

Case studies

- [Mattering Press](#): In the UK, Mattering Press chose to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This was in part because becoming a charity was in line with the press' values. But the particular appeal of the model was that it combined being a non-profit with incorporation. As Joe Deville, one of the Press' co-founder's put it "we didn't want to be personally liable for something that the press might produce. Even though, of course, we take care in what we produce we wanted to be protected" ([Jisc Interviews](#), Joe Deville). For Mattering Press, becoming a CIO was important enough for the Press to go through the lengthy process involved, including not only becoming incorporated but simultaneously applying to be registered as a Charity with the UK's charity commission. However, liability is just one consideration, as forms of incorporation taken may entail particular legal obligations regarding, for example, governance and taxation.
- [African Minds](#): Founder Francois Van Schalkwyk highlights the challenges that Open Access publishers can face when attempting to apply for charitable or non-profit status when still deriving revenue from sales, recalling "much tussling with the Receiver of Revenue [in South Africa] about the apparent contradiction between promoting universal access to knowledge while also selling books in the academic market" ([Business Models for OA Books](#)). The publisher was eventually approved as a public benefit organisation.

The table below also includes an overview of the organisation type chosen by a selection of smaller and academic publishers. It is based on a combination of information from Jisc interviews, Business Models for OA Books and direct correspondence.

Publisher	Organisation type	Location
African Minds	Not-for-profit trust; Public Benefit Organisation	South Africa
Language Science Press	Charitable Limited Company (<i>Gemeinnützige Unternehmergeellschaft</i>)	Germany
Mattering Press	Charitable Incorporated Organisation	UK
Mayfly Books	Unincorporated charity	UK
mediastudies.press	Non-profit Corporation	Pennsylvania, USA

meson press	Registered Cooperative (<i>Eingetragene Genossenschaft</i>)	Germany
Open Book Publishers	Non-profit Community Interest Company (Social Enterprise)	UK
punctum books	Non-profit Public Benefit Corporation	California, USA
White Horse Press	Limited Liability Partnership	UK

Revision #8

Created 1 June 2023 23:19:42 by Joe Deville

Updated 10 June 2023 10:41:18 by Joe Deville