

OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION
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Knowledge, held in trust.

Annual Report
2025–2026

1 JULY 2025 – 30 JUNE 2026

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OAPA Impact Statement

A year of leading open scholarship.

OAPA maintains an open scholarly collection, providing free public access to research for learning, inquiry and reference. Through its publishing platforms, the Association supports the publication, organisation and discoverability of scholarly works. This shared infrastructure enables scholarly communities to publish without charging authors or readers, retaining more resources within research and education.

In 2025–2026, OAPA supported 374 published contributions and received 2,701 submissions. The collection recorded approximately 1.20 million abstract views and 893,000 full-text accesses, including estimates for gaps in usage recording. Annual publication output increased by 30.8% compared with the preceding year.

The year in figures

Measure	2023–2024	2024–2025	2025–2026
Publications	144	286	374
Submissions received	397	2,292	2,701
Abstract reviews	29,842	494,448	1,198,713
Full-text accesses	18,856	320,809	893,315
Contributions with at least one AU/NZ author	73	208	245
Share with at least one AU/NZ author	50.7%	72.7%	65.5%

Across its first three financial years, OAPA published 804 contributions, including 526 with at least one Australian or New Zealand author. Annual output grew from 144 to 374 contributions, reflecting an expanding collection and greater capacity to support scholarly publication.

Publishing value without author charges

OAPA’s diamond open access model removes publication charges as a barrier to participation. Applying external article processing charge (APC) benchmarks gives an estimated A\$1.27 million in APC-equivalent publishing value for 2025–2026, including approximately A\$609,000 associated with contributions involving Australian or New Zealand authors. Across the three years, the estimated value totals A\$2.66 million, of which A\$1.31 million relates to contributions involving AU/NZ authors.

Table 2. Estimated article processing charges (APCs) saved by offering diamond open access

Estimated APC savings (AUD)	2023–2024	2024–2025	2025–2026	Three-year total
Journal contributions	\$740,304	\$556,390	\$1,183,446	\$2,480,140
Proceedings contributions	–	\$96,923	\$84,538	\$181,462
Total publishing value	\$740,304	\$653,313	\$1,267,985	\$2,661,602
Of which: contributions with AU/NZ authors	\$375,293	\$328,683	\$608,698	\$1,312,674

Method: Journal contributions are valued using the University of Melbourne’s 2024 average APC list-price benchmark of A\$5,141, adjusted by 2.1% for 2024–2025 and a further 3.9% for 2025–2026. Proceedings use ACM’s subsidised 2026 non-member rate of US\$350 as a comparator for both applicable years, provisionally converted at A\$1 = US\$0.65.

A growing public scholarly resource

As at October 2026, OAPA’s collection holds 4,563 publications available for public consultation. Historical usage records, including activity predating journals’ transition to OAPA, encompass 2.74 million abstract views and 2.04 million full-text accesses. JUTLP and JALT together have received 10,686 Scopus citations across the current live indexing period. These collection-wide figures extend beyond the reporting year. They demonstrate the enduring use of the works entrusted to OAPA: knowledge that remains available to be read, questioned, taught and built upon.

President's Report

Scholarly journals emerged from communities of people seeking to expand what we know about the world. Scholars shared observations, challenged explanations, and placed their discoveries into the care of periodicals that charged only enough to print the paper. Publication gave those conversations continuity, allowing one person's contribution to become the foundation for another's inquiry. OAPA's purpose is to rebuild the institutions that make this shared endeavour possible.

During 2025–2026, the growth of our Collection brought greater responsibility for the knowledge and communities entrusted to us. Our beginnings in securing a future for the *Journal of University Teaching and Learning Practice* have developed into a broader undertaking. We are building an open science ecosystem in which publications, scholarly capability and institutional relationships strengthen one another. Our progress depends on how effectively we connect these responsibilities around a common purpose.

Our free-to-read and free-to-publish Collection remains central to what we do. Each publication represents an investment of scholarly time, expertise and resources whose value can continue to grow through reading, teaching and further research. Our ambition is to retain as much of the resources supporting scholarship as possible within the communities that create it, while investing properly in the work that quality publishing requires.

Our next phase comes with expanded responsibility for our ecosystem through development of the publishing resources that go into a strong collected works. This includes the feasibility work we have begun on the OAPA Press for monographs, textbooks, and edited books, expanding our journals under management, building integrated conferencing software for web and mobile applications, and integrating artificial intelligence to reduce the burdens of editors and authors without extracting from open science what it means to be human thought.

It has been a delight to welcome partnerships this financial year with a growing number of universities, colleges, and associations that see the necessity in our mission and their role in shaping this ecosystem together. Beyond the expansions to our infrastructure, our Academy has also expanded to deepen its capacity to go beyond development of editorial and scholarly leadership towards recognition thereof with our emergent Inscriber technology.

In 2026-2027 we will undergo considerable governance reform to expand our commitment to transparency, and assurance of our collection. This will include a more cohesive approach to governance, risk, audit and finance will support responsible growth; and continuing work on our proposed OAPA Trust to build an enduring resource base that reduces the Collection's annual dependence on external funding.

I thank our directors, staff, editors, reviewers, members, and partners for the work that has brought us to this point. As we prepare to welcome an expanded Board, our task is to give that commitment an institutional future. We lead open science by building the conditions in which scholars can continue to enlarge the world through knowledge.

Dr Joseph Crawford
President and Editor-at-Large
October 2026

Our Purpose and Principles

Knowledge, held in trust.

Our purpose

To restore trust in the institution of open scholarly publishing, supporting capable and sustainable scholarship that puts authors and scholarly communities at the forefront of decision-making.

The Open Access Publishing Association is a scholar-led association combining publishing infrastructure, professional learning and institutional partnership. We strengthen the conditions in which knowledge can be created, assessed, published and shared openly. We build capability, defend scholarly freedoms and treat publishing as a form of stewardship.

Authors before publishers

Publishing begins with authors, reviewers, editors, readers, and the scholarly and practitioner communities who derive meaning and value from knowledge. Our technologies, platforms and partnerships exist to serve these people and protect sound, independent editorial judgment.

Our principles

Sincerity. We say what we mean and distinguish clearly between evidence, judgment and anecdote. We value intellectual humility and consistency between who we are and the decisions we make.

Trust. We earn confidence through candour, consistent delivery and integrity in our processes. We create relationships with our people first.

Stewardship. We make decisions with the longevity of our collection in mind. We protect the scholarly record and build transferable capability across scholarly communities.

Scholarship. We value the scientific process, chains of evidence, intellectual inquiry, peer judgment and openness to revision. We create conditions for fair process in the pursuit of innovation.

Our promise

Whatever the form of our work, people should encounter the same qualities: scholarly standards, honest relationships and infrastructure designed to endure.

Our work is organised through six pillars: Collection, Academy, Partnership, Technology, Membership and Advisory.

Collection

OAPA continues to progress work to expand and deepen the Collection. OAPA continues to support leadership of its core collection:

- Journal of University Teaching and Learning Practice
- Australasian Journal of Higher Education
- Intelligent Technologies in Education

OAPA also supported new journal partnerships with values-aligned partners, with several.

Publication / community	Activity and reach	Milestone / evidence
Journal of Education, Innovation and Communication (JEICOM)	Communication Institute of Greece	Continuing partner
Advancing Scholarship and Research in Higher Education (ASRHE)	Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia (HERDSA)	Continuing partner
ASCILITE Publications (APUB)	Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education (ASCILITE)	New partnership
Wave Length	ASCILITE	New partnership
Journal of Applied Learning & Teaching (JALT)	Kaplan Business School, Australia	New partnership
International Journal of Case Studies in Constructional Support	IABA Research and Education Foundation	New partnership
International Journal of Multi-Element Behavior Support	IABA Research and Education Foundation	New partnership
COLLEGIA: Journal of Higher Education Quality and Innovation	Higher Education Provider Quality Network (HEPQN) and Excelsia College	New partnership

Next steps

OAPA has spent its first three years primarily dedicated to infrastructure development, in its fourth year it will begin work to scale the collection towards its new technological capability to maximise its progress towards mission under Project Carbon led by the Editor-in-Large Dr Joseph Crawford.

Academy

Developing the people behind credible publishing.

Our work

The 2025-26 period marked a year of transition, consolidation and strategic development for the OAPA Education Committee. The focus was on ensuring continuity of delivery, strengthening governance arrangements, reviewing the educational portfolio, and establishing a sustainable framework for future growth.

During the reporting period, OAPA successfully delivered its flagship educational programmes, Foundations of Academic Peer Review and Foundations of Academic Journal Editing, across both the UK/European and Australasian time zones. The continuation of dual-time-zone delivery has enabled OAPA to support a geographically diverse community of editors, reviewers and publishing professionals while maintaining accessibility for participants internationally.

Progress this year

A significant activity during the year was the review of the educational offer. Drawing upon participant and facilitator feedback, the Committee evaluated course content, delivery models, scheduling arrangements and learning activities. This work informed plans to optimise delivery dates and improve alignment with the needs of OAPA-hosted journals and the wider scholarly publishing community.

The Education Committee also collaborated with the Technical Committee for the migration of course delivery to a new version of the Moodle learning environment and the onboarding of the facilitator team. While some technical and administrative challenges were encountered during implementation, these issues were identified, escalated and addressed as part of ongoing quality assurance processes. The Committee remains committed to ensuring a reliable and effective learner experience.

Membership of the Education Committee expanded during the year. Alongside the Education Director, facilitators formally joined the Committee, bringing expertise in academic editing, peer review, learning design and course facilitation. The Committee also welcomed a volunteer member who has begun contributing to discussions and future planning. This strengthened committee structure provides a broader base of expertise to support OAPA's educational mission.

In November 2025, the Committee developed and secured approval for the Education Strategy 2026, establishing priorities in three key areas: enhancement of the educational offer, strengthened marketing and recruitment activity, and development of committee capacity. The strategy also identified opportunities to explore new educational products, including short courses, workshops and professional development offerings designed to complement OAPA's existing programmes.

Next steps

Looking ahead, the Committee aims to build on the foundations established during this period by further evaluating programme effectiveness, strengthening learner recruitment, expanding educational opportunities, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of OAPA's educational activities. Particular attention will be given to developing new learning opportunities that address emerging needs within scholarly publishing, peer review and journal management.

The Education Committee thanks OAPA's Board, course facilitators, volunteers and participants for their support and contributions throughout the year. Their commitment has enabled the continuation and ongoing development of high-quality professional learning opportunities for the scholarly publishing community.

Partnership

Shared responsibility for open scholarship.

OAPA's partnership strategy brings scholarly communities, libraries and institutions together to sustain open publishing. In 2025–26, tighter higher education budgets affected institutional participation, prompting greater emphasis on journal partnerships and the development of library support.

Progress this year

Journal partnerships advanced our strategic commitment to expanding the collection while preserving scholarly ownership and editorial identity. By 30 June 2026, OAPA hosted six partner publications across five relationships. The agreement with the Higher Education Private Providers Quality Network to establish Collegia marked a significant addition, with Excelsia College supporting its establishment.

International engagement created further opportunities for community-owned publishing. Discussions progressed with a growing number of associations with shared interest, some of whom have now committed to transitioning their journals or establishing new ones in the coming year. These relationships offered pathways into new disciplines and North American scholarly communities.

Developing shared responsibility for publishing infrastructure remained a priority. The Library Partnership model was published on OAPA's refreshed website in February 2026 and tested through meetings with librarians. OAPA also strengthened its connections with the wider open publishing community through Dr Joseph Crawford's appointment to the Open Journals Collective's Academic Advisory Board and an application for publishing partner support.

Next steps

The target for expanded new Australian or New Zealand journal was achieved, and international publishing negotiations advanced. Institutional and library partnership targets will continue to be an area of focus for the Association, while planned UK and European engagement did not progress during the period.

The next priority is to turn emerging relationships into enduring commitments. This includes progressing journal agreements, refining the library support model, and pursuing a revised target of one new institutional partnership annually.

Technology

Infrastructure in service of scholarship.

Our work

In 2025–26, the Technology team focused on the infrastructure supporting OAPA’s publishing, conference and learning services. Four priorities guided its work: OJS consolidation, infrastructure security, Moodle redevelopment and sustainable technical resourcing.

Progress this year

Publishing platform. Growth across multiple Open Journal Systems (OJS) instances enabled rapid journal onboarding but fragmented user accounts, version management and indexing. The committee confirmed consolidation as a strategic necessity, to accompany the planned OJS 3.5 upgrade.

Security. Implementation of the Cyber/Information Security Policy, approved in late 2025, began with reviews of Acronis backup restoration, tighter access controls and secure password management. Student and external hosting access is supervised, with restoration capability confirmed first.

OAPA Academy. A new Moodle instance was deployed following the April 2026 Tech Sprint, with a copy prepared for HERDSA. Darryl Clare led further customisation through a June sprint.

Conference platform. The web-based OAPA conference application was completed as a lower-cost, OJS-integrated alternative to commercial systems. Use is currently developed for ASCILITE 2026.

Student projects. The RMIT Computing internship partnership supported two teams working on a network and systems audit and an AI-assisted copy-editing bot, CopyBot. CopyBot showed potential to reduce copy-editing overheads for OAPA journals.

Sustainability and resourcing. The committee favoured institutional and library partnerships over advertising as the basis for long-term sustainability. Its case for dedicated support culminated in OAPA’s first technical support appointment, supported in part through work with HERDSA.

Next steps

Priorities for 2026–27 include the OJS merger and 3.5 upgrade, a new Technology Roadmap, a conference mobile app and continued security hardening. Capstone projects planned for July–October 2026 will complete Academy customisation and branding, expand CopyBot’s APA 7th support as a member benefit, and develop a bespoke digital badging system.

Professor Cowling thanks his committee colleagues and the RMIT student teams for their contributions.

Advisory

OAPA’s advisory work puts its editorial, strategic and technical expertise at the service of scholarly communities. It advances our commitment to building capability beyond the collection, helping institutions address specific challenges through focused collaboration.

Progress this year

A commissioned engagement with Flinders University translated OAPA’s scholarly expertise into practical support. Dr Kelder delivered three writing workshops at a symposium in Adelaide on 20–21 May 2026, contributing to the institution’s development of scholarly writing capability.

Collaborative grant development provided a further opportunity to work across institutional boundaries. OAPA led applications to a small number of targeted grant funds, meeting the strategic target for two multi-institutional grant submissions. The value of these applications was to bring together collaborators such as RMIT University, Flinders University, the University of Tasmania, Charles Sturt University, Torrens University, and the University of Technology Sydney. These submissions established a basis for shared work and demonstrated OAPA’s capacity to contribute expertise across institutions.

Next steps

The next priority is to develop a clearly defined advisory offering around the publishing decisions, challenges and transitions that scholarly communities face. Commissioned projects should strengthen partner capability, produce useful outcomes and contribute to OAPA’s long-term sustainability. OAPA will also establish Academy and Diamond Open Publishing Advisory Boards to continue to strengthen the expertise within the Association to grow and sustain diamond open scholarship.

Our People and Governance

The people entrusted with our work.

Board and officeholders

Name	Role	Service during the year
Dr Joseph Crawford	President	July 2023 – Present
Professor Michael Cowling	Vice President Director, Technology	July 2023 – Present
Dr Jo-Anne Kelder	Vice President, Partnerships Director, Partnerships Director (various)	January 2026 – Present July 2025 – Present July 2023 – July 2025
Mr David Kewley FCA	Treasurer	July 2023 – Present
Dr Kathy Lee	Secretary	March 2026 – Present
Dr Harold Culala	Secretary	October 2025 – January 2026
Dr Alison Purvis	Director, Education Director, Memberships	July 2024 – Present July 2023 – July 2024
Associate Professor Prue Laidlaw	Director, Memberships	March 2026 – Present

Governance and accountability

The Association deepened its commitment to good governance with its Governance Roadmap finalizing the approval and release of:

- Publishing Policy, Version 2.
- Ad Policy, Version 2.
- Authorship and Editorial Ethics Policy (new)
- Complaints, Appeals, Corrections, and Retraction Policy (new)
- Data Integrity Policy (new)

For 2026-2026, the Association anticipates a broader governance and risk framework as it continues towards Deductible Gift Recipient status and registration as an Australian Charity within the context of a national organizational structure.

Financial Report

Resources held in trust.

Treasurer’s report

OAPA recorded total income of \$51,565 for the year ended 30 June 2026, an increase of \$19,942 from \$31,623 in 2024–25. Journal hosting income was the principal driver, rising from \$6,050 to \$28,218. Donations contributed \$5,185, while institutional partnership funding remained steady at \$5,000. Course fees decreased from \$14,223 to \$12,824, and seminar income decreased from \$5,000 to \$264.

Total expenditure was \$45,262, compared with \$17,558 in 2024–25. The main increases were travel, from \$3,251 to \$14,946; technical consultants, from \$3,400 to \$11,614; and subscriptions, from \$5,463 to \$10,835. Course facilitation costs increased from \$1,656 to \$3,050. These increases reflect a substantially higher level of activity and investment during the year.

Financial summary

Item (AUD)	2025–2026	2024–2025
Total income	\$51,565	\$31,623
Total expenditure	\$45,262	\$17,558
Surplus / (deficit)	\$6,303	\$14,065
Total assets	\$25,398	\$19,095
Total liabilities	\$0	\$0
Net assets	\$25,398	\$19,095

The Association achieved a surplus of \$6,303, compared with \$14,065 in 2024–25. Total assets and net assets increased from \$19,095 to \$25,398. Closing assets comprised cash and cash equivalents of \$10,142, prepayments of \$7,527, and trade and other receivables of \$7,728. No liabilities or material commitments were reported. The surplus and stronger net asset position support continued operations, while lower cash holdings and higher expenditure will require ongoing monitoring.

Board remuneration

All Board members during 2025-2026 were voluntary.



Not-For-Profit - Association Report

Open Access Publishing Association Inc

ABN 86 344 990 373

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Prepared by DK Accounting & Advisory



Income and Expenditure Statement

Open Access Publishing Association Inc
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026	2025
Income		
Course Fees	12,824	14,223
Journal Hosting	28,218	6,050
Institution Partnership Funding	5,000	5,000
Seminars	264	5,000
Conferences	-	1,073
Contributions Members	73	276
Donations	5,185	-
Total Income	51,565	31,623
Gross Surplus	51,565	31,623
Expenditure		
Advertising & Marketing	1,530	989
Bank Fees	82	62
Course Facilitation	3,050	1,656
Insurance	848	-
Legal expenses	-	103
Meeting Expenses	190	-
Printing & Stationery	85	-
Secretarial Support	-	2,500
Seminar & Conference Fees	2,000	-
Stripe Fees	81	134
Subscriptions	10,835	5,463
Technical Consultant	11,614	3,400
Travel Expenditure	8,073	3,251
Total Expenditure	38,388	17,558
Current Year Surplus/ (Deficit)	13,176	14,065

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.



Assets and Liabilities Statement

Open Access Publishing Association Inc As at 30 June 2026

	NOTES	30 JUNE 2026	30 JUNE 2025
Assets			
Current Assets			
Prepayments		14,400	-
Cash and Cash Equivalents		10,142	18,345
Trade and Other Receivables		7,728	750
Total Current Assets		32,271	19,095
Total Assets		32,271	19,095
Net Assets			
		32,271	19,095
Member's Funds			
Capital Reserve		32,271	19,095
Total Member's Funds		32,271	19,095

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.



Certificate By Members of the Committee

**Open Access Publishing Association Inc
For the year ended 30 June 2026**

I, David Kewley of 65 Salisbury Crescent, West Launceston, Tasmania, in my capacity as treasurer for the association certify that:

1. I attended the annual general meeting of the association held on 20/10/2026.
2. The financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2026 were submitted to and approved by the members of the association at its annual general meeting.

Signed David Kewley (Treasurer) _____

Signed Joseph Crawford (President/Chair) _____

Dated: / /