Where are we now? (2023 remix)

Joanna Ball
Progress, challenges and opportunities
Prioritising open content over alternatives

New content strategies, eg University of Sheffield: “The preferred method ... to provide access to content is to allow for ethical, sustainable, open access for all.”

Libraries (and their consortia) allocating funds and introducing initiatives to support open content and infrastructures, eg Lyrasis OACIP
New structures and roles to reflect the shift to open

Increase in number of open scholarship/research/science roles within libraries

Research = open research
The number of libraries engaged in publishing has increased from 115 (2016) to 168 (2023)

Source: Library Publishing Directory
The Cuckoo

Transformative agreements: replacing one big deal with another?

- Cost-per-download culture replaced with assessing the value of transformative agreements

- No space (budget, time, energy) for smaller publishers, other publishing models
Opportunities
Building on libraries’ leading role

- Implementing rights retention policies
- Partnering across the sector in initiatives, eg COPIM, DIAMAS
- Driving adoption and implementation of fairer evaluation of research, eg DORA
- Leading on alternatives to textbooks through OERs and open textbooks
Reimagining discovery of content

- Moving to systems designed around open content, with purchased/subscribed content as an add-on (eg Sirsi CloudSource OA)
- Promoting the use of tools that surface a more diverse (and decolonised) range of research outputs, eg OpenAlex
Thank you!

Joanna Ball
Managing Director
joanna@doaj.org