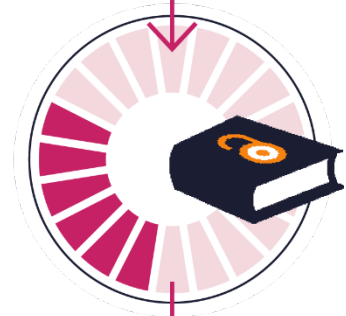
Library subscribes to specially-curated package of non-OA backlist books offered at reduced price.



Publisher make backlist package of non-OA books available to members, DRM-free and with perpetual access after 3 years.



Member fees are assigned solely to funding new frontlist OA books. As more library members join, the pot of funding gradually grows.



Working one-book-at-a-time, when enough has accrued, the press uses combined member fees to publish the next frontlist book in the pipeline as OA.



The OA books are made available to anyone globally, listed on DOAB, OAPEN, JSTOR etc.



# The OtF backlist package choices at B&B

## Medieval History

Groundbreaking scholarship from Boydell Press and York Medieval Press – our partnership with the University of York's Centre for Medieval Studies.

Number of titles: 30

## Medieval Literature

D.S. Brewer specializes in the medieval literature of England and France. The imprint was founded by Chaucer specialist Derek Brewer.

Number of titles: 30

## African Politics & Economics

Explore critical scholarship on African politics and economics from James Currey and the University of Rochester Press.

Number of titles: 30

*(continued on the next page – more packages are available)*

[boydell.openingthefuture.net](http://boydell.openingthefuture.net)

The website has more detailed metadata on the titles included in each package, with downloadable spreadsheets of all title lists.

# The OtF backlist package choices at B&B (continued)

## Music

Explore musicology and ethnomusicology from medieval to contemporary periods from Boydell Press and the University of Rochester Press.

Number of titles: 30

## Film & Performing Arts

An in-depth look at film, theatre, and dance across the Hispanic, Lusophone, African, and Germanic worlds from URP, Camden House and Tamesis Books.

Number of titles: 30

## Combined packages also available

Combined package of the Medieval History and Medieval Literature collections

Number of titles: 60

Combined package of the Music and Film & Performing Arts collections

Number of titles: 60

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The website has more detailed metadata on the titles included in each package, with downloadable spreadsheets of all title lists.

# Further Package Choices

## **All Packages Combined**

Fully combined package of all the backlist OtF books.

Number of titles: 150

## **OA Supporter Package**

Some institutions may not wish to sign up to a book package, or may not be able to. However, they might still want to support, and help to fund, the frontlist of Open Access monographs that Boydell and Brewer publishes. For these institutions we have created an 'OA Supporter Membership'.

No backlist books are included in this membership, but all fees go towards open access frontlist publication.

[boydell.openingthefuture.net](http://boydell.openingthefuture.net)

# Value for money

A three-year commitment to receive perpetual access to 30 or 60 titles - and simultaneously fund new OA books at Boydell & Brewer - is less than half an average BPC typically charged to produce a single new OA book at many publishers.\*



This does depend on what you call an average BPC but some studies have suggested \$12k-\$15k is not uncommon. But with OtF even the largest libraries pay only approx. \$1350 / £930 *a year*, which includes access to 30 e-books. The collected funds are pooled to cover the cost of new frontlist OA publishing.

Financially-speaking it's very cost effective – and you retain perpetual access after 3 years' membership or by paying for 3 years up front in one go.

# Benefits of membership

- 1** The backlist/frontlist combination provides a unique dual-route for acquisition librarians. Many institutions do not have dedicated OA funds, particularly for monographs: the fact that the backlist remains a subscription (or staggered purchase really, since you get perpetual access) means that these libraries are able to justify the expenditure on books to which they would otherwise not have access. At the same time, every year of membership grows their (open) collection too.
- 2** Libraries that prefer to pay with their OA budgets are able to justify the expenditure because the new frontlist titles are openly accessible with no embargo. This also allows institutions that have access to block grants for OA to use this pot to fund the purchase.
- 3** If the target is met and the frontlist in one of the selected series is openly accessible each year, any surplus membership revenue will go towards funding more OA books at Boydell & Brewer in related disciplines.
- 4** Publishing the OA titles is a rolling process with no threshold to be met: as soon as they have the funds to produce a title the press will publish the next book in line OA, and so on. Membership/subscription funds are directed purely towards ensuring that future press outputs are OA.
- 5** Backlist access for Boydell & Brewer titles is via Fulcrum, a leading non-profit platform in scholarly humanities publishing with a high standard in accessibility. Authentication supported includes IP, Shibboleth, and referring URL. They offer COUNTER-compliant stats, MARC & KBART.
- 6** The backlist books are provided in accessible PDF format. Library members/patrons have unlimited concurrent access, DRM-free for the duration of membership. At the expiry of the three years, libraries own the package in perpetuity but have the option to renew membership and subscribe to another package of different titles or switch to an OA Supporter Membership without the backlist.



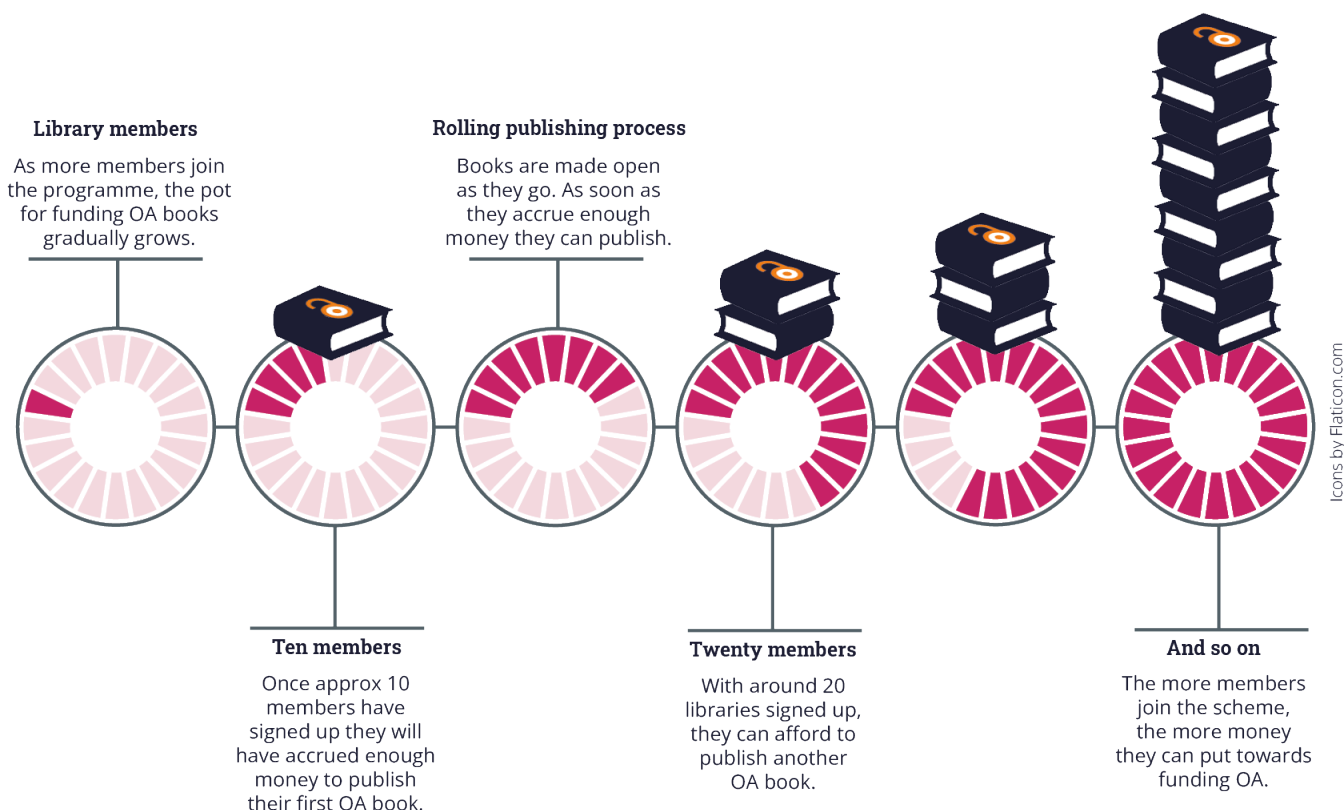


# Benefits continued

- 7** Titles included in the package are based on editorial insight to ensure they are relevant, current, and represent good value-for-money.
- 8** No catches and no hidden fees – trust and transparency is the only way this will work for everyone. Members are not asked to pay more on top of their annual fee to access ‘more’ or ‘better’ titles. The package won’t suddenly change; there is no bait and switch.
- 9** Opening the Future has a voluntary Library Advisory Board that meets quarterly to help guide and feedback on the model. Members are welcome to volunteer and be part of the Board.

## Incremental OA

As the press accrues enough funds from membership subscriptions, we can publish the next OA book in the publication pipeline.



# How can I persuade my institution to support OtF and collective funding for open access books?

If you need to build a case for support in your library, this series of 3 blog posts gives some useful language, case studies, and arguments:

[Persuading my library to support collective funding for OA Books \(Part 1\)](#)

[Persuading my library to support collective funding for OA Books \(Part 2\)](#)

[Creating evaluation criteria to assess collective funding models for OA Books \(Part 3\)](#)

## How to sign up

Your library can become a subscribing member through a simple sign-up form on the OtF website or by emailing Lyrasis on **[membersupport@lyrasis.org](mailto:membersupport@lyrasis.org)**.

Lyrasis can process sign ups wherever you are in the world but we hope to also have trusted library partners Jisc in the UK on board soon.

**[boydell.openingthefuture.net/packages](https://boydell.openingthefuture.net/packages)**

# Questions & feedback



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