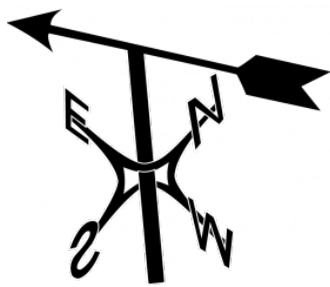




Seven Years of Policy Analysis at the OSPO: New Wikibook Volumes Capture Movement's Evolution

by Britt Amell | 13 October 2025 | Community News, English



Lisez-le en français.

This post was written by Brittany Amell and Caroline Winter.

At a Glance / En un coup d'œil

Topic / Titre	Open Scholarship Policy Observatory
Key	
Participants / Créateur	INKE Partnership, ETCL, C-SKI, Open Scholarship Press

Date / Période	2017-2024
Keywords / Mots-clés	policy / politique, open science / science ouverte, open social scholarship / approches sociales des savoirs ouverts, open access / libre accès, open infrastructure / infrastructure ouverte, Open Scholarship Press, scholarly communication / la communication savante, publishing / édition, community engagement / engagement communautaire

Summary

The Open Scholarship Policy Observatory (OSPO) has published four comprehensive volumes (two in English and two in French) documenting seven years of policy analysis and observations from the rapidly evolving open scholarship landscape. The collections, freely accessible through **Open Scholarship Press** via the Wikibooks platform, trace the movement’s development from foundational tensions to emerging challenges around artificial intelligence and community-controlled infrastructure.

Seven Years of Policy Analysis at the OSPO: New Wikibook Volumes Capture Movement’s Evolution

The open scholarship movement has undergone significant transformation over the past seven years, shifting from debates about access models to fundamental questions about who controls scholarly infrastructure and knowledge production (and back again). Four new Wikibook volumes (two in English and two in French) from the Open Scholarship Policy Observatory (OSPO) capture this evolution through detailed, multi-authored policy analysis spanning 2017 to 2024.

The first two volumes, *Foundational Observations (2017-2020)* and *Observations préliminaires : Observatoire des politiques d’Érudition ouverte, 2017-2020* by Milligan et al. (2025), establish the conceptual framework for understanding open scholarship as what **Jonathan Tennant and colleagues (2019)** call a “boundary

object”—flexible enough to accommodate diverse disciplinary and geographic contexts while maintaining principles legible within local communities of practice (see also [Winter 2023](#)). This volume reveals persistent tensions between top-down policy mandates and bottom-up community initiatives, highlighting how digital technologies enable new forms of scholarly communication while creating new dependencies on commercial platforms.

The second two volumes, *Extensions (2021-2024)* and *Extension : Observatoire des politiques d'Érudition ouverte, 2021-2024* by Winter et al. (2025), document the movement's maturation, with **31 policy observations** examining how institutions, infrastructure, and policy have become increasingly interconnected. This volume traces developments from the Fonds de recherche du Québec joining cOAlition S to diamond open access initiatives gaining momentum globally. Perhaps most significantly, it concludes with analysis of generative artificial intelligence's disruptive potential for scholarly publishing—a challenge that has emerged with startling speed since 2022.

The volumes emphasize recurring themes that continue to shape policy discussions. For instance, libraries and scholarly communication practitioners remain central to advancing open scholarship, continuing to serve as intermediaries between researchers and complex policy requirements. And the global nature of scholarship still raises several challenges for implementation, as solutions effective in one context may not be transferrable across different funding, technical, or cultural contexts.

The collections also document growing recognition that open scholarship is inherently social and collaborative. As [MacCallum et al. \(2020\)](#) and the [Canadian Association of Research Libraries](#) notes, sustainable progress requires transparent engagement with all stakeholders rather than isolated institutional initiatives. This collaborative imperative has become particularly urgent as commercial platforms increasingly control scholarly infrastructure.

Recent policy developments reveal both progress and persistent challenges. While diamond open access models demonstrate community-driven alternatives to commercial publishing, concerns about predatory practices and AI-generated content threaten scholarly integrity.

The [Open Scholarship Press's Wikibooks](#) format aligns with OSPO's commitment

to open access principles while enabling ongoing updates as policies continue evolving. The volumes include comprehensive analytical overviews, detailed observations, and extensive bibliographies spanning foundational policies, institutional case studies, and critical analysis.

These collections provide essential context for understanding current policy debates around scholarly communication, from national open access mandates to institutional AI governance policies. They offer both historical perspective on the movement's development and analytical frameworks for addressing emerging challenges.

Access the volumes

In English

- Milligan, Sarah, Alyssa Arbuckle, Kim Silk, and Caroline Winter. 2025. "Foundational Observations: Open Scholarship Policy Observatory, 2017-2020" (Volume 1). *Open Scholarship Press Collections*. https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Foundational_Observations:_Open_Scholarship_Policy_Observatory,_2017-2020
- Winter, Caroline, Talya Jespersen, JT Kern, Maggie Sardino, and Brittany Amell. 2025. "Extensions: Open Scholarship Policy Observatory, 2021-2024" (Volume 2). *Open Scholarship Press Collections*. https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Extensions:_Open_Scholarship_Policy_Observatory,_2021-2024


En français

- Milligan, Sarah, Alyssa Arbuckle, Kim Silk, et Caroline Winter. 2025. « Observations préliminaires : Observatoire des politiques d'Érudition ouverte, 2017-2020 » (le premier volume). *Open Scholarship Press Collections*. https://fr.wikibooks.org/wiki/Observations_pr%C3%A9liminaires:_Observatoire_des_politiques_d%27%C3%89rudition_ouverte,_2017-2020
- Winter, Caroline, Talya Jespersen, JT Kern, Maggie Sardino, et Brittany Amell. 2025. « Extension : Observatoire des politiques d'Érudition ouverte, 2021-2024 » (le deuxième volume). *Open Scholarship Press Collections*. <https://fr.wikibooks.org/wiki/>

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