



Universiteit Utrecht

An Open Access Toolkit for Faculties

An ongoing case study from Utrecht University Library

**Chiara Livio, Jan de Boer, Jeroen Bosman, Femke Holwerda, Nadine Jetten,
Najoua Ryane, Rashmi Shetty, Hanna de Vries**

Publishing Support Department | Utrecht University Library

Content

- The idea
- Connecting with the faculties: before the OA Toolkit
- The structure and content of the OA Toolkit
- An example from the OA Toolkit: Diamond OA for books and articles
- What we have done so far & challenges
- Connecting with the faculties: after the OA Toolkit
- The next steps
- Key takeaways

The idea



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The idea



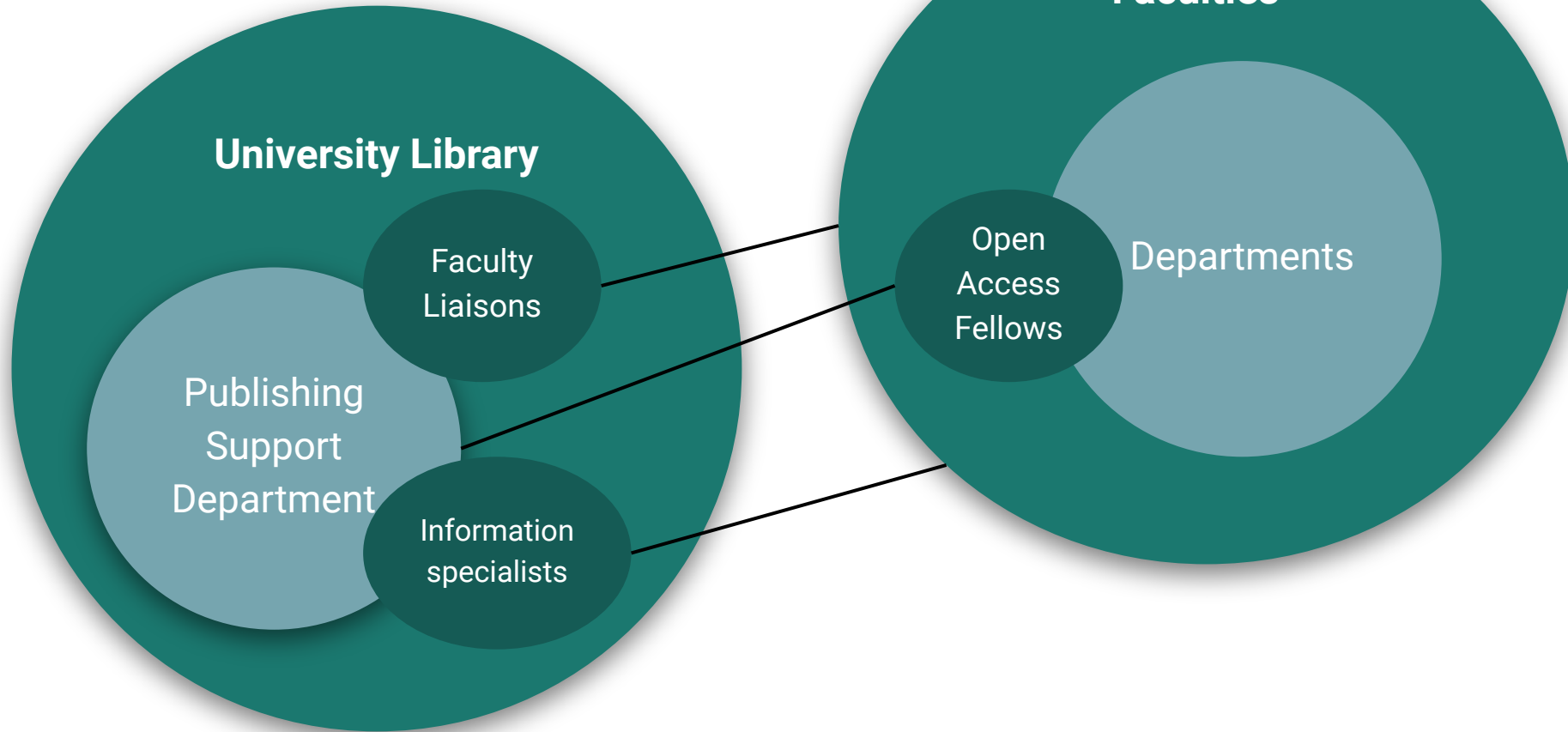
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3. Faculties: develop tailored multi-route publication strategies for their researchers, based on the [Open access policy & strategy - Utrecht University Library - Utrecht University \(uu.nl\)](#) and their own publication budgets.

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4. Publishing Support Department expertise: how to share it?

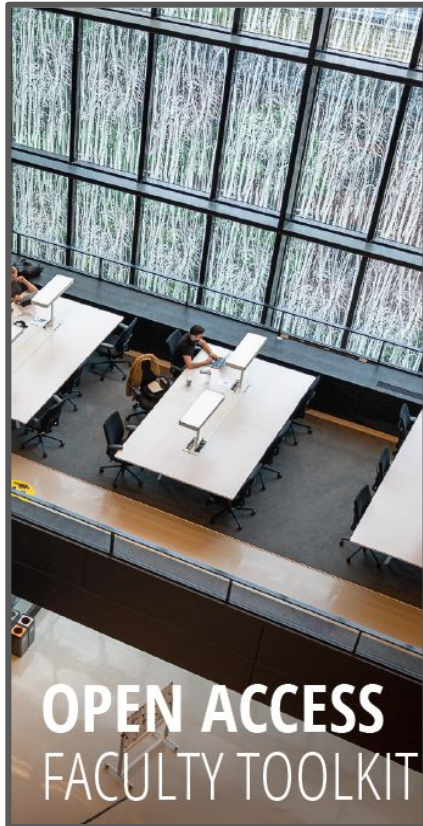
Connecting with the faculties



The Publishing Support Team



The OA Toolkit



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BOOKS

DIAMOND OPEN ACCESS

Diamond open access initiatives are not-for-profit and often community led. Neither authors nor readers pay for the books; rather, diamond publishers/platforms are sustained by supporting institutions and libraries, although some publishers (e.g. Open Book Publishers) ask for a voluntary contribution from authors who can afford it.

Apart from the 100% diamond publishers, many commercial book publishers also experiment with diamond-like initiatives. Some have diamond (or diamond-like) imprints which are funded from the publisher's normal revenue stream; some (e.g., John Benjamins, Liverpool University Press) explicitly seek funding from libraries to do this (e.g., offering eBook packages whose proceeds are put towards making the next n books in the frontlist OA). Others (e.g., Brill) collaborate with initiatives such as *Knowledge Unlatched* (KU), which collect funds from libraries and divide them among publishers to fund Diamond projects. Sometimes the *Subscribe to Open (S2O)* model is also seen as a variant of diamond as it is funded by continued library subscription meeting an income threshold above which both reading and publishing are without cost to anyone.

Diamond platforms provide a range of publishing services, typically comparable to traditional publishers, including a robust peer-review and quality control; the commitment to quality, of course, may vary depending on the platform, just like with traditional publishers. Inclusion in DOAB and/or membership within OASPA can be an indicator of high quality standards of OA publishers, including Diamond OA. Because of the many different initiatives and new developments within the Diamond category, ongoing collaboration between faculties and the OA experts at the library will be vital.

PROS:

- No open access fees for authors
- Compelling option for researchers as they can reach a larger and global audience at low/no costs
- The most equitable option, because of the absence of publishing (or reading) fees
- Excellent option for books with a built-in audience (e.g., edited volumes, conference proceedings, textbooks), where the marketing power provided by big publishers isn't as important.

CONS:

- As academic publishing is still coupled with a reputation/impact economy, newer diamond platforms/publications are sometimes not considered as 'prestigious' as traditional publishers despite robust peer review and other upstanding quality control practices. This may not matter very much for, e.g., textbooks or established researchers, but may matter a lot to early career researchers who are still establishing a name for themselves. While faculties can mitigate this to an extent through their recognition & rewards policies, many early career researchers will not stay at Utrecht University and may be interested in building a career in countries where traditional measures of academic success and formal recognition still weigh heavily.
- Not all fields have equal access to relevant and reputable diamond publishers.

FACULTY CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Discuss diamond options for books in your field & promote them with your researchers. Share pre-existing resources, such as [the OA Book Toolkit](#), with researchers who are interested in publishing OA.
- ☐ Consider financially supporting diamond publishers based on criteria acceptable within your field. In the case of multidisciplinary publishers, check with the library on the possibility of coordinating support across multiple faculties.
- ☐ Decide on a policy re: whether or not to fund optional BPCs (some diamond publishers ask authors for a contribution if they can afford it).

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SUPPORT SERVICES:

- Provide overviews of existing diamond publishers in the disciplines of the faculty, as well as data on existing books published with these publishers by Utrecht University authors.
- Direct financial support to diamond infrastructures, such as DOAB/OAPEN and PKP.
- Financial support of the Open Book Collective (OBC), which supports Diamond OA publishers through funds, collaboration, and increased professionalisation.

The structure





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The structure

Pros and Cons

PS expertise + Open Access fellows feedback

Introduction

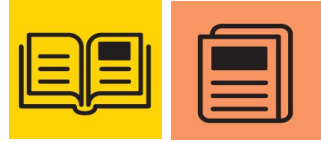
Tries to be comprehensible for all levels of expertise on open access publications

Checklist for Faculties

What to consider when following/promoting this route + Existing resources

PS Services at UU

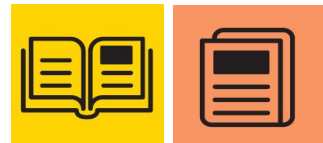
What we do/can offer as PS for this route



An example: Diamond Open Access

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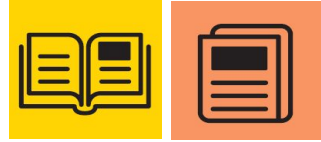
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CONS:

- More challenges in changing the mentality of “prestige” in monographs and books publication
- Not all diamond journals are as well-known, some are new, and might not be indexed yet



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- ☐ Make options better known among staff and and share pre-existing resources.
- ☐ If you are a journal editor, consider changing an APC-based journal to diamond, or start a diamond journal.
- ☐ Consider reviewing for diamond open access journals and platforms.
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SUPPORT SERVICES:

- Overviews of existing diamond options
- Overview of current diamond authors/editor at UU
- Exploring ways to support/fund good diamond options
- Check whether journals can be supported through S2O models.
- Coordinate diamond support across multiple faculties

What have we done so far?

Publishing Support Department - OA Toolkit									
Tasks	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2023	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024
End of OA Fund - News Item									
OA Toolkit is developed									
Dissemination: Faculty Liaisons									
Feedback: Faculty Liaisons									
Dissemination: OA Fellows									
Feedback: OA Fellows									
Meeting: PS, FL, OA Fellows									
Revision OA Toolkit									
Designer OA Toolkit									
Dissemination: Vice-Deans									

Discussion and challenges

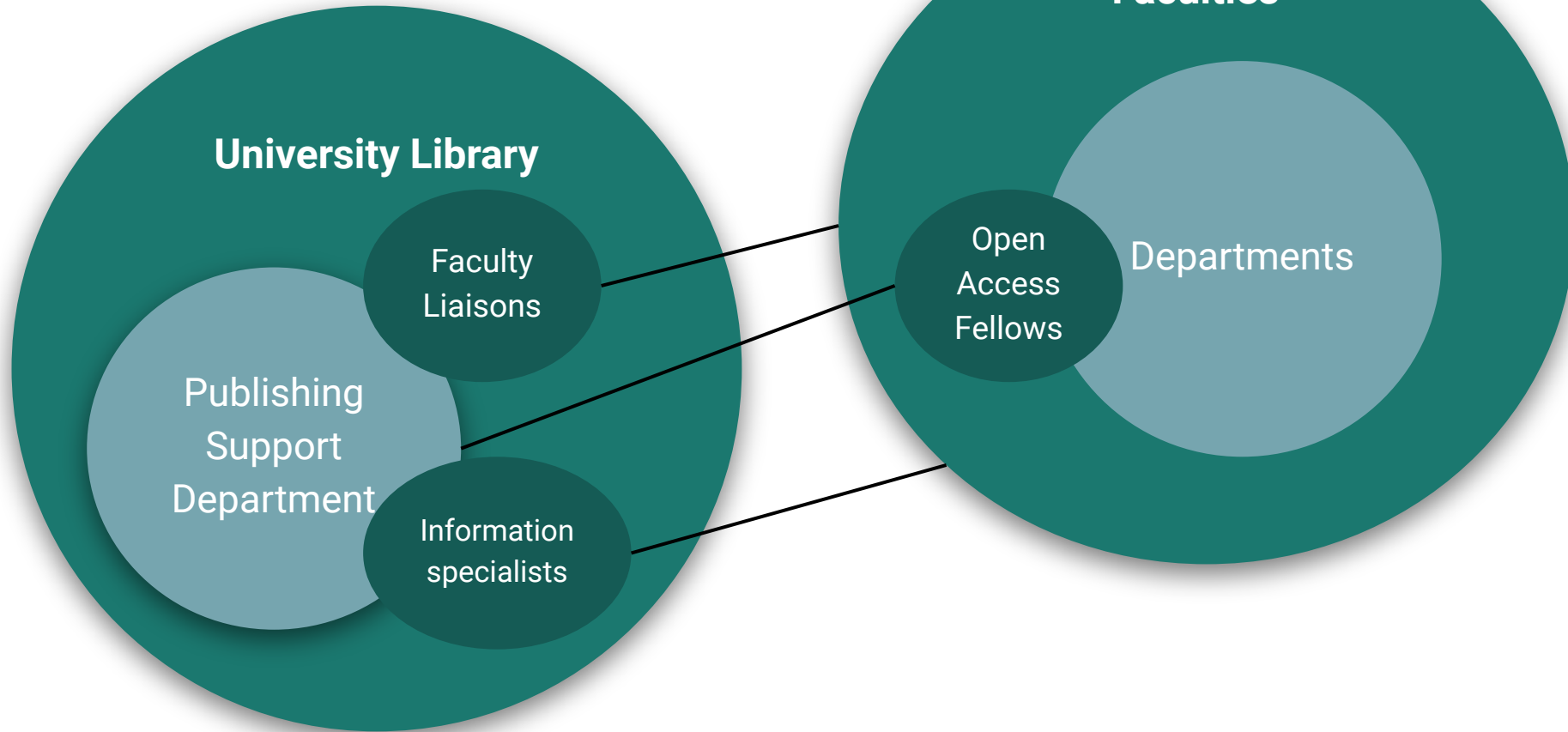
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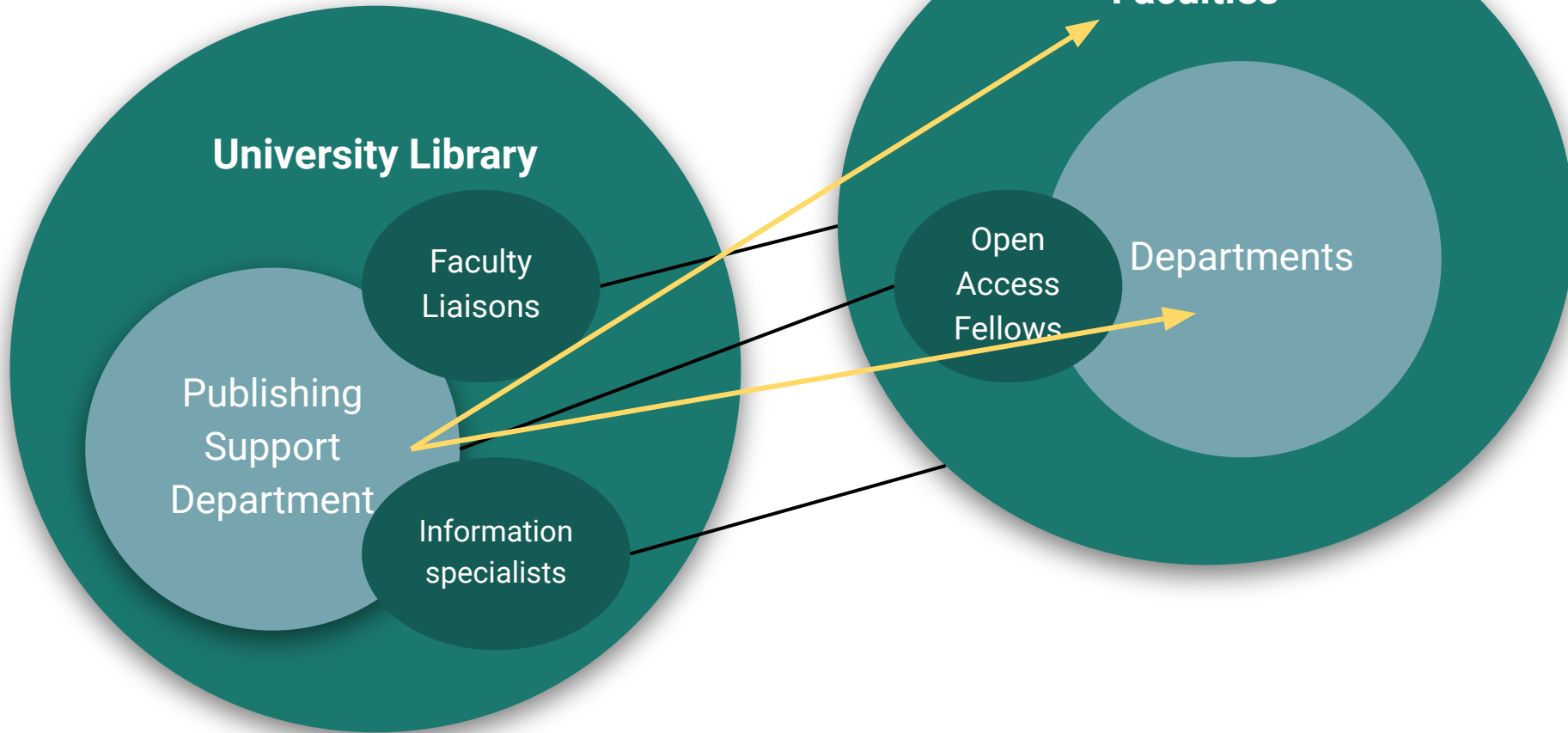
Some faculties faster than others

Discussion and challenges

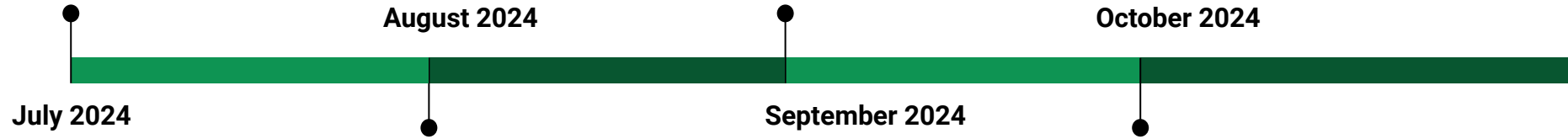
Connecting with the faculties



Connecting with the faculties



The Next Steps



The Next Steps

LIBER Conference.
Meetings with Vice Deans.

●
July 2024

●
August 2024

●
September 2024

●
October 2024



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●
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●
Address additional
feedback.

●
September 2024

October 2024
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The Next Steps

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Follow up meeting with OA Fellows.
Version of the OA Toolkit shared outside UU.

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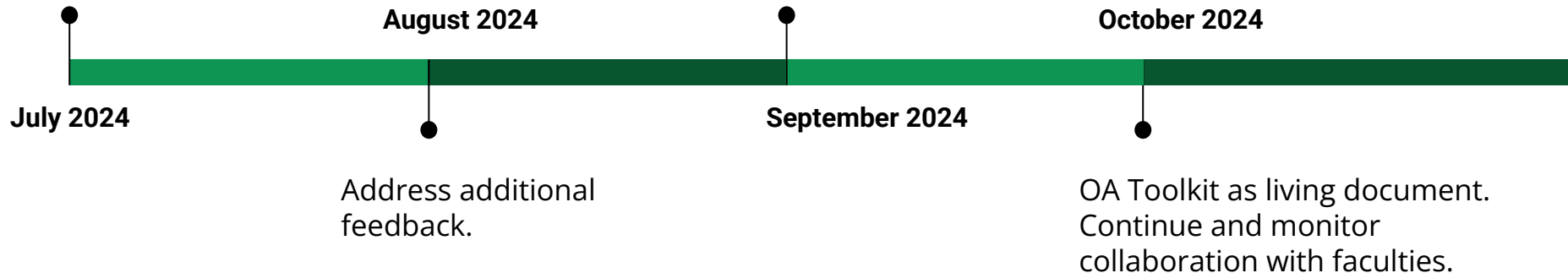
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Key Takeaways

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- Recognize **Varied Levels of Open Access (OA) Understanding.**
- **Adapt** to Faculty-Specific Timelines.
- Address **Diverse Publication Needs.**
- Enhance **Further Connection** with Faculties and Departments.



Universiteit Utrecht



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University**

Sharing science,
shaping tomorrow

Thank you!

Questions/comments? library.publishingsupport@uu.nl