

# **Freemium as a Sustainable Economic Model for Open Access Publishing: The Example of OpenEdition Books**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Between the different economic models for open access publishing, freemium attracted more attention during the last years. Situated half way between traditional and gold « author pays » open access models, freemium conciliates free/open access to information with the licensing of premium services, usually for libraries. This model seems particularly well suited for the fragile and complex economy of scholarly monographs publication, mainly because it is heavily driven by usage. OpenEdition, a comprehensive environment for publications in humanities and social sciences, has been using the freemium model with one hundred journal for two years, and implemented it on its new platform for books last october. So far, the experiment is successful and attracts a growing number of publishers, libraries and scholars as a good compromise between their different expectations.