



Towards an all-Ireland Diamond Open Access Publishing Programme:

The PublishOA.ie project – 2022-2024

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Rialtas na hÉireann
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This project has received funding from Ireland's National Open Research Forum (NORF) under the Open Research Fund Call.



Key objective

- To conduct a feasibility study for a comprehensive Diamond OA digital infrastructure for **journals and books** designed to meet the needs of authors, readers, publishers and funders in Irish scholarly publishing. The project can therefore contribute policy advice to Government / stakeholders.

Project Objectives

- Research and map the landscape of scholarly publishing on the island of Ireland **and build a digital directory**
- Benchmark Irish scholarly publishing against international good practice in Diamond OA standards, process and infrastructures
- Conduct a feasibility study for a publicly-owned, centralised national platform for Diamond OA publication of journals and books, comprising:
 - delivery of a set of technical and non-technical requirements, infrastructure options, and costings (including research funding models) for a national platform designed for Irish scholarly publishers and the national stakeholders;
- Test pilot publishing platform/s based upon these recommendations, in collaboration with partner publishers and scholarly authors with journal and monograph demonstrators – **plans to test 6 platforms: 3 journal/3 book**
- Publish a set of recommendations for a publicly owned, centralised platform for Diamond OA publication of journals and books in Ireland

Partners and Affiliates



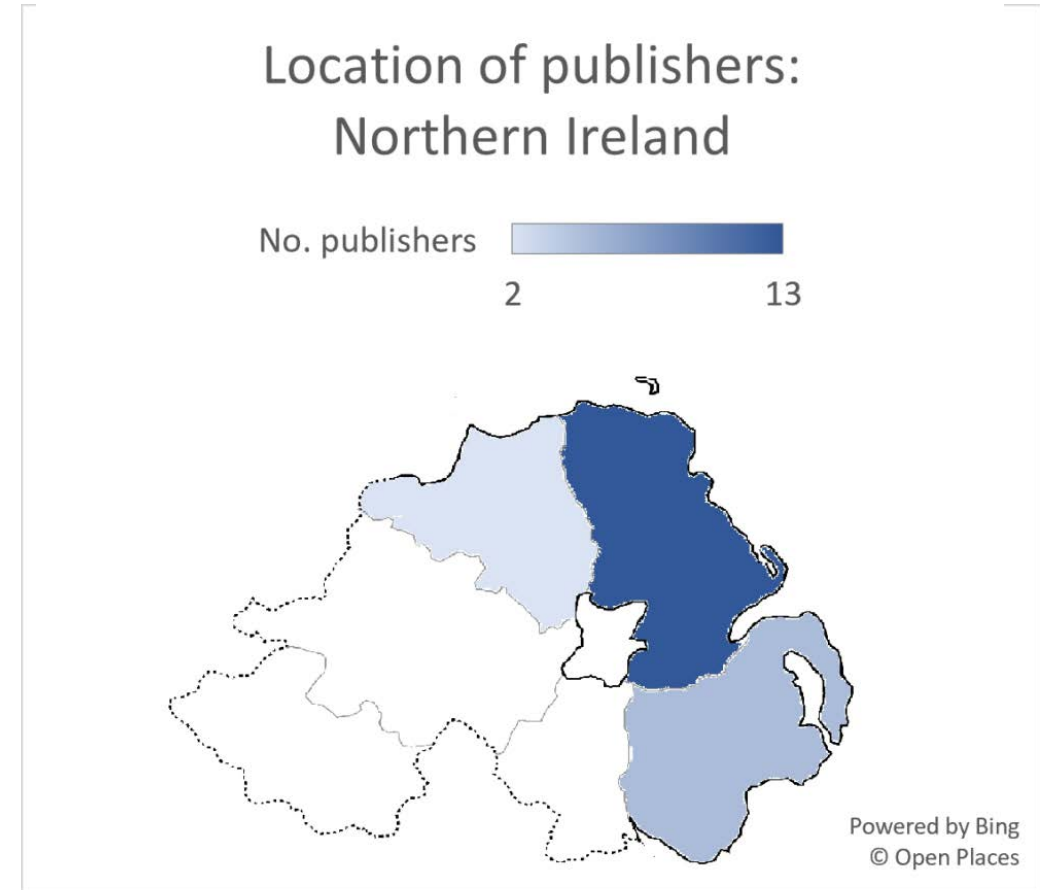
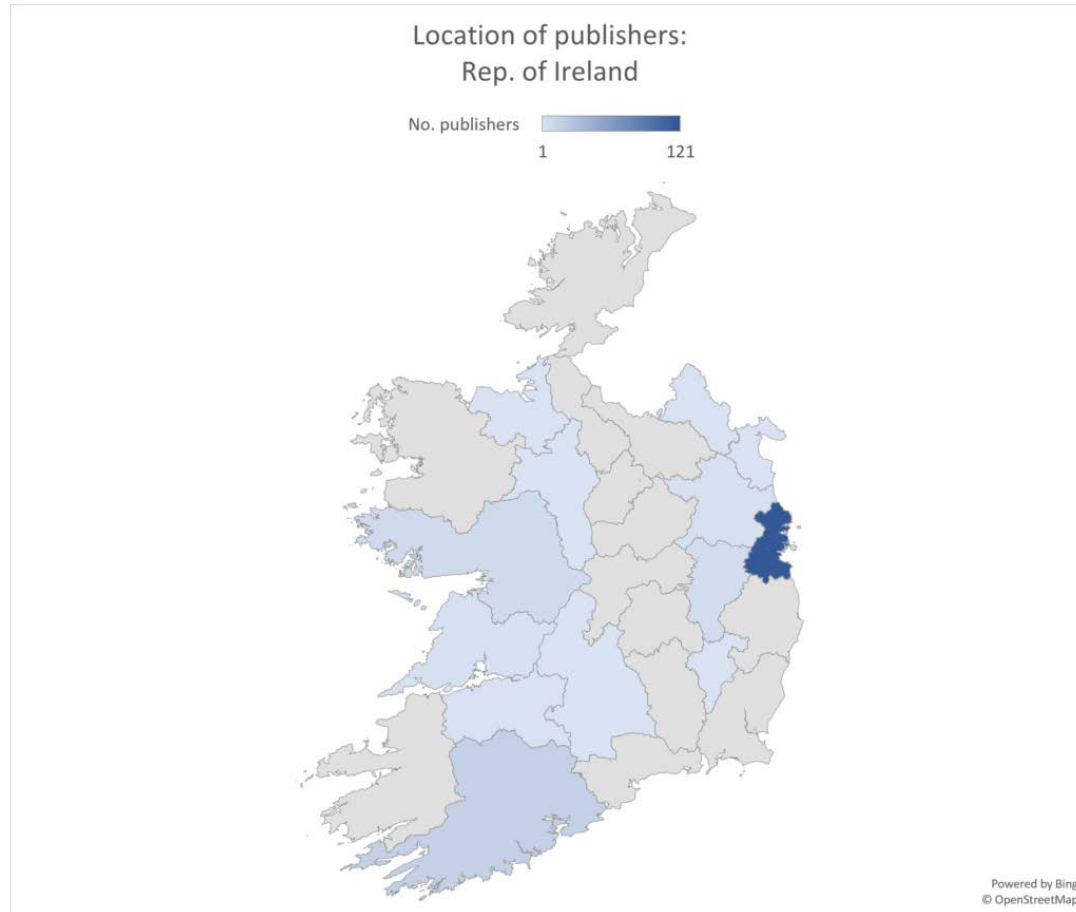
Partners

- **Royal Irish Academy** – RIA (co-lead)
- **Trinity Long Room Hub Arts & Humanities Research Institute, TCD** (co-lead)
- Technological University of the Shannon - TUS
- University of Galway - UG
- Publishing Ireland
- Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology - IADT
- Technological University Dublin - TUDublin
- Munster Technological University - MTU
- University of Limerick - UL
- South East Technological University – SETU

Affiliates

- Irish Humanities Alliance - IHA
- United Nations Sustainable Development Academy at University College Dublin – UN SDSN
- Directory of Open Access Journals - DOAJ
- Finnish Federation of Learned Societies
- Openjournals.nl
- Queen’s University, Belfast - QUB
- Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies – DIAS
- JSTOR – Journal Storage

Map of Irish Publishing



International collaboration



- Collaborating with and building on the [DIAMAS](#) project – designing an aligned, high-quality, and sustainable institutional OA scholarly publication ecosystem for the European Research Area (ERA), setting a new standard for OA publishing, shared and co-designed with all stakeholders
- Technical solutions: CoalitionS, MIT, Open Science and [Unesco](#)
- Funding models: JISC and the [Association of Learned Society Publishers](#) and Irish platforms amongst others on funding models for a platform
- Advice from OpenJournals.nl and Journal.fi

Outcomes



- Evidence-based understanding of Irish scholarly publishing and of the requirements of publishers to transition in whole or in part to Diamond OA
- Increased knowledge of the needs of publishers and authors to move towards Diamond OA publishing
- Increased awareness and engagement by policymakers of the system-level risks, challenges and opportunities for a publicly owned, centralised platform for Diamond OA publication of journals and books in Ireland
- Increased all-island connections and relationships within and between groups and individuals in scholarly publishing – contributing to ‘Shared Island Initiative’ of the Government of Ireland

Deliverables



- **D1: Digital directory of Irish scholarly publishers with DOAJ/DOAB indicators - 2023**
- **D2: National set of OA publishing principles and standards for authors developed in consultation with scholars – in draft, Fall 2023**
- D3: Diamond OA platform pilot and report – **technical spec comparison in draft, Fall 2023**
- D4: Feasibility Report for a sustainable Diamond OA publishing platform (including technical specification and funding models)
- D5: National set of OA publishing principles and standards for publishers – **Spring 2024**
- **D6: Communication and dissemination plan**
- D7: Publisher engagement, mentoring and a support programme to be developed in collaboration with the publishers
- D8: Landscape report of Irish scholarly publishing and of the requirements of publishers to transition, in whole or in part, to Diamond OA

Expected platform spec



- Articles will be open access on publication, accessible free of charge to anybody
- Application of a clearly described peer-review process
- Author copyright retention
- Application of creative commons licenses (CC BY 4.0 or similar)
- No Article Processing Charges for authors
- Support for registration with the DOAJ / DOAB
- Plan S compliance
- Book publishing requirements compliance including ebook formats, ONIX integration, author and reader engagement tools, social sharing and tools to increase the visibility, accessibility and impact of the authors' work
- Compliance with the 'Principles of Open Scholarly Infrastructure'
- Impact metrics and archiving
<https://doaj.org> <https://www.doabooks.org/> <https://openscholarlyinfrastructure.org/>

Webinar partners to date



- Openjournals.nl – Financial and technical
- Journal.Fi – Financial and technical
- Coko Foundation – Kotahi and Kehida
- Manifold
- Janeway
- Public Knowledge Project (PKP) – Open Journal System (OJS) and Open Monograph Press (OMP)
- In-house examination of technical parameters 7 further platforms:
Digital Commons, Flax, Libero Reviewer, Meru, PubPub, Scalar and Scholastica)

Main points covered



- Demonstrations of online publishing software and its application for editorial workflow and production
- Platform maintenance and upgrade
- Data migration and journal onboarding – building confidence in platform / maintaining journal branding / retention of print format
- Training, IT and other support
- Funding sources and models
- Initial development budgets
- Annual running costs
- Subscription models
- Management
- Staff numbers (whole and FTE)
- Future planning and sustainability
- Growth and scaling.

Academic/professional journals Ireland

- 51 academic/scholarly or professional body journals
- Majority single journal publishers
- Royal Irish Academy – 6 journals, 3 STEM, 3 AHSS
- 6 universities publish journals from separate departments (1-5)
 - Dublin City University
 - Maynooth University
 - Trinity College Dublin
 - Technological University Dublin
 - University College Cork
 - University College Dublin

Irish journals outside Ireland



- Irish Historical Studies – Cambridge UP
- Irish Journal of Economic and Social History - Sage
- Irish Journal of Medical Science – Springer
- Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine – Cambridge UP
- Irish Journal of Sociology - Sage
- Irish University Review – Edinburgh UP

Academic monographs Ireland



- 11 publishers of scholarly monographs
- Majority of Irish interest monographs published outside Ireland
- Historically close publishing links with UK
- Cambridge UP, Oxford UP, Manchester University Press, Liverpool UP, Edinburgh UP, Boydell & Brewer etc

Shared Island Initiative



The Government of Ireland's **Shared Island Initiative** aims to harness the full potential of the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 to enhance cooperation, connection and mutual understanding on the island and engage with all communities and traditions to build consensus around a shared future.

- working with the Northern Ireland Executive and the British Government to address strategic challenges faced on the island of Ireland
- further developing the all-island economy, deepening North/South cooperation, and investing in the North West and border regions
- fostering constructive and inclusive dialogue and a comprehensive programme of research to support the building of consensus around a shared future on the island
- Royal Irish Academy and Irish Humanities alliance are all-island bodies

Key challenges I



- All-island platform: 2 jurisdictions – Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland > funding from separate Governments / Higher Education Authorities
- Since Brexit, UK no longer bound by EU directives / law
- UK universities mandating that rights granted by journal article authors to publishers are *subject to the University Licence*. Likely to extend
- Future adoption of OA by major UK academic presses : not yet clear
- Sustainable public funding for the future – mixed models of funding
- Bibliodiversity 1: support for smaller publishers needed - technical challenges of OA and Diamond OA may cause small publishers to outsource or divest themselves of publications to companies dedicated to this kind of publishing
- Bibliodiversity 2: Irish language publishing

Key challenges 2



- Differing book and journal specifications articulated by publishers >
PublishOA.ie will likely adopt two platforms to meet objective of study – **this was not anticipated at the outset of the project**
- Academic institution buy-in to centralised platform – some already have institutional depositories
- Publisher engagement: Irish publishers time and resource poor – esp. human resources. Book publishers issue a mix of publications: Diamond OA only one element
- Peer review / quality control
- Future-proofing: broken links /reference rot
- Academic author buy-in: education and information