Academic Publishing Center (APC) Framework for OA Book Development in Nigeria

1. Vision and Objectives

Vision:

Position Nigerian institutions as leaders in **Open Access (OA)** publishing, ensuring **cost-free** access to high-quality, locally authored academic materials while fostering **regional and global collaboration**.

Objectives:

- Sustainably democratise access to academic content through Open Access (OA), eliminating financial barriers for authors and readers.
- Develop a non-commercial publishing ecosystem using open-source tools and shared editorial resources.
- Strengthen institutional ownership of Open Access (OA) publishing to reduce dependence on commercial publishing models.
- Support policy-driven Open Access (OA) adoption, integrating national higher education and research policies.
- Encourage multilingual academic publishing, including indigenous Nigerian languages.

2. Core Components

i. Community-Driven Diamond OA Model

- Develop shared digital publishing infrastructure for the Academic Publishing Centers (APCs) network across six Nigerian geopolitical zones, with FUTMinna as a national coordinator.
- Leverage existing university presses in transitioning from legacy publishing models to Open Access.
- Collaborate with key stakeholders, including TETFund, NUC, LIBSENSE, UNESCO, Open Book Collective, DOAB, and national and regional research networks for funding, policy implementation, buy-in, and partnerships.
- Integrate community-led editorial models, ensuring academic autonomy and local content relevance.
- Engage Early Career Researchers (ECRs) in advocacy, research, and capacity-building to support OA expansion.

ii. Capacity Building for Open Access Publishing

- Train university-based editors, librarians, and faculty in OA publishing, peer review, and copyright management.
- Develop localised OA publishing guides aligned with Nigerian research priorities and international OA best practices.
- Establish mentorship programs for early-career researchers and postgraduate students, encouraging academic writing in Open Access environments.
- Facilitate ECR-led training on open-source tools, metadata management, and digital preservation.

iii. Institutional OA Policy Development

- Advocate for the Model Open Science Policy of Nigeria (2024) that mandates Open Access for publicly funded research and academic books.
- Ensure alignment with global open science frameworks (e.g., UNESCO's Open Access Recommendations).
- Introduce OA publishing as a recognised academic contribution in university promotion and tenure criteria.
- Encourage institutional mandates requiring OA book deposits in university repositories.
- Engage ECRs in drafting institutional OA policies and facilitating university policy discussions.

3. Implementation Plan

Phase 1: Demonstrator Development (Jan – Aug 2025)

- FUTMinna APC pilot launched.
- Establish a shared publishing infrastructure via the BookHub platform
- Eight (8) digitised OA books ingested, with the first open access books using the BookHub platform published.
- Develop a governance model for a National OA Publishing Network

Phase 2: National Expansion (Sept – Dec 2025)

- Host a National Open Access Book Stakeholder Summit.
- National policy advocacy with TETFund and regulators.
- Onboard first partner institutions into the APC framework.
- Conduct training workshops for editors, librarians, and faculty on OA workflows.

Phase 3: National Scaling & Policy Integration (Jan 2026 - Dec 2027)

- Integration with library consortia and national research networks.
- Implement a cost-sharing model among institutions for sustainable OA publishing.
- Deploy a metrics dashboard to track OA adoption and impact.
- Integrate multilingual and indigenous language publishing support.
- Continuous funding engagement with global OA initiatives.

4. Sustainability Strategy

i. Financial Sustainability

- **National-Level Funding:** Secure TETFund support for Diamond OA book publishing under research funding schemes.
- **Institutional Cost-Sharing Model:** Universities contribute editorial and technical resources instead of relying on Article Processing Charges
- **Cross-Institutional Collaboration:** Develop regional publishing consortia to pool subscription resources and share editorial expertise.
- Revenue Generation through Print-on-Demand and EPUB Sales: Implement a hybrid sustainability model where institutions and individuals can access digital versions of OA books for free while offering **affordable print-on-demand and EPUB sales** to generate revenue.
- Other funding sources such as Endowments, Grants and Institutional Generated Revenue (IGR)

ii. Technical & Infrastructure Sustainability

- **Utilise open-source platforms** to avoid commercial vendor lock-in.
- **Implement long-term digital preservation mechanisms** (Persistent Identifiers (PIDs), metadata integration).
- **Integrate AI-powered tools** for book design, metadata management and automated copyediting.
- Interoperate with existing national digital infrastructure (e.g. Institutional Repository, National Repository etc)

iii. Monitoring & Evaluation

- Track **Open Access book production rates** across Nigerian universities.
- Measure **global impact** via citations, downloads, and open usage statistics.
- Conduct **annual policy reviews**, refining strategies based on real-world data.

5. Expected Outcomes

- ☑ **A national OA publishing framework**, reducing Nigeria's reliance on commercial publishing models.
- ☑ **Significant growth in freely available academic materials**, improving accessibility of research output.
- ☑ **A self-sustaining OA book publishing network** integrating universities, libraries, and funding bodies.
- ☑ **More substantial institutional recognition for OA publishing**, encouraging faculty participation.

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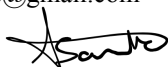Director, National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) Press, Abuja

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