

Mapping open access book publishing stakeholders in Africa: enhancing collaboration and bibliodiversity

Josiline Chigwada, Judith Fathallah and Joe
Deville

Background

2 workshops at UCT
in 2024

- [Towards Sustainable Open Access Book Publishing in the African Context](#)
- [Open Monograph Publishing](#)

Established a working
group

- OA books stakeholders.
- Anyone is free to join the group

Building an equitable,
sustainable future for
OA books.

- Webinars
- Workshops
- Meetings

The problem

There is no map of different OA initiatives and stakeholders for books.

No reference to be used by OA advocates in an African context.

Institutions working in silos to achieve OA/further the OA cause.

Prevents the potential for skills and resource sharing.

Aims of the project

Enable
collaboration

Skills sharing

Sharing of
best practices

Avoid
duplication of
labour

Promote
bibliodiversity

Copim/Open Book Futures

Community of people and organisations who collaborate on community-led and values-driven initiatives to support open access authors, publishers and readers.

Community-led Open Publication Infrastructures for Monographs [COPIM] project (2019–2023) now the Open Book Futures project (2023–2026)

Sustainable funding models; community governance; experimental publishing; archiving and preservation and accessibility

See <https://copim.pub/> and <https://compass.copim.ac.uk/books>

Copim's work



A charity providing new funds for OA book publishers and infrastructure providers

OBC Collective
Development Fund

An annual grants programme, providing funding to support emerging OA books initiative



A non-profit making it far easier for OA book publishers to manage their metadata and disseminate their books (e.g. to Google Books, Project Muse etc). Free to use.

The OBC Collective Development Fund



Offering initiatives the opportunity to apply for funding of between \$10,000 and \$20,000



Calls for funding are published annually. Next call will be open early 2026.



At least one third of awards allocated to projects benefitting work in Lower- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)



First awards included funding the first OA university press in Zimbabwe (CUT) and a new platform to help Nigerian scholars disseminate OA books (FUT Minna)

DOAB: **Directory of Open Access Books**

DOAB is a free,
searchable global index
of peer-reviewed OA
books.

All services are free of
charge, and metadata is
freely available under
CC0.

Current Africa Focused Projects

DOAB in Africa
Open Book Futures
ALMASI project

SPARC Africa

A development forum to assist with

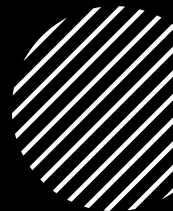
- capacity building and
- infrastructure development
- to open the African continent's scholarly output,
- making it accessible and discoverable to the international community.

Membership to SPARC Africa is open to

- all academic and research institutions,
- library and information profession associations,
- funding bodies,
- student representative organisations and
- parastatal organisations in Africa.



Kumu



Using open-source visualization tool Kumu



To map known stakeholders in OA books across Africa - publisher, library, infrastructure provider, consortium



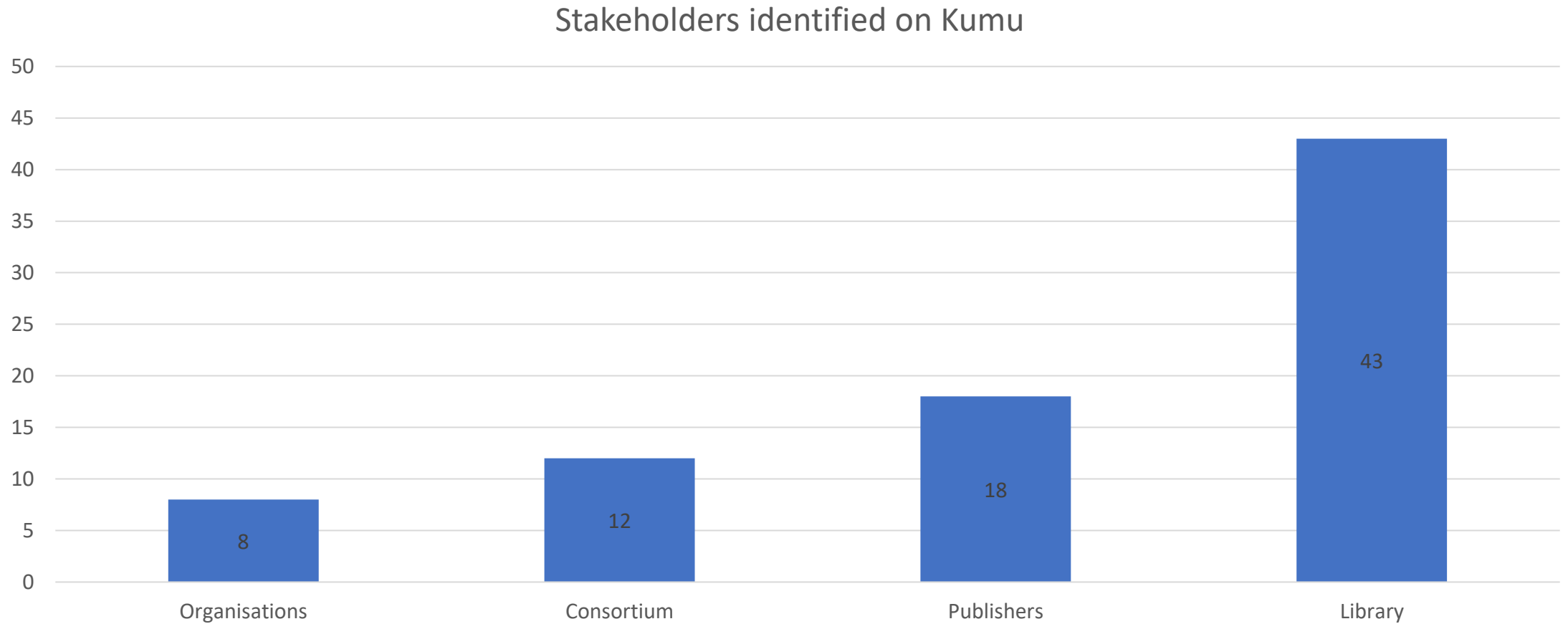
as well as the connections between them - collaborator, member, partner.



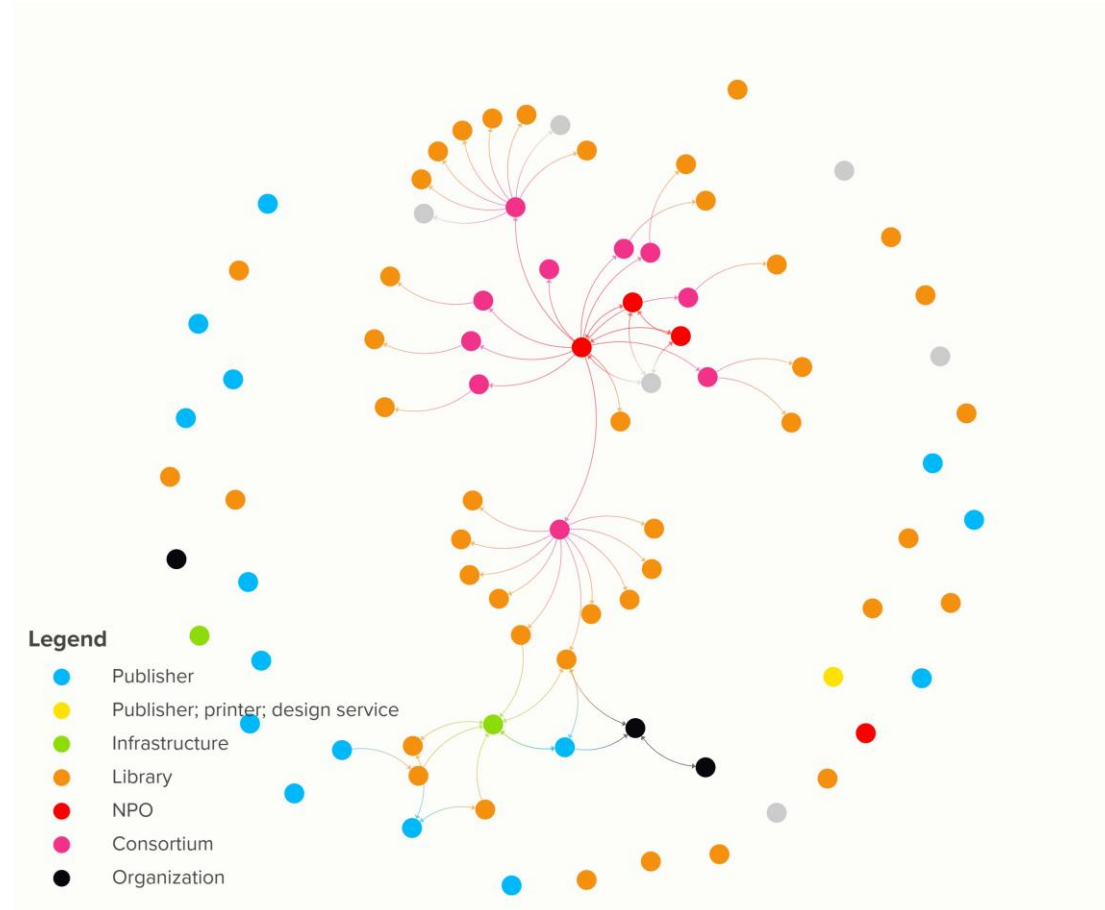
This will help identify areas for:

collaboration
skills sharing
knowledge exchange.

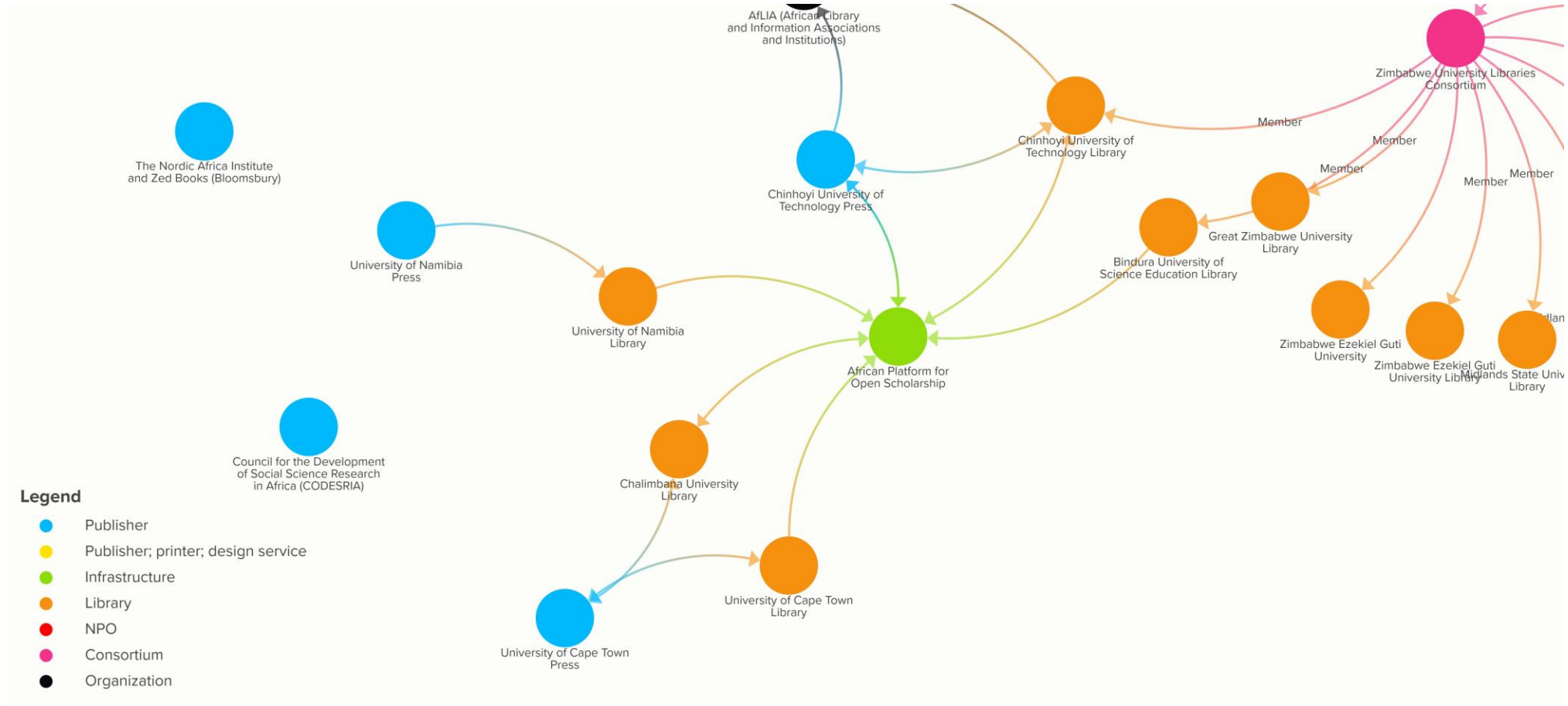
Stakeholders identified



Whole map



APOS on the map



Role of NRENs

Providing the Technical Infrastructure for Open Access Publishing

- Hosting and maintaining open access publishing platforms

Supporting Metadata Standards and Interoperability

- Standardise metadata practices

Facilitating Regional Collaboration and Capacity Building

- Regional publishing consortia, Training and capacity development, Technical consultancy

Enhancing Discoverability through Regional Portals

- Develop regional discovery portals

Enabling Integration with Research Data and Other Scholarly Outputs

- Support for persistent identifiers

Promoting Sustainable and Equitable Open Access Models

- Shared infrastructure to reduce cost barriers

Way forward

Contribute own
known connections

Mapping project press
release containing
links to contribute

Contacts

Open Book Collective

- Judith Fathallah - judith@openbookcollective.org
- Joe Deville - j.deville@lancaster.ac.uk

DOAB

- Mary Felix - m.felix@oapen.org

SPARC Africa

- Jill Claassen - jill.claassen@uct.ac.za

Thank you