

# Coko



2021 – 2022 Annual Report

# Summary from Founder Adam Hyde

It must be said, the last few years have been the craziest of times. How to write an annual report with the world feeling like it is constantly being turned upside down? Before we report on Coko's activities, we feel it is important to extend our heartfelt sympathies to all those affected by the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, the growing economic slowdown, and all that the universe has thrown at us over the last three years.

But we all must find a way to continually move forward, and this is our record of how Coko has progressed, grown and strengthened our team, partners, community, revenue, and technologies over this period.

Coko's motto is "We Build, You Publish" – we exist to benefit the publishing community by building modern, open source tools that enable the publishing of critical knowledge better, faster, cheaper.

Our economic model is simple. Organisations pay us to build and extend open source software for them, and we use the surplus to build open source software for the community. It is a kind of Robin Hood production model if you will.

But we are not just about tools. We also care about the people that build and use these tools— the Coko Community—which is why we also lead initiatives like the Open Publishing Awards and the Open Publishing Fest. These two events have been successful and joyful for those that participated. At the Fest, we've had performances (a special thank you to our friends from the Philippines – the Divine Divas!) from all over the world and more than 300 presentations. Many of these presentations were extremely well attended and we welcomed everyone including folks that build competitive technologies to join in and promote what they are doing. The Awards were also fantastic with more than 400 nominations and 20 amazing award-winning projects selected by our esteemed panel of judges (a special thanks to chairman Cameron Neylon).

With community in mind, it is also important to note our work with the Women in Tech India collective (WiTc). We launched the DEWI Academy with WiTc last year with the aim of training women in rural India to learn how to build software. In addition, we co-founded the Coalition for Open Access Publishing Infrastructures in Africa in 2020 with WACREN, and EIFL.

But of course, Coko's primary focus is building open-source technology for the publishing community. Since 2019, we have grown the number of community technologies we build and support from 4 (Editoria, PubSweet, xSweet and Wax) to 11 – with Pagedjs, Kotahi, Science-Beam, Libero Editor, Flax, Wax 2, and CokoDocs all joining the Coko portfolio.

We have also grown the number of bespoke platforms (open source platforms that organisations pay Coko to build) including major projects for NCBI, the Open Education Network, and HHMI.

In total, this means we have grown our common community code base from around 800,000 lines of code a few years ago to approximately 2 million lines of reusable open source code today.

To reach such productivity levels we had to grow our team. In 2019, we had less than a dozen people on our team, we now have over 40.

And to grow our team we needed to grow our revenue. Coko has seen accelerated revenue growth rising from \$650,000 USD three years ago to a projected \$2 million USD in 2022.

What might not be as apparent, but something we are very proud of, is that we have also changed the balance of our revenue model. In 2019, our revenue comprised approximately 90% funding, 10% earned income. Today we have completely flipped the balance of revenue to 90% earned income, and 10% funding, a significant achievement for a not-for-profit like Coko.

This model is very powerful because it allows us to spend the unrestricted surplus on building products for the Coko Community. So if you are an organisation needing development services, drop us a line! You will be helping your organisation and, at the same time, the publishing community as a whole.

Last, but certainly not least, Coko has recently welcomed a lot of organisations to our community including NLnet, Crossref, OASPA, Amnet, Livriz, and others while also continuing to work with, and be supported by, long-term friends and partners such as eLife and Hindawi.

It has been a tough few years for us all and we must take what goodness we can these days and make the most of it. We are happy to relay that Coko continues to grow and thrive even during these difficult times. We hope that our work may have benefited you in some way – whether it be through using some of the open-source tools we produce or by seeing friends at the events we host. In any case, we wish you the best and hope to meet again in real space one day soon!

**100% Open Source. 100% Community.**



**Adam Hyde**  
Founder  
[adam@coko.foundation](mailto:adam@coko.foundation)

# Coko Community Products

100% Open Source. 100% Community.



The Modern Scholarly Publishing platform for managing the submission, review, and publication of preprints, micropubs, and journal articles.  
[kotahi.community](http://kotahi.community)



Full featured single-source book production platform.  
[editoria.community](http://editoria.community)



CokoDocs

A free and open source replacement for Google Docs.  
Website forthcoming.

**paged.js**

Standards-driven pagedmedia typesetting engine.  
[www.pagedjs.org](http://www.pagedjs.org)



The premier web-based word processor.  
[waxjs.net](http://waxjs.net)

*xSweet*

A high fidelity MS Word (docx)-to-HTML converter.  
[xsweet.org](http://xsweet.org)

FLAX

A publishing frontend for content produced in Kotahi and Editoria.  
Website forthcoming.



**PubSweet**

An open source framework for building state-of-the-art publishing platforms.  
[pubsweet.coko.foundation](http://pubsweet.coko.foundation)



**ScienceBeam**

ScienceBeam uses machine learning to convert PDF to XML with high accuracy.  
Website forthcoming.

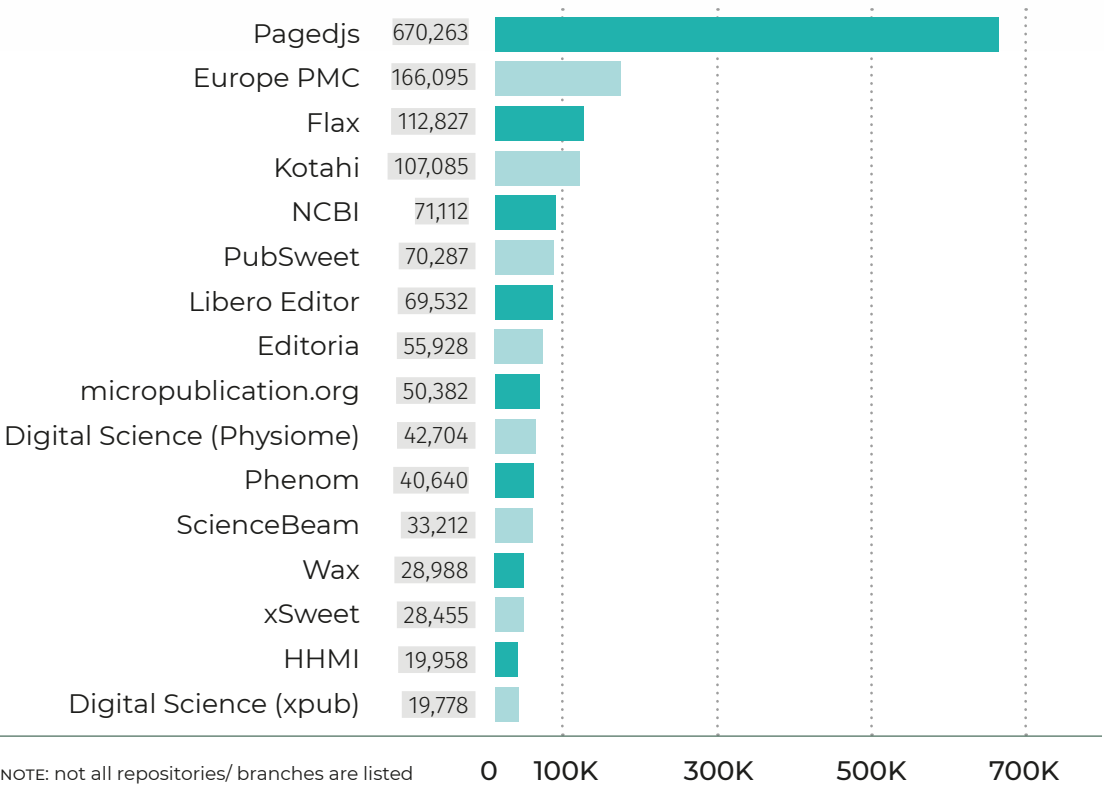


**Libero Editor**

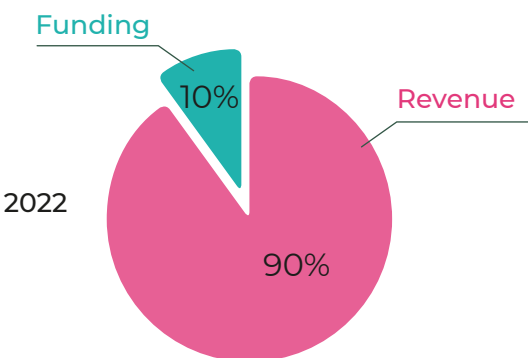
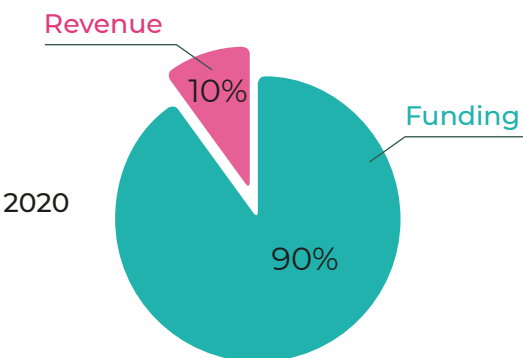
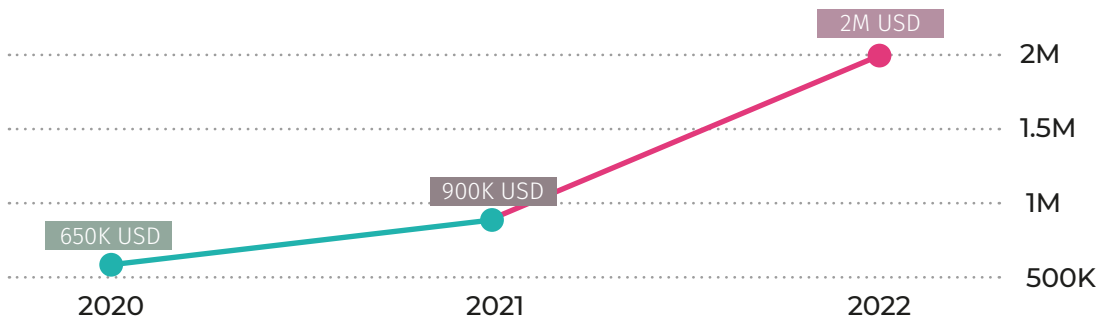
A JATS XML editor.  
Website forthcoming.

# 100% Open Source

Total: 2+ million lines of code



## Revenue



## 100% Community



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2021

7 awardees  
18 judges  
200+ nominations

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2019

10 awardees  
11 judges  
200+ nominations

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“As a committee member of the Open Publishing Awards, I’m proud of the work we did to gather together and celebrate a diverse global community of open publishers.



**Gimena del Rio Riande**  
CONICET



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2021

120+ presentations

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2019

200+ presentations

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“The Open Publishing Fest offers a fun and approachable way to include and meet other publishers and to celebrate the many innovative ways to share information openly across the world.



**Ginny Hendricks**  
Crossref

# Chief Operating Officer Update

The last 18 months have been very busy at Coko and we have been growing fast! Amazing to think that in that time our full-time team has more than doubled. Our team has also changed from being largely Europe-based to having a global presence, with team members working together across 10 countries.

While the number of developers has dramatically increased, we've also spent time building our Project Management and QA processes. Sidorela Uku is now our Lead QA Engineer and is joined by QA staff Vignesh S and Bela Toci. In the Project Management team, we now have Christina Tromp, Ryan Dix-Peek, and Bhuvana Meenakshi Koteeswaran (WITC).

In the coming months, we look forward to seeing the results of some of their hard work with the release of several new custom-built platforms, including a large content management system for the National Centre for Biotechnology Information and an assessment builder workflow for the Howard Hughes Medical

Institute. We are also working on major feature extensions to Editoria (commissioned by the Open Education Network) and Kotahi (eLife and Amnet).

There is a lot more on the boil—we start work on CokoDocs this month with support from NLnet, and we have also started the process of building community around ScienceBeam and Libero Editor, two softwares that were gifted to us by eLife earlier in the year.

**This has been a very busy year and we don't anticipate slowing down in the near future. While the team is busy, they are, as always, wonderful people to work with and doing great work!**



**Dione Mentis**  
Chief Operating Officer  
[dione@coko.foundation](mailto:dione@coko.foundation)

## Custom-made platforms

Recent customised platforms we have built for organisations.



**Micropublication.org**  
[gitlab.coko.foundation/  
micropublication/  
micropublication](https://gitlab.coko.foundation/micropublication/micropublication)  
[micropublication.org](https://micropublication.org)  
Built for Caltech.  
Completed and  
in production.



**HHMI Question Bank**  
[gitlab.coko.foundation/  
hhmi/hhmi](https://gitlab.coko.foundation/hhmi/hhmi)  
Question generation,  
review, self testing  
and export platform.  
Under development.



**NCBI Book CMS**  
[gitlab.coko.foundation/  
ncbi/ncbi](https://gitlab.coko.foundation/ncbi/ncbi)  
Content management  
system.  
Under development.



**Open Textbook Planner**  
Website Forthcoming.  
Open textbook  
structuring tool to assist  
authors.  
Under development.

## Our Partners





## Testimonials

*I was very fortunate for connecting with Adam and we explored on various ways about how WITc and Coko can work together to empower young developers and create an inclusive ecosystem. The WITc community members are very grateful to work on Coko projects that have helped them expand their knowledge on Open Publishing tools and development.*



**Bhuvana Meenakshi Koteeswaran**  
Project Manager, Coko-WITc Software Academy

*The best part about working for Coko is all the good people gathered in one place, helping each other do the work and helping each other learn, which these days is hard to find.*



**Danjela Shehi**  
Coko Developer

*Coko is building important foundational Open Infrastructure technologies for publishers. They have been unafraid to tackle the hard problems and to do it in a way that enables all to benefit.*



**John Chodacki**  
Board Member

*Coko brings an innovative, solution-focussed approach to open publishing software, with a genuine drive and commitment to help move publishing forward.*



**Claire Redhead**  
OASPA

*Coko had an early motto that “software is a conversation” and this really plays out when working with them. They always listen carefully to our needs which inevitably leads to insightful and constructive conversations, bringing our collective knowledge and experience together to achieve a shared goal.*



**Paul Shannon**  
eLife

*We chose to work with Coko because we identified them as the leading open source/ open infrastructure technologists in scholarly publishing. Coko are professional, committed, and wonderful collaborators.*



**Venu Prasad Menon**  
Amnet Systems



# The Coko Team

Now spanning 5 continents!



**Adam Hyde**  
Coko Founder &  
Principal Architect



**Dione Mentis**  
Chief Operating  
Officer



**Yannis Barlas**  
Lead Engineer  
and Senior Architect



**Bethany Lyons**  
Financial  
Administrator



**Bhuvana Meenakshi  
Koteeswaran**  
Project Manager, Coko-  
WITc Software Academy



**Sidorela Uku**  
Lead QA Engineer



**Snehil Raj**  
Developer



**Vukile Langa**  
Developer



**Shanthi Babu**  
Developer in Association  
with WITc, India



**Alexis Georgantas**  
Lead Editoria  
Developer



**Anne Erika Schmidt**  
Exec Assistant  
and Logistics



**Raewyn Whyte**  
Copy Editing



**Giannis Kopanas**  
Developer



**Ryan Dix-Peek**  
Kotahi Project Manager  
and Architect



**S K Venkatesan**  
Data Scientist



**Julie Blanc**  
Pagedjs CSS  
Developer/Designer



**Henrik van Leeuwen**  
Branding and UX



**Yash Gupta**  
Developer in Association  
with WITc, India



**Fred Chasen**  
Pagedjs Developer



**Harshna Haswani**  
Pagedjs CSS Developer/  
Designer in Association  
with WITc, India



**Julien Taquet**  
Pagedjs CSS  
Developer/Designer



**Christos Kokosias**  
Lead Wax Developer



**Bela Toci**  
QA Engineer



**Vignesh S**  
QA Engineer in Association  
with WITc, India



**Danjela Shehi**  
Developer



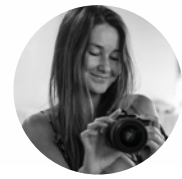
**Ben Whitmore**  
Lead Kotahi  
Developer



**Vignesh Devendran**  
Developer



**Dan Visel**  
Developer



**Molly McCabe**  
Video Updates  
Producer



**Wendell Piez**  
Lead XSweet  
Developer



**Agathe Baëz**  
Designer



**Grigor Malo**  
Developer



**Abhishek Pokhriyal**  
Developer



**Christina Tromp**  
Project Manager



**Shubham Tiwari**  
Developer



**Pankaj Kandpal**  
Developer



**Kuldeep Upreti**  
CokoDocs Developer

## Coko Advisory Board

As part of our commitment to being community-driven, we have a board of advisors that help inform Coko's current and future directions.



**Alison McGonagle-O'Connell**  
Consultant



**Charlie Ablett**  
Senior Backend Engineer,  
GitLab



**John Chodacki**  
Director, University of California  
Curation Center (UC3)  
at California Digital Library



**Karien Bezuidenhout**  
Director, Shuttleworth  
Foundation



**Peter Brantley**  
Director of Online Strategy,  
University of California  
Davis Library



**Tim O'Reilly**  
Founder and CEO,  
O'Reilly Media



**Tony Wasserman**  
Professor of Software  
Management Practice, Carnegie  
Mellon, Silicon Valley,  
& Executive Director, Center for  
Open Source Investigation



**Evan Henshaw-Plath**  
(Rabble)  
Entrepreneur



100% OPEN SOURCE

NOT-FOR-PROFIT

100% COMMUNITY

<https://coko.foundation>



Many thanks to our friends  
and fiscal sponsors at Aspiration.  
[aspirationtech.org](https://aspirationtech.org)



Coko was founded with seed funding  
from the Shuttleworth Foundation.  
[shuttleworthfoundation.org](https://shuttleworthfoundation.org)