Standards: Accessibility, Equity, Diversity

This section contains guidance on accessibility standards, and then on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (EDIB) guidelines within scholarly publishing.

Copim Open Book Futures Accessibility group is producing its own resource on Accessibility in OA books; this will be available on Copim Compass soon.

- Accessibility
- Equity & Diversity

Accessibility

Copim Open Book Futures is producing its own resource on Accessibility in OA books; this will be launching later in 2025.

Manchester University Press Alt Text Guidelines

This resource provides clear guidelines for creating alt text for images in books in order to make them more accessible. It also links to other guidance, such as from United Nations Publications.

View the guidelines

Equity & Diversity

C4DISC - A Focused Toolkit for Journal Editors and Publishers: Building Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in Editorial Roles and Peer Review

The toolkit is focused on building representation among peer reviewers and fostering equity in the actions of peer reviewers. It is also dedicated to building DEIA into core aspects of the wider editorial endeavor. While it has detailed, and in places, useful, guidance, and is very new (published May 2024) the majority of the advice is only relevant to very large and well-funded outfits with robust reporting tools, mostly with a focus on journals. It also mentions open access as a facet of equity, but suggests using transformative agreements.

View the toolkit

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (EDIB) in scholarly communication - working with communities to develop resources for multilingualism, gender equity and accessible and inclusive websites

This report from the DIAMAS project describes the project results, additional literature review, and collaborative process to develop the DIAMAS toolkits and guidelines related to Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (EDIB). The focus of this report is on the topics of multilingualism, gender equity, and accessible and inclusive websites as key dimensions of EDIB, which is the seventh core component of the Diamond OA Standard (DOAS) (Consortium of the DIAMAS project, 2024). The report builds on the work summarized in the D3.1 IPSP Best Practices Quality evaluation criteria, best practices, and assessment systems for Institutional Publishing Service Providers (IPSPs) (Ševkušić & Kuchma, 2023).

The main activity for T4.6 is to develop toolkits and guidelines to help IPSPs to manage and increase the availability of multilingual content, to address language and gender biases in their operations, and to develop more accessible and inclusive websites, content and metadata. Rather than generating original information, the goal was to survey, analyse, curate and repackage existing work in this area. This report explains the collaborative process used to identify such materials and to develop the DIAMAS toolkits and guidelines related to EDIB.

Read the report

Plan S: New tool to assess equity in scholarly communication models

This online assessment tool, launched in 2024, enables self-assessment of financial models by funders, publishers and others about access to read, access to publish (with or without fee), reuse rights, fee transparency, and promoting open data and code, and preprints and open peer review. While this is, at least currently, explicitly for journals, and implicitly more relevant to STEM subjects (e.g. open code) much of it is applicable to books and to AHSS subjects.

View the tool

SCURL EDI Network: EDI toolkit

This toolkit from the SCURL EDI Network aims to support member libraries in embedding good practice consistently across services. It is comprehensive and useful and comes at the topic from several angles - that of evaluating EDI in the workplace and recruitment, but also from policy and how to support students in the library.

The plan is to annually evaluate and update it, and the resource is very recent (from 2023). It covers the topic from a library POV but has more widely applicable sections (e.g. on hiring policies). Good toolkit - but specifically library (and UK)-focussed so does not fulfill the publisher's perspective need - overall a very good resource for EDI in libraries.

View the toolkit