BookHub
COLLABORATIVE
Authorship Workshop Report

Initiative: Fostering Academic Self-Reliance in Nigeria (Led by FUTMinna)

Hosted by: Academic Publishing Centre (South-West Zone), University of Lagos

Workshop Narrative Report

The BookHub Collaborative Authorship Workshop, hosted at the University of Lagos by the Academic Publishing Centre (South-West Zone), brought together scholars, publishing professionals, and academic leaders to explore and engage with BookHub—a next-generation open access collaborative publishing platform. This workshop marked a regional rollout of a national initiative, building on the April 2025 workshop that took place in FUTMinna in collaboration with APCs and university presses from across the country.

With participants from across Nigeria's academic and legal sectors—including **University of Lagos, UI, Federal University of Technology, LASU, NOUN, YabaTech, Ambrose Alli University, Redeemer's University, and the Lagos State Judiciary**—the workshop emphasized inclusive participation, skill-building, and policy dialogue.

Key Participation Metrics

Total Participants	**50**
Institutions Represented	**12**
Zones Covered	**5 (South-West, North-Central, North-East, South-East, South-South)**
Sessions Held	**12**
Platform Used	**BookHub (apc.bookhub.africa)**

Objectives

- Promote collaborative authoring using the BookHub open-source platform.
- Build capacity in open access (OA) book development across disciplines.
- Expand the national conversation on OA book publishing from FUTMinna Academic Publishing Centre (North-Central) to the South-West.
- Support the production of peer-reviewed, high-quality, openly licensed academic books authored by Nigerian scholars.

DAY 1 HIGHLIGHTS:
OPENING & ONBOARDING

Dr. Mojisola Shodipe
Director APC, South-West

Group Photograph
w/Deputy VC: Prof. Afolabi F.E.

Opening Remarks

The event began with a warm welcome by **Dr. Mojisola Shodipe (Director, APC South-West),** and formal opening by **Prof. Afolabi F.E. (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, UNILAG)**, who underscored the urgency of digital skills in scholarly publishing.

Keynote Contributions

- Prof. Abdulsalami Kovo (APC FUTMinna) traced the BookHub journey, highlighting its potential to foster a new generation of open access authors.
- Networking session enabled attendees to share institutional affiliations and expectations.

BookHub Platform Overview (Oreva Orior, Datasphir)

Participants were introduced to BookHub's capabilities, including:

- Single-source production
- AI-supported writing and editing
- Push-button publishing
- Role-based collaboration
- Print-on-demand

These features reduce time-to-publish, streamline peer review, and integrate design workflows into one seamless interface.

Dr. Fatimah Abduldayan (Director CoDeL, Co-Lead FUT Minna OA Project)

Why Open Access Books Matter

Dr. Fatimah Abduldayan, FUTMinna guided participants through:

- Why OA matters for local knowledge and impact
- Debunking myths: Peer review, prestige, and print
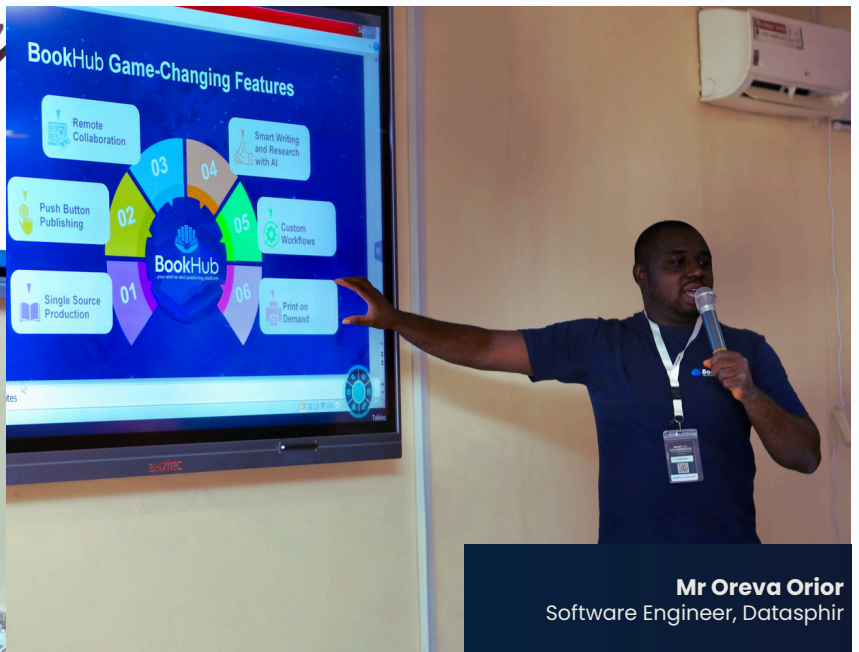- The Diamond OA model and APC Framework adoption

Hands-on Authoring Sessions

Facilitators (Nicholas Esezobor, FUTMinna & Oreva Orior) also walked participants through:

- Book creation (from scratch or via upload)
- Assignment of stakeholder roles (author, editor, designer)
- Use of AI for paraphrasing and content generation
- Real-time collaborative review and editing
- Peer Review Setup

Participants practiced every phase—from manuscript upload to structured chapters, metadata, and design, culminating in digital publication via BookHub.

DAY 2 HIGHLIGHTS:
EDITORIAL WORKFLOWS & DESIGN

Mr Nicholas Esezobor
FUTMinna

Mr Oreva Orior
Software Engineer, Datasphir

Hands-on Authoring Sessions

Facilitators (Nicholas Esezobor, FUTMinna & Oreva Orior) walked participants through:

- Book Review and Editorial Workflows
- Layout and Design in BookHub
- From Manuscript to Publication

Participants did explore peer-review best practices and editorial workflows, real-time layout and metadata management, and push-button publishing in BookHub

Dr. Fatimah Abduldayan
Director CoDeL, Co-Lead FUT Minna OA Project)

Group Photograph
of the Panel Session

Copyright, Licensing & Discoverability Session

Dr. Fatimah Abduldayan, FUTMinna guided participants through:

- Understanding Creative Commons licensing (CC BY, SA, NC etc.)
- Importance of rich metadata for academic visibility
- Strategies for depositing books in institutional repositories and the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB)

Panel Session: Policy, Platforms & Frameworks

Moderator: Mr. Omo Oaiya, WACREN
Panelists: Professors Zaid, Kovo, Okiki; Dr. Abduldayan and Shodipe

Key Themes:

- Proposal to establish a **Joint Open Science Council** to oversee governance.
- Creating **open science charters** and **funding frameworks**.
- Emphasizing **metadata standardization** and **institutional repository alignment**.
- Using BookHub to support OA policy, multilingualism, and academic integrity.
- Advancing hybrid revenue models through **print-on-demand**.
- Proposing **institutional M&E frameworks** for APC quality control.

Each panelist offered a forward-looking vision of Nigeria's OA future—from expanding institutional ownership to deepening regional APC collaborations and building researcher capacity.

Key Recommendations

- Adopt BookHub institutionally for collaborative book publishing
- Promote Diamond Open Access as a no-fee, community-led model
- Strengthen metadata practices for better indexing and discoverability
- Leverage BookHub for indigenous language publishing and early-career support
- Embed incentives for OA within tenure, promotion, and institutional policy systems
- Sustain OA initiatives via TETFund grants, print-on-demand, and inter-APC cooperation

Outcomes & Next Steps

- Participants left with practical, end-to-end experience of producing a book via BookHub
- Stakeholders gained clarity on the APC framework, open access policies, and metadata standards
- National coordination will continue at the *National Stakeholder Summit on Community-Led Academic Publishing*:
  - Dates: **6–7 October 2025**
  - Venue: Conference Centre, National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), Abuja

Conclusion

The BookHub Collaborative Authoring Workshop successfully advanced the national dialogue on open access academic publishing. It empowered participants with practical tools and policy insight, while reinforcing regional leadership and inter-APC collaboration.

With growing momentum from FUTMinna to UNILAG and beyond, BookHub is set to redefine how Nigeria's researchers create, share, and preserve scholarly knowledge.

★★★★★

Dr. Sophia Vivian Adeyeye
Lead City University, Ibadan

"The BookHub Collaborative Workshop is the first of its kind for me. The BookHub platform enables authors to come together in real time to publish, make changes, and implement corrections. It is thoughtfully designed to help authors keep track of their work throughout the process."

★★★★★

Dr. Adetomiwa Basiru
Redeemer's University, Ede

"It's very flexible and simple, bringing together all publishing stakeholders—authors, editors, and reviewers. The integration of AI into the platform made everything seamless. I hope Datasphir creates more awareness about this platform."