ABOUT THE AUTONOMOUS DOCUMENT INITIATIVE
and OS OPEN DESIGN PROTOCOL

Beginning in 2020, OS publications have begun production utilizing the OS Open Design Protocol resources and tools outside of the cohort model previously in operation.

While the OS publication initiative was designed around a horizontal, agile, decolonial open access vision (and has been able to remain aligned with these core principles in many ways) over the ten years of bringing in projects through a submission process and relying primarily on the labor of already precarious bodies / resources, it became abundantly clear that this was both unsustainable and limited in its capacities. Ultimately, the goal of these tools is to refuse the scarcity model, to dispel the illusion of merit, skill, or talent of a "few," and to invite all to the table for not only the making and growth inherent in creation and re/presentation both independently and in communty, but also to offer support in the documentation, archiving, and replication of work for present and future use and circulation.

With that in mind, I deduced that the way to truly scale the infrastructural offerings of the Operating System print/document concept was to translate the internal strategies and tools developed to support OS community members, facilitators, authors, artists, and collaborators from all disciplines into open access tools -- offering up blueprints to all not only for design thinking and editorial procedures, but also templates for organizational structure, agreements, and facilitated guidance for working outside of our comfort zone whether as writer, editor, designer, curator, or administrator.

These, and so much more, can be found at the Open Resource Hub:

https://www.theoperatingsystem.org/open-resource-library/

The goal is not the "success" of the documents made with The Operating System moniker, but a different success: one in which these tools support the continued seizing of the means of production by those who thought this impossible --the growth of DIY imprints, a ballooning refusal to pay into debt economies of submission and false legitimizing structures, the archiving, documentation, and distribution of vital ways of knowing and being, towards a future defined by autonomy and possibility.

—Elæ Moss, 2021