

PUBMET2026

THE 13TH CONFERENCE ON SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION
IN THE CONTEXT OF OPEN SCIENCE

BOOK OF **ABSTRACTS**

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PUBMET2026

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Book of Abstracts of PUBMET2026, the 13th Conference on Scholarly Communication in the Context of Open Science, held in Zadar, Croatia, from 9 to 11 September 2026. This Book of Abstracts brings together the contributions presented during the conference and offers a snapshot of the questions currently shaping scholarly communication.

Over the last 13 years, PUBMET has grown into a meeting place for researchers, librarians, editors, publishers, research support professionals, infrastructure providers, and others involved in shaping the way research is communicated, evaluated, shared, and preserved. This diversity of perspectives is one of the conference's greatest strengths. It creates space for presenting new work and questioning established practices.

At PUBMET2026, Open Science remained central, with a focus on the infrastructures, policies, communities, and funding needed to sustain it, while artificial intelligence continues reshaping research and publishing, raising new questions about integrity, transparency, and trust.

This year's themes were reflected throughout the conference programme. Discussions ranged from the development of national and European Open Science infrastructures to the future of scholarly publishing, Diamond Open Access, peer review, research assessment, and the role of emerging technologies. Keynote lectures, panel discussions, short talks, posters, workshops, and informal conversations offered a range of perspectives on both the opportunities and the tensions that accompany these developments.

A recurring message throughout PUBMET2026 was the importance of community. Sustainable scholarly communication cannot be built through technologies, policies, or platforms alone. It depends on people and institutions willing to collaborate, share expertise, maintain infrastructures, develop standards, experiment with new models, and critically assess whether the systems we create serve the needs of research and society. Questions of sustainability, ownership, transparency, and shared responsibility therefore remain inseparable from discussions about openness.

We hope that this volume will serve not only as a record of the conference, but also as a starting point for further discussion, collaboration, and research. Many of the challenges addressed during PUBMET2026 do not have simple or final answers. Their value lies in bringing different communities together to examine multiple perspectives and to continue asking how scholarly communication can become more open, trustworthy, inclusive, and sustainable.

We would like to thank all authors, speakers, panellists, workshop leaders, and poster presenters for sharing their work and contributing to the discussions. We are equally grateful to the members of the programme and organising committees, our supporters and sponsors, and everyone whose work made PUBMET2026 possible.

We hope that the ideas collected in this Book of Abstracts will keep those conversations going well beyond the conference itself.



KEYNOTES

Scientific Publishing and Generative AI

Sonja Bjelobaba [Uppsala University, Sweden]

[view presentation](#) | [more info](#)

ABSTRACT

Generative AI is rapidly changing how research is conducted, communicated, and evaluated. In this presentation, Sonja Bjelobaba explores how AI can amplify existing threats to research integrity, including paper mills, fabricated citations, duplicate publications, and the spread of low-quality research. The talk connects these challenges to broader concerns raised in the Stockholm Declaration about the growing commercialisation of science and the need to prioritize quality over quantity in research assessment. If AI makes it easier than ever to produce scientific texts, what will originality, authorship, and scientific merit mean in the future? Rather than focusing solely on technology, the presentation argues for transparency, clear guidelines, and a renewed commitment to the core values of reliable and trustworthy research.

Monitoring Open Science: It takes a village!

Laetitia Bracco [Université de Lorraine, Nancy, France]

[view presentation](#) | [more info](#)

ABSTRACT

Open Science has become a central priority in research policy worldwide, driving increased transparency, accessibility, and collaboration across disciplines. As its adoption grows, so does the need to effectively monitor progress, assess impact, and inform decision-making. Open Science monitoring plays a crucial role in this context: it enables institutions, funders, libraries, and publishers to better understand the uptake of open practices, identify gaps, and support the development of evidence-based policies. However, despite its importance, monitoring efforts remain fragmented, often relying on diverse methodologies, indicators, and infrastructures that limit comparability and reuse. In May 2023, the G7 Science and Technology Ministers highlighted the need for a shared framework for monitoring Open Science. Existing initiatives, such as national and regional dashboards and tools, demonstrate both innovation and commitment, but also reveal a lack of coordination at the global level. While several key guidelines exist, no common international framework has yet emerged to ensure alignment, interoperability, and responsible use of indicators.

The Open Science Monitoring Initiative (OSMI) was created to address this gap. Rather than developing new monitoring tools, OSMI aims to bring together a broad community of stakeholders (including libraries, publishers, research institutions, funders, and infrastructure providers...) to adopt shared principles and guidance. Its goal is to support more coherent, comparable, and responsible Open Science monitoring practices worldwide, while encouraging the exchange of expertise and best practices. The initiative builds on a highly collaborative process. A first draft developed by French experts was refined during an international workshop hosted at UNESCO in December 2023, gathering over 50 experts from major research organisations. This was followed by a global consultation involving more than 150 contributors from 40 countries. This collective effort led to the formalisation of OSMI and the publication of the Principles of Open Science Monitoring in July 2025. These Principles are structured around three core pillars: relevance and significance, ensuring that monitoring efforts are meaningful, inclusive, and adaptable; transparency and reproducibility, promoting the use of open, reliable data and methods; and self-assessment and responsible use, emphasising continuous improvement and discouraging simplistic or reductive evaluation practices. Importantly, the Principles advocate for monitoring as a tool to support and incentivise Open Science practices, rather than as a basis for ranking or evaluating individual researchers.

For stakeholders, the value of this work is multifaceted. Libraries can use the Principles to guide the development or refinement of monitoring services and support institutional strategies. Publishers can better align their data and practices with transparent and interoperable standards. Research institutions and funders can rely on more robust and comparable indicators to inform policy and investment decisions.

This presentation will introduce the Principles of Open Science Monitoring and discuss future directions for advancing global coordination in Open Science monitoring.

How to Practice Openness Through Community

Ivan Flis [Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia]

[view presentation](#) | [more info](#)

ABSTRACT

In this talk, I will present a small-scale case of an open science community I belong to (the Cognitive Science Master's in Rijeka, where I teach) and how one new community fits into the disjointed archipelago of open scholarship initiatives in Croatian academia. In the first part, I will describe how the new Master's programme at the University of Rijeka was built around the principles of openness. The programme Cognitive Sciences: Cognition and the Mind started in the academic year 2023/24, and one of its core founding principles was to foster a community around teaching and practising diverse open science. In the aftermath of the conversations about the replication crisis in psychology, we wanted to create an academic community of faculty and students that continued in depth explorations of open science topics with a critical eye. I will explain the structure of the programme and share some of our experiences with teaching and reflecting on openness alongside our students.

In the second part of the talk, I will contextualise this granular case of a small academic community within the wider structures and larger open initiatives in Croatian academia. In this wider context, my aim is to show how a singular focus on either community building, infrastructure, or public policy does not produce the transformative effects on the practice of science that some of us would wish for. Science changes, for better or for worse, when scientists change.

Is the door closing on open knowledge? Finding hope and opportunity in our shared principles

Cameron Neylon [Lund, Sweden]

[view presentation](#) | [more info](#)

ABSTRACT

What does it mean to be “open” in a world that feels increasingly closed, where the trust involved in sharing seems increasingly risky, and the hopes we had for the value of shared content can appear increasingly naive?

The utopian hopes for a global commons can seem further away than ever. The principles that underpinned the ideals of open access, data sharing, Creative Commons, free and open source software are being undermined and exploited by massive companies. The closing of borders and increasing geopolitical tensions make it seem harder and harder to imagine knowledge production as an inclusive global endeavour. At the same time those hopes for greater understanding, improved knowledge and the capacity to tackle our shared problems seems more important than ever.

What can we learn from the history of successes (and failures) in opening up knowledge?

What principles may we have to adapt and which should we adhere to stronger than ever?

What does it mean to be open in today's world?



SHORT TALKS

Opportunities for the editorial community to leverage scholarly metadata for increased integrity and discoverability

Madhura Amdekar [Crossref, Eindhoven, The Netherlands]

[view presentation](#) | [more info](#)

ABSTRACT

Editors and editorial offices are key stakeholders in the journey of a manuscript, from submission through to publication. Not only do members of the editorial community drive the peer review process of manuscripts and manage the routine operations of journals and publications, they are also responsible for safeguarding the integrity of the work that they publish. There is a huge diversity in editorial roles and functions within the editorial community, with different editorial roles interacting with different stages of the lifecycle of the content that is published. At each of these stages, there is an opportunity for the editorial community to interact with scholarly metadata. Rich and structured scholarly metadata has the potential to be leveraged for assessing the integrity of research outputs and increasing the discoverability of content. The editorial community can play a central role in promoting the collection and propagation of rich metadata that can be used by the scholarly community.

Earlier this year, Crossref conducted community research with the editorial community to understand where in their workflows editors interact with metadata. In this presentation, we will share our findings by highlighting some of the metadata elements that we found that editors interact with at different stages of editorial workflows. We'd also like to draw attention to the applications of these metadata elements in preserving the integrity of the scholarly record and increasing the discoverability of published outputs. Abstracts, ORCID IDs, affiliations, and references are some of the metadata elements that editors routinely interact with at different stages of editorial workflows, and these have multiple applications when it comes to assessing the integrity of the scholarly record as well as for maximising discoverability. Retractions, corrections, and other post-publication updates are metadata that some editors may encounter mainly when articles need to be updated after publication. When these updates are linked correctly, they can act as important signals of trust to alert readers that content has been updated. On the other hand, structured metadata related to funding information, and ROR IDs (open persistent identifiers for research and funding organisations) are less familiar to most editors that we spoke to, and we'd like to call attention to their important applications in research integrity and reporting.

The editorial community is ideally positioned to work with publishers and submission systems to implement policies that promote the collection of rich metadata. They have a unique position to encourage prospective authors to submit key metadata along with their manuscripts. By shining a light on the rich information that can be provided by scholarly metadata, we hope to encourage editors to implement opportunities to collect rich metadata via their workflows and to hear from them what metadata they are leveraging as part of their workflows.

KEYWORDS

Crossref; discoverability; editorial community; integrity; metadata

Training as a Strategic Lever for Open Science: A Flexible Framework for Sustainable Capacity Building

Karla Avanço [Aix-Marseille University/OpenEdition, Marseille, France]

[view presentation](#) | [more info](#)

ABSTRACT

Amid growing calls for transparency, inclusivity, and sustainability in Open Science, training emerges not merely as a support function but as a core activity for developing the capacities of scholarly communities. This work presents a structured framework for designing, delivering, and sustaining training on Open Science, open scholarly communication, and service use, with a strong emphasis on empowering communities to build shared competencies and practices (Avanço, 2025).

Introduction

OPERAS' mission is to make Open Science a reality for Social Sciences and Humanities research and to ensure that knowledge is freely accessible to benefit society at large. Central to fulfilling this mission is the transition toward becoming a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC), a step that not only guarantees legal and financial stability but also establishes OPERAS as a permanent, high-quality, Pan-European structure. This process implies the need for consistent, high-quality training to support its services, national nodes, and broader Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) research community. At the core of OPERAS lies its service-oriented approach (Holsinger, 2023), designed to support the entire scholarly communication lifecycle. Training plays a critical role in the development and sustainability of a research infrastructure's service portfolio. It empowers users to navigate and utilize services more efficiently and significantly enhances their overall experience and satisfaction. Training is also essential for the effectiveness and sustainability of OPERAS national nodes. National nodes are responsible for presenting and integrating OPERAS services within national research ecosystems by disseminating expertise and fostering shared practices. They are equally responsible for translating local needs into aligned responses. Both activities require knowledge transfer and depend on structured training efforts. Training enables national nodes to deliver targeted solutions, evaluate impact, and ensure broad, equitable access to OPERAS services through effective onboarding and support.

The federated aspect of OPERAS is the key to the framework. As OPERAS continues to further develop its service portfolio and strengthen its national nodes, training becomes the mechanism through which users, providers, and partners gain the skills and confidence to engage effectively with services, while adopting Open Science practices, implementing FAIR principles, and supporting the Diamond OA publishing model. Training initiatives have been and will continue to be federated.

Methodology

This framework follows the ADDIE approach to developing training. The model is widely used by many educational designers and training programmers to develop education and training programmes. The acronym ADDIE stands for Analyse, Design, Develop,

Implement and Evaluate, denoting the five phases of a course design (Spatioti et al., 2022). The ADDIE model provides a logical sequence of steps for developing high-quality educational programmes, adaptable to different formats (distant, face-to-face, self-paced, etc.) and approaches (Abuhassna et al., 2024).

ADDIE was chosen because it allows a learner-centered approach, as the steps keep the learner at the center of the process, from the needs analysis to the evaluation of training effectiveness.

Also, it becomes a tool to facilitate collaboration and co-creation of training, as training designers and subject matter experts can work together in iterations. The model ensures flexibility and continuous refinement of training programmes and material, informed by feedback from experts and from the community at large. It is also compatible with other training methodologies which can be used at each step, thereby giving flexibility to trainers to use different approaches.

The framework for developing training for OPERAS takes the form of a toolkit composed of a series of articles and guides that provides people with a methodology and guides them step by step when they need to implement training. This format was chosen to offer more autonomy and flexibility to address different needs and keep up with further developments. The toolkit was produced by participants the OPERAS Plus project. The material was then revised by the community, mostly Open Science and/or training experts.

Outline of the framework

The toolkit comprises a series of articles, guides, and checklists organised as a higher-level guideline to assist training designers and instructors in producing training. The material is intended to be a starting point for training teams to produce their own programme. The sections of the framework toolsuite correspond to the ADDIE steps (Analysis, Design, Development, Implementation, Evaluation). The framework toolkit comprises a series of 16 short articles of 500-1000 words each, with a further reading session that signposts to other resources. The structure of the article was inspired by the one used in the DIAMAS toolsuite (Armengou, C. et al., 2024a). The articles also point to other related articles in the toolkit and to the respective templates. In total there are 11 templates and supporting materials (guides, checklists, tables, etc.), that assist the training designer in the different phases of training implementation.

To ensure openness, the framework for developing training recommends the adoption of the FAIR-by-Design methodology (Filiposka, 2023a, 2023b). This methodology helps designers and instructors to deal with topics such as: (a) legal issues, intellectual property, licensing and attribution; (b) material description and referencing, including the use of a metadata schema and relevant controlled vocabularies and persistent identifiers; (c) interoperability issues; (d) design and structuring of the learning content, thus ensuring the most appropriate level of granularity for maximum reusability; and (e) accessibility issues. Following the FAIR-by-Design workflow ensures efficient collaboration within the community and maximum reusability of developed learning materials.

Developing collaborations, metrics, and scalability and sustainability strategies

As a federated organisation, OPERAS relies on the establishment of meaningful collaborations to use a training framework, which requires planning, trust-building, and shared ownership across all phases of training design and delivery. Defining roles, contributors, and expectations for each stage can make the collaboration clear. Co-creation can be enabled through joint sprints, workshops, or hackathons to co-develop training. Furthermore, the activities can be documented and shared by keeping collaboration processes visible and replicable, sharing templates, and even publishing case studies to help others build similar partnerships.

After rolling out a training programme, it is essential to evaluate and adjust the program regularly to address any emerging issues or gaps. Collecting feedback from users helps identify these gaps and reduces issues later on, ensuring that the training programme remains relevant and effective.

The effectiveness of a training programme can be measured by evaluating learners' engagement with the training, knowledge retention, or a return on investment demonstrating the value of the training programme for the research infrastructure.

Scalability focuses on growth and expansion. Sustainability aims at maintaining long-term value, relevance, functionality, and embedding the programme into the broader ecosystem. This framework was built to allow both scalability and sustainability of training programmes because it enables standardisation without standardising the content. This ensures quality and coherence without imposing a one-size-fits-all solution. The strategy focuses on the following topics: (a) reusable content formats and licensing; (b) monitoring and evaluation; (c) modular design; (d) localisation, multilingual support, and inclusion; (e) training delivery and train-the-trainers programme; (f) technical / technological infrastructure; (g) collaborative partnerships and community engagement; and (h) funding and resources.

Conclusion

This framework constitutes an essential component of OPERAS' strategic development. It not only strengthens the infrastructure's capacity to deliver high-quality training to its stakeholders but also contributes to advancing the broader objectives of the ERA by promoting openness, inclusivity, and excellence in scholarly communication across the Social Sciences and Humanities.

KEYWORDS

capacity building; community empowerment; open scholarly communication; training framework

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OpenCitations as a community-based open scholarly infrastructure and its recent steps towards sustainability

Chiara Di Giambattista [OpenCitations - Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy]

Silvio Peroni [OpenCitations - Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy]

[view presentation](#) | [more info](#)

ABSTRACT

OpenCitations is an independent, non-profit, community-based Open Scholarly Infrastructure dedicated to publishing open bibliographic and citation data using Semantic Web and Linked Data technologies (Peroni & Shotton, 2020). It started in 2010 as a one-year project funded by JISC, led by David Shotton (University of Oxford), with Silvio Peroni (University of Bologna) joining as co-director in 2015. The initial goal was to make citation data openly available and interoperable, treating citation links as navigable Web resources. During its first decade, OpenCitations was supported by grants from JISC, the Sloan Foundation, and the Wellcome Trust, which enabled the development of citation indexes based on openly available bibliographic data. In 2015, OpenCitations became institutionally hosted by the University of Bologna, with a new instantiation of the OpenCitations Corpus developed within the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. It is currently administratively managed by the Research Centre for Open Scholarly Metadata (ReCOSM) within the Department of Classical Philology and Italian Studies.

In 2019, OpenCitations was selected by the Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services (SCOSS) for its second funding round. SCOSS recognised OpenCitations' strong alignment with Open Science principles and its potential to contribute to the transformation of research evaluation by providing open citation data as an alternative to proprietary infrastructures. From 2020 onwards, SCOSS coordinated a global crowdfunding initiative involving research organisations, university libraries, academic institutions, and consortia, encouraging contributions proportional to their capacity through a three-tier membership programme and, alternatively, donations. This model contributed to strengthening financial sustainability and enabled significant growth in both technical infrastructure and human resources. It also represented an initial step toward a more structured governance framework, with members participating in the OpenCitations Council and electing the International Advisory Board, responsible for strategic guidance and, in 2022, contributing to the definition of OpenCitations' mission and objectives in a public statement (Peroni & Shotton, 2022).

At the same time, OpenCitations began assessing its practices against the Principles of Open Scholarly Infrastructure (POSI). The first assessment in 2021 highlighted several limitations, including insufficient stakeholder involvement in governance and concerns regarding the long-term sustainability of a model primarily based on community crowdfunding (Di Giambattista, 2021). In response to these shortcomings, over the last two years, OpenCitations has undertaken a structured process of governance revision. Through the combined efforts of a dedicated internal working group and the legal guidance of the University of Bologna, a new governance framework was formally introduced in early 2026 (Di Giambattista, 2026). This updated model strengthens several key dimensions. First, it reinforces institutional stability through the formal

recognition of the University of Bologna as a hosting member providing in-kind support in terms of infrastructure, services, and administrative and legal assistance. Second, it consolidates the community-governed nature of the initiative through the establishment of a Trustee Network, composed of institutions responsible for overseeing compliance with OpenCitations' mission and values. Third, it improves financial predictability by introducing a simplified and more structured membership model, based on two clearly defined tiers and the removal of unrestricted donations. Finally, it enhances long-term resilience by reducing dependence on individual roles and introducing governance mechanisms that support continuity and potential transfer of the infrastructure.

In this context, the concept of a "living will" has been further developed. Initial work on this aspect was carried out at the technical level, through the design of a fully replicable infrastructure intended to enable the transfer of data and services if required (Petrella, 2025). This is now complemented by governance provisions that facilitate such transitions, particularly through the role of the Trustee Network in supporting the identification and appointment of alternative hosting institutions. These developments are being considered within the ongoing POSI reassessment based on version 2 of POSI (POSI Adopters, 2025), which OpenCitations is conducting in 2026. Although the assessment is still in progress at the time of writing, preliminary results indicate measurable improvements compared to the 2021 evaluation.

Taken together, these developments position OpenCitations as a representative case of a community-based open infrastructure that has evolved in close interaction with its base of funders, partners, and users. From its early stages, OpenCitations has been developed for the community and sustained through community engagement, particularly through collaborative funding and participatory governance mechanisms. The limitations identified in the initial POSI assessment have been explicitly addressed through a process of governance revision aimed at strengthening and formalising community participation. Rather than replacing its community-driven nature, the new governance framework consolidates it by integrating community actors into more stable structures, such as the Trustee Network and the revised membership model. At the same time, it introduces greater clarity in financial commitments and institutional responsibilities, contributing to improved long-term viability.

The proposed talk will therefore focus on gathering these insights, taking OpenCitations as a case study to illustrate how community-based infrastructures can evolve from an initial phase of organic growth to a more mature configuration, in which community engagement is not only preserved but also structurally embedded in governance, supporting both financial sustainability and operational continuity over time.

KEYWORDS

community; governance; open infrastructure; open science; principles of open scholarly infrastructure; sustainability

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Delisted: Verfassungsblog and the Politics of Inclusion in Open Access Infrastructures

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ABSTRACT

The presentation will examine how inclusion and exclusion are negotiated within the German legal publishing landscape, a field traditionally dominated by a small number of commercial publishers and characterised by strong disciplinary conventions. Against this backdrop, Diamond Open Access (DOA) and other non-commercial, scholar-led initiatives remain structurally marginal, despite their potential to diversify scholarly communication.

Taking the case of Verfassungsblog, we analyse how emerging Open Access infrastructures and evaluation criteria reshape community boundaries and redefine what counts as legitimate legal scholarship. Its removal from the Directory of Open Access Journals in 2025 illustrates these dynamics. In its public response, DOAJ framed the decision as part of ongoing boundary work around the definition of a scholarly journal. However, other legal scholars, including Lasse Ramson, argue that the applied criteria risk privileging standardised models that align poorly with legal scholarship's specific practices [1].

Methodologically, the paper combines a qualitative case study of Verfassungsblog with document analysis of policy texts, including DOAJ criteria, public statements, and blog interventions by key actors in the Open Access community. This is complemented by a comparative analysis of publishing norms in German legal scholarship, focusing on formats, peer review practices, and language use. Drawing on concepts from the sociology of science—particularly boundary work and epistemic governance—the study traces how evaluative standards are constructed, justified, and contested across different communities.

The analysis shows that current DOA policies and infrastructures reproduce structural power asymmetries between disciplines, languages, and publishing models. In law, where shorter formats, rapid interventions, and nationally embedded discourse traditions are central, such criteria can lead to the exclusion of otherwise widely recognised scholarly platforms. As the Verfassungsblog case demonstrates, delisting can have material consequences, as inclusion in indexing services is often tied to funding eligibility.

The presentation will thus highlight a broader tension: while Diamond Open Access is often framed as a driver of diversity and inclusivity, its institutionalisation risks narrowing the range of acceptable publishing practices. I argue that without greater sensitivity to disciplinary and linguistic differences, current developments may reinforce existing hierarchies in legal academia rather than challenge them. The paper concludes by calling for more pluralistic evaluation frameworks that recognise diverse forms of legal scholarship and support genuinely inclusive research communities.

KEYWORDS

diamond open access (DOA); german legal scholarship; open access infrastructures; inclusion and exclusion; community boundaries; power asymmetries; diversity in academia

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Milano University Press: A Long-Standing Commitment to Diamond Open Access from Its Origins

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ABSTRACT

Milano University Press (MUP), the publishing house of the University of Milan, represents a distinctive and mature example of a Diamond Open Access model that has been embedded in its identity since its earliest beginnings. Its origins go back to 2008, when the University of Milan set up an institutional open access journal platform with the aim of supporting scholarly communication through non-commercial, community-driven publishing practices. At the beginning, the platform hosted only two journals in the humanities, a field in which digital publishing was still perceived as innovative and experimental. From the beginning, the initiative was guided by a clear commitment to openness, strengthened by institutional policies and participation in initiatives supporting Open Access and, subsequently, Open Science, a value that still shapes the publishing strategy of Milano University Press today.

The adoption of Open Journal Systems (OJS), the leading open-source software for scholarly journal publishing developed by the Public Knowledge Project (PKP), was a choice that reflected this commitment.

Over time, the platform expanded significantly, and now hosts more than 70 peer-reviewed journals covering a wide range of fields, from the humanities and social sciences to STEM disciplines. This expansion reached its peak in 2020 with the formal establishment of Milano University Press as the university's publishing house, marked by the integration of a book and book series section alongside the existing journals. The monograph section now includes about 185 titles, and the publishing workflow is supported by Open Monograph Press (OMP), another open-source PKP software package specifically designed for scholarly books, ensuring coherence and continuity in the technological infrastructure.

All publications are freely available to readers at no cost, and authors are not charged article processing charges (APCs) or book processing charges (BPCs). This model aligns with the public mission of the university and is particularly appreciated by students, who benefit from access to a growing collection of open-access textbooks across multiple disciplines. By the end of 2025, 13 out of the total 91 titles in the main series (14% of the total) belonged to this category, and in terms of downloads, they accounted for 32%.

In this way, MUP contributes not only to the dissemination of research but also to educational equity and inclusiveness.

Multilingualism is represented in both sections, mainly in Italian, with titles also in

German, French, Portuguese, and Spanish. Abstracts and keywords are also provided in English.

The editorial office of Milano University Press plays a central role in enhancing the quality of its publications. It continuously monitors international best practices in scholarly publishing, with particular attention to publication ethics, research integrity, and transparency. The office provides journals with guidelines on ethical codes and supports the adoption of innovative practices, such as open peer-review (or post-publication peer-review) and the adoption of FAIR principles.

Milano University Press promotes Open Science within the academic community through continuous training aimed at authors, editors, and editorial boards, with the goal of increasing awareness of open access publishing, open peer review, research data management, and broader Open Science dynamics.

MUP adheres to international standards and infrastructures that enhance the visibility and reliability of scholarly outputs, including DOIs, ORCID, and ROR, and follows COPE guidelines. It also actively participates in international networks and initiatives such as 4EU+, OPERAS, COARA, and the Association of European University Presses (AEUP), reinforcing its role within the global community of non-profit academic publishers.

For the journal section, one of the distinctive strengths of the Milano University Press model lies in its balance between editorial autonomy and centralised support. Journals retain full independence over their scientific workflows, including the composition of scientific boards and editorial policies. The central office offers essential guidance, especially for newly established journals, and provides a range of services such as support for journal indexing in major databases and directories, such as the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), communication and dissemination strategies, and the publication of transparent annual reports.

Since 2024, the adoption of the Diamond Open Access Standard (DOAS) has further strengthened transparency and inclusivity across MUP journals, including by enabling the use of self-assessment tools. These tools allow journals to evaluate their level of compliance with publishing standards and Open Science requirements, highlight existing strengths, and identify critical areas for improvement. In parallel, the reports produced by the central support office make it possible to trace and document the progressive implementation of the Standard over time, fostering a structured culture of self-evaluation, accountability, and continuous enhancement.

The Books Section has its own Editorial Board, composed of faculty members from various academic disciplines at the university and chaired by the Rector, who has also appointed a delegate. The board is responsible for establishing guidelines for books and new series.

The Editorial Staff of the Books Section is responsible for supporting the peer review process (appointing Volume Editors and collecting reports), copyediting texts in Italian, image copyright verification, validation of typesetting, assignment of identifiers (ISBN and DOI), metadata attribution and publication in OMP, and indexing in DOAB, with the PRISM seal, and Thoth (and specialized databases, such as PubMed).

New Book Series are evaluated by the Editorial Board. Once approved, the Book Series are autonomous, just like journals: they determine their board composition, decide which volumes to publish, and manage relations with authors.

The Book Series submit manuscripts to the Books Editorial Office, which subjects them to editorial review and then forwards them to the outsourced editing service; the Books Editorial Office is also responsible for uploading them to the OMP platform.

The Book Series thus follow a model combining elements of the Journals and Books sections: editorial autonomy in evaluating received proposals, while the final version of the text is reviewed by the Books Editorial Office before being sent to the external typesetting service.

Particular attention is devoted to the quality and richness of metadata, including funding information, which is essential for integration into Open Research Information infrastructures. In line with Open Science principles, all authors publishing with Milano University Press are encouraged to deposit their research data in the university's FAIR data repository. This practice supports the public dissemination, findability, and reusability of research data through the use of standard metadata, DOIs, and clear usage instructions.

The promotion of research data archiving represents an ongoing commitment, particularly significant for STEM journals. In this area, MUP has been strengthening collaboration by offering services that are often considered standard in these disciplines, such as centralised layout and typesetting. Introduced for the journal section only in 2025, this service has significantly facilitated the onboarding of journals beyond the humanities, further expanding the scope and impact of the Diamond Open Access platform. Along with new journals, we host flipped journals, journals of scientific societies, and external journals seeking a more professional look and feel.

The publishing house's activities are promoted within the research community through eight presentations per year, and new titles are promoted through a newsletter distributed to students and university staff. A mailing list is reserved for journal editorial boards, which meet at least once a year to discuss updates on new requirements.

Milano University Press demonstrates how community-driven publishing can support high-quality scholarly communication, foster Open Science, and serve both the academic community and the public good.

KEYWORDS

scholarly publishing; diamond open access publishing; community-driven publishing; academic publishing

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You are not alone: the role of community in Open Science practices adoption

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ABSTRACT

Open Science (OS) as the “new normal” in scientific research is still to be achieved in many European countries, due to a combination of political and cultural factors, including the current research assessment framework, which reinforces the publish-or-perish culture by hindering shifting the focus from the output to the entire process (Horizon Europe, 2023; Giglia, 2026).

OS is a complex ecosystem – a “forest”, in the image by Francesca Di Donato (Di Donato, 2026) – in which every component is essential to nurture the system and make it thrive.

OS is not just about technology, tools and infrastructures: it is a cultural change centred on researchers’ behaviour, a step-by-step process which involves awareness, training, skills development and support. Researchers should acquire critical skills on the publishing system, get familiar with the FAIR principles, work reproducibly, be aware of copyright issues and legal aspects of data, introduce co-creation, pay attention to software, adopt innovative tools like open lab notebooks and open peer review, and start pre-registering and publishing pre-prints: easier said than done, when faced with time and policy constraints.

This “open diversity” is a richness, indeed, but at the same time it creates side effects: different practices are implemented in different communities, and can be supported by different professional teams, a variety that can disorient researchers in understanding what to prioritize in their journey. They might feel overwhelmed and react negatively to OS policies as the umpteenth administrative burden, missing its transformative potential. The fragmentation can also frustrate professionals, at risk of duplicating efforts and not being effective where needed.

“You are not alone” refers to the crucial role that the community can play thanks to networking and best practices sharing (Bertram et al., 2023), both among researchers, to mutually help overcoming the difficulties in the adoption of OS practices, and research professionals (data stewards, librarians) in discussing what worked and what did not in different realities.

We present four Italian bottom-up initiatives: the Open Science café (<https://www.icdi.it/en/activities/competence-centre/open-science-cafe>) dealing with awareness raising; the Community of Italian Data Stewards (https://open-science.it/article?rpk=342454&prs_sel=p_datasteward&tpc_sel=t_gestione_dei_dati_della_ricerca) on FAIR data stewardship; the Italian Reproducibility Network (<https://www.itrn.org/>) working on reproducibility; and the Open Science Community Torino (<https://osc-international.com/osc-torino/>) enabling mutual support among researchers.

We recognise that communities are not so effective unless they work in synergy, align initiatives, and avoid silos; hence, we focus this presentation on switching from stand-alone communities to a “network of networks”, reflecting on possible interactions and imagining future closer collaborations.

The four communities can be explored in terms of their distinct characteristics and targets:

- Advocacy and awareness: the Open Science Café started in 2021, primarily focusing on researchers, to raise awareness on the basics of OS among the Italian community, then it grew as a tool to create a space to exchange views and to provide insights on the hot topics of the moment, covering OS from different perspectives – researchers in their daily workflow, economists, legal experts, AI experts, FAIR data management professionals, policymakers and funders. In an online format, held once per month in Italian by national experts, it consists of live broadcasting a 30-minute presentation followed by a 30-minute question and answer session. All the Cafés are recorded and available on the GARR TV channel to maximise dissemination. The Café has reached more than 5000 listeners and is highly appreciated as it is a quick format, tailored to the Italian context, and offers time to debate and clarify doubts.
- FAIR data stewardship: the Community of Italian Data Stewards (CIDS) was established in 2023 to consolidate FAIR research data management (RDM) practices after a survey revealed the fragmented landscape of RDM support at the national level. As presented in its Manifesto (Caldoni et al. 2023), CIDS brings together RDM experts, in a bottom-up initiative and aims not only at raising awareness of responsible RDM as a scientific practice, but also at valorising and consolidating the role of data stewards, while defining professional profiles and competencies and promoting their institutional recognition and career development. CIDS provides a mailing list, with more than 170 members from diverse institutions and disciplinary backgrounds, and maximises peer-to-peer learning by organizing regular online webinars and annual/biannual in-person meetings.
- Reproducibility: the Italian Reproducibility Network (ITRN) is part of the wider Global Reproducibility Network. ITRN is a peer-led consortium that aims to investigate the factors that contribute to robust research and disseminate them within the Italian scientific community. This is achieved by both promoting local initiatives and acting as a community to get in touch, exchange ideas and good practices, in order to promote collective learning. ITRN serves as an intermediary layer through a network of experts available to national academic and research institutions. It supports the co-creation of Open Science training and educational

activities, provides specialised helpdesk assistance, such as for research data and code sharing and reviews deliverables and documentation to meet funding agencies' Open Science requirements.

- Peer-to-peer exchange: the Open Science Community Torino (OSCT) was launched in 2025. It is a grassroots organisation, not officially sponsored by any institution, gathering researchers, technicians, data stewards, and citizens coming from the four largest research performing organisations in the region (Università di Torino, Politecnico di Torino, Istituto Italiano di Ricerca Metrologica, and Università del Piemonte Orientale), as well as from private companies and the wider public. OSCT is connected to the wider International Network of Open Science Communities (INOSC), sharing practices and knowledge also with international partners. The initiative aims to foster the adoption of Open, Reproducible, and Transparent science practices, structured around four key pillars reflected in its acronym: Organise the OS movement, Support researchers interested in OS, Connect them to share methods and best practices, and Train anyone interested in how OS can improve research. OSCT organises "Open Science pills", inspired by the Open Science café format, and featuring local experts and topics. It also participates in local events like the "European Researchers' Night". OSCT also prepared a MOOC on OS, and created a "Publish or perish" card game (Stura, 2025), used in training and outreach initiatives.

The four communities gathered together during the fifth in-person event organised by CIDS (Turin, November 2025), titled "A network of networks", which triggered the strengthening of synergies, by coordinating initiatives, creating interconnections among experts, and building bridges. This is our way of giving "You are not alone" a meaning for all the people involved in the step-by-step journey towards OS.

To move from stand-alone initiatives to an interconnected effort, our four communities are developing practical forms of collaboration aimed at reducing fragmentation and creating a more coherent Open Science support ecosystem at the national level. We are mapping target audiences, training formats, and thematic areas to identify complementarities and avoid duplication of effort. We share resources produced by each community across all networks, foster cross-community exchanges of speakers and expertise, and co-design webinars, training activities, and events. By connecting complementary competencies and support structures, we aim to provide researchers with clearer pathways for engaging with Open Science practices and to strengthen the collective impact of community-driven initiatives.

KEYWORDS

data stewards; open science; reproducibility; research data management

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The OSCAR CoARA Boost Project: an Open Science Community Fostering the Reform of Research Assessment

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ABSTRACT

The reform of research assessment (RRA) is one of the major challenges of the global research policy agenda. Across Europe and beyond, research performing and research funding organisations are putting a lot of effort into systemic activities aimed at moving beyond metric-driven evaluation frameworks, while embracing the principles of responsibility, transparency and equity in assessing research and researchers (DORA, 2012; CoARA, 2022). Still, the cultural change needed to translate the CoARA Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (ARRA) principles into institutional practices remains demanding, without clear implementation pathways, as organisations operate within diverse national and institutional frameworks.

The “Open Science Collaboration for Research Career Advancement and Policy Innovation at UNIRI and UCY (OSCAR)” project addressed the practical implementation of RRA and Open Science (OS) reforms in differing institutional and national contexts, with particular attention to barriers and enablers of change. Funded as one of the Teaming projects within the first CoARA Boost Cascade Funding call, OSCAR brought together the universities of Rijeka, Croatia (UNIRI) and Cyprus (UCY). The collaboration was facilitated through the partners’ joint membership in the Young Universities for the Future of Europe (YUFE) European University Alliance, thus building on pre-existing trust, shared governance practices and alignment of strategic priorities, factors that proved critical for the rapid project deployment within the short funding cycle. OSCAR centred on structured peer learning, with UNIRI’s RRA experience facilitating UCY’s implementation, while simultaneously testing the transferability of practices across different contexts and national frameworks.

UNIRI’s RRA engagement has been consistent for more than 15 years, although framed within national constraints. UNIRI’s early adoption of the Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R) and the award of the HR Excellence in Research logo, testify to a long-term institutional commitment to fair and transparent assessment practices as foundational principles of current reforms. As an early signatory of ARRA, UNIRI has developed a comprehensive institutional CoARA Action Plan 2024-2027, actively participates in two CoARA working groups, and has contributed to multiple Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects addressing research career reforms (Zelenika & Jakominić Marot, 2025a). This institutional expertise provided the knowledge base that OSCAR made use of via structured peer learning activities. The project’s impacts are better understood through a set of interrelated reform actions and their outcomes. A key activity focused on integrating OS principles into research(er) evaluation, requiring adaptation to the Cypriot context, where existing practices and governance structures differ from those in Croatia. This prompted UCY to successfully develop its own institutional CoARA Action Plan, encompassing OS principles, and drawing on a step-by-step guidance document produced by UNIRI (Zelenika & Jakominić Marot, 2025b). In the Action plan, UCY incorporated a structured stakeholder engagement strategy and a phased

implementation timeline (Demetriades & Moiras, 2025). The established collaboration between the UNIRI and UCY university libraries demonstrated, in turn, their evolving role as active partners in the reform, particularly in training, repository development and curation as well as in overarching promotion and support for OS principles and practices, resulting in a Joint OS Collaboration Plan (Jakominić Marot et al., 2025). At the strategic level, Actionable Policy-Related Strategy principles (Moiras, 2025) were developed, mapping key national stakeholders in Cyprus, defining advocacy priorities and providing actionable recommendations for aligning the national research assessment framework with CoARA. Advocacy activities targeted Cypriot stakeholders, although their scope remained somewhat constrained by the limited resources, requiring prioritisation of high-impact and low-administrative-cost actions. An important project output was a research-on-research-based guide for validating CoARA adjustment practices, providing a structured framework for indicator selection, feedback loop design, bias prevention and quality validation, hence offering a replicable methodology for institutions seeking to assess the rigour and equity of their own evaluation practices (Maniadis, 2025). Finally, OSCAR's outreach activities reached policymakers, regulatory authorities, and industry bodies, extending the project's impact well beyond the academic community.

However, the project also revealed some tensions and challenges inherent in the reform processes. These included constraints associated with the project's restricted time format, limited flexibility for iterative adjustments and the need to begin implementation with minimal preparation, which required strong pre-existing alignment and trust between partners. Resistance to change emerged primarily around the perceived loss of objectivity when moving away from quantitative indicators, requiring wide reaching communication, awareness raising and carefully tuned stakeholder engagement activities. Additionally, both UNIRI and UCY remain embedded in national legislative frameworks, constraining considerably the possible extent of institutional reforms.

On the other hand, the wide engagement fostered with partners' communities has led to positive effects in the involved ecosystems. In fact, the UCY leadership of the Cyprus CoARA National Chapter has led to the formal signing of the CoARA agreement by the European University Cyprus. Also, Neapolis University, the CYENS Centre of Excellence, and the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences submitted proposals under the second CoARA Boost call. The latter two were successful and received the grants for their projects. As testimonials of the ARRA transition from aspiration to institutional practices and cultures, these effects illustrate that structured peer learning between institutions, embedded in a well-designed collaborative project with openly available outputs, can act as a genuine catalyst for a broader community change.

For the PUBMET community, OSCAR experiences provide a valuable insight into concrete realities of implementing RRA and OS reforms. They demonstrate the value of cross-institutional collaboration grounded in shared values, but also show that such a collaboration must account for contextual differences, governance constraints and different levels of institutional readiness, often slowing reform adoption. They also reaffirm the strategic role of university libraries not merely as service providers, but as active partners in building and sustaining OS (and thus ARRA) communities. Also, the importance of project tools and outputs shared in open repositories is further reinforced, particularly in enabling reuse and adaptation across institutions building on the

generated knowledge base.

OSCAR offers therefore an evidence-based good practice example showing that responsible assessment, OS and transparency are, at their core, community endeavours. It has also shown that there are numerous tools and practices scattered throughout different communities, but that selecting and adapting them to specific institutional contexts remains a key challenge. Addressing this gap requires structured guidance and shared frameworks to which initiatives such as the newly launched CoARA collection, as well as some initiated “spin-off” Horizon Europe project initiatives, may constitute good initial steps in the right direction.

KEYWORDS

CoARA; community building; cross-institutional collaboration; Open Science; responsible research assessment

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Advancing Editorial Quality through Journal Certification: experiences of one national platform

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ABSTRACT

Portal of Croatian Scientific and Professional Journals HRČAK is a national portal that enables editorial teams to publish their journals in open access, while also providing users with a single point of access to Croatian open access journals. The portal is developed and maintained by the University of Zagreb University Computing Centre SRCE, which is responsible for the development, maintenance, and hosting of the platform, as well as for providing technical infrastructure, user support, and ensuring interoperability and long-term accessibility. By aggregating a large number of scientific and professional publications in one place, HRČAK significantly increases the visibility, accessibility, and impact of Croatian scholarly output. The portal was launched in 2006, and, in its early years, the evaluation of journals relied on the expert team that originally designed and maintained the platform.

Over time, with the growth of the portal and the increasing number of journals, the need for a more transparent and structured evaluation framework became evident. Consequently, in 2017, a set of criteria for including journals in HRČAK was defined for the first time. These criteria primarily focused on assessing the quality of editorial processes, including the transparency of editorial policies, peer review procedures, publication ethics, and the availability of key information such as licensing and authorship.

Journals undergo an evaluation procedure upon inclusion in HRČAK. However, once accepted, no systematic re-evaluation process was in place, which created a gap in ensuring the long-term maintenance of quality standards. During preparations for the Diamond Discovery Hub evaluation in 2024-2025, the idea emerged to introduce a re-evaluation of journals in HRČAK through a certification process. The aim was to ensure continued compliance with established quality standards, as well as to encourage journals to further develop and improve their editorial practices in line with evolving expectations in open access publishing.

The concept of certification was presented at several conferences and professional meetings, where it was discussed with journal editors. Feedback was also collected from the HRČAK Advisory Board, which played an important role in refining the criteria and the overall approach. This collaborative process contributed to the development of a model that balances quality assurance with the diversity of editorial practices across different disciplines.

During the first half of 2026, the first cycle of journal certification was carried out within HRČAK. The certification process aimed not only to evaluate compliance with existing criteria, but also to recognise and promote journals that demonstrate a particularly high

level of editorial quality and transparency. In the first round, two certification labels were awarded: "HRČAK Certified" and "Diamond Journal".

The presentation provides an overview of the certification results, the challenges encountered during the process, key conclusions, and future directions for improving journal quality in accordance with HRČAK's evaluation criteria and established editorial standards.

KEYWORDS

Certification; Diamond Discovery Hub; HRČAK; Open Access; Scholarly Publishing

When Citation Becomes Weaponized: Propaganda Triggers and the Crisis of Integrity in Scholarly Publishing

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ABSTRACT

Scholarly publishing faces a growing crisis that extends beyond individual academic misconduct to include the deliberate weaponization of citations, the erosion of research integrity, and the spread of propaganda-like dynamics within peer-reviewed literature. To investigate these systemic threats, this study applies a triangular analytical framework. We systematically examine: (1) alternative models for intellectual credit, (2) conditions for preserving publishing integrity, and (3) the identification of structural propaganda triggers within scientific communication ecosystems.

The primary objective of this research is to determine how predatory citational practices operate, why current commercial publishing models fail to prevent them, and what practical infrastructure can safeguard vulnerable scholarly communities.

We first analyse community-based attribution alternatives – such as transparent provenance chains, version-controlled lineage tools, and open peer commentary – designed to mitigate metric manipulation, including citation cartels and strategic ghosting (the deliberate omission of prior work). These alternatives align with responsible research assessment frameworks like the DREAM Principles and FAIR Metrics.

However, a rigorous open science approach requires acknowledging the structural barriers to these alternatives. Transitioning to non-profit, fee-free, community-based models (such as Diamond Open Access) introduces significant operational obstacles:

- An intensified, unsustainable strain on voluntary peer-reviewers;
- Strong resistance from traditional institutional evaluation regimes that remain dependent on classic impact factors;
- Profound vulnerabilities regarding long-term financial and organisational sustainability without commercial backing.

Furthermore, structural power asymmetries often persist, meaning that without explicit protections, marginalised or non-dominant scholarly voices remain excluded from mainstream citation networks and editorial boards.

Our analysis models how propaganda triggers operate when high-profile venues consolidate biased narratives. This dynamic occurs when a dominant publication marginalises prior work through strategic omission rather than empirical refutation. Institutional inertia then blocks corrections, while editorial gatekeeping and citation exclusion effectively deny platforms to dissenting researchers.

The Ukrainian scholarly publishing ecosystem serves as a rapid, paradigmatic case example of these vulnerabilities. Drawing on ongoing research at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (Project No. 26GF013-02), our review of local publishing practices reveals that integrity deficits are often structural outcomes of systemic resource scarcity. Operating under wartime duress, constrained state funding, and an evaluative framework that pressures authors toward commercial journals, Ukrainian university presses demonstrate that technical harmonisation (such as DOI or DOAJ indexing) is insufficient. True integration into the European Research Area requires a deeper renegotiation of who governs knowledge attribution and how the scholarly record is protected under political and financial pressures.

Ultimately, this talk presents a practical operational architecture for community-based governance. To safeguard regional publishing ecosystems from external capture and citation distortion, we recommend:

- Reforming institutional credit mechanisms to reduce the monopoly of traditional citation metrics.
- Embedding automated integrity-protective protocols into daily editorial workflows.
- Deploying community-governed, decentralised repository networks and open peer-review workflows managed by non-profit academic coalitions to ensure long-term ecosystem resilience.

KEYWORDS

attribution; citation practices; open science governance; propaganda dynamics; scholarly integrity

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Collaborative Open Science in the Sinophone World: Open Books Hong Kong and the Open Journals Hub

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ABSTRACT

Scholarly communication is steadily shifting from traditional subscription-based models toward Open Science (OS) frameworks. While English-language STEM fields dominated the initial waves of the Open Access (OA) movement, the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), particularly those produced in non-Anglophone contexts, have historically faced structural and financial barriers to digital dissemination (Piwowar et al., 2018). In the Chinese-speaking world, where monograph publishing remains a primary vehicle for academic promotion and cultural preservation, the absence of a sustainable OA infrastructure has long hindered the global visibility of Sinophone research.

In response to these barriers, two collaborative initiatives were launched in Hong Kong: Open Books Hong Kong (OBHK) and the Open Journals Hub (OJH). These projects represent a strategic collaboration between the libraries and university presses of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK), and The University of Hong Kong (HKU). This paper presents these initiatives as a practical case study, exploring how Hong Kong is positioning itself as a pivotal node in the global dissemination of Chinese scholarship.

The launch of OBHK in July 2024 aligns with Plan S principles, which mandate that research outputs from public grants be made immediately available under open licenses (cOAlition S, 2021). By transitioning from a profit-driven sales model toward a Collective Funding Model, participating Hong Kong institutions ensure that scholarly monographs are freely accessible to a global audience without relying on institutional subscriptions. Monograph publication in the HSS faces high production costs and niche target audiences. OBHK was conceptualized as a pilot to demonstrate that high-quality, peer-reviewed Chinese monographs could thrive in an open environment. Launched at the 2024 Hong Kong Book Fair, the project initially released nine works covering history, literature, and sociology. These titles utilized Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0) licenses, balancing free redistribution with the protection of authors' moral rights. The success of this pilot is evidenced by its rapid expansion; by early 2025, the project reached a total of 54 monographs across six batches. This growing catalog provides a critical mass of content that attracts global researchers, thereby increasing the global reach of Hong Kong's academic output.

Building upon the collaborative infrastructure of OBHK, the Open Journals Hub (OJH) was soft-launched in December 2025. The OJH operates on the Diamond Open Access model. Unlike Gold OA, which often requires authors to pay Article Processing Charges (APCs), a practice that can exclude scholars from less-funded institutions, this platform is free for both authors and readers (Fuchs & Sandoval, 2013). The OJH was influenced by the modular architecture of UCL Open: Environment, serving as a bilingual (Chinese and English) hub tailored for HSS research. Its focus on regional cultural heritage, such as Lingnan Studies, ensures local knowledge is preserved digitally while remaining

integrated into the global scholarly record. This initiative aligns with the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science (2021), which emphasizes multilingualism as a prerequisite for representing diverse knowledge systems.

The primary opportunity afforded by these initiatives is the strengthening of digital scholarly infrastructure. This collaboration mitigates the financial risks an individual university press might face when transitioning to OA. Furthermore, OBHK reported visitors from over 170 countries, suggesting a latent global audience for Chinese-language research previously untapped by paywalls.

While these initiatives have proven successful, specific operational challenges remain. In this presentation, we will detail how the project is actively addressing these hurdles:

- **Sustainability:** The Diamond OA model relies on institutional subsidies rather than transactional revenue. To secure long-term viability, we are actively advocating for university administrations to integrate OA funding as a permanent, core institutional mission rather than treating it as a temporary pilot project (Becerril-Ortega et al., 2021).
- **Prestige and Perception:** Some scholars fear that “free” content may be perceived as having lower prestige. To counter this, OBHK and OJH have implemented and heavily publicized rigorous, double-blind peer-review standards identical to traditional commercial presses, ensuring the platforms remain highly attractive to established scholars.

OBHK and the OJH are not merely technical repositories; they are practical steps toward equitable publishing. By prioritizing equitable access and multilingualism, these projects demonstrate how regional hubs can lead the global Open Science movement.

KEYWORDS

Chinese-language monographs; Diamond Open Access; Open Books Hong Kong; Open Journals Hub; Open Science; Sustainable Publishing

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Journal Flipping as a scientific community experience: convergence, disagreements and conflicts

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ABSTRACT

Of the phenomena shedding light on the place and role of scientific communities in the shift towards open access publishing, ‘flipping’ is certainly one of the most interesting to observe. The success of a journal’s transition to Diamond Open Access (OA) depends not only on the economic and infrastructural conditions secured by the editor-in-chief and his editorial board, but also on the community’s support for the decision and the transition (Sinsou, et al., 2026). Journals that have successfully flipped are those whose communities have embraced, supported, and followed through on the editor-in-chief’s decision, through a shift in the community’s voluntary activities (reading, citing, submitting, and peer reviewing) (Adema, Moore, 2024; Luca et al., 2026) from the “deserted” journal to the new Diamond title.

This transition is intended to secure the community’s freedom to publish high-quality work in line with its own aims and objectives. It typically involves the entire board resigning en masse to establish a new Diamond OA journal, relying on the community – including authors, peer reviewers, board members, and more broadly, the wider community in their field – to unanimously support their move. However, flipping sometimes fails because the community that initially rallied becomes divided. While some board members remain with the “deserted” journal – or even become its new editors-in-chief – readers and authors of the new journal do not follow. Their loyalty remains with the historic journal, which still retains the symbolic capital (Moore, Wigdorowitz, 2025).

Although flipping is well documented in the scientific literature in terms of its scale and impact (Solomon et al., 2016), its effects on its own communities have received very little attention. There is also limited knowledge about the communities behind the trajectories of flipping journals, the leading scholars driving these transitions, and the loyalty of the journals’ contributors. While public statements and press releases provide insights into the arguments that informed the decision to flip, they do not shed light on the robustness and sustainability of the community’s motivation to see this decision through. This is why we aim to emphasise in this proposal the relevance of flipping experience and process for understanding scientific communities’ role and impact. Therefore, our proposal addresses the following research questions: how do scientific communities navigate the experience of their journals flipping? What factors determine community cohesion, or indeed division?

Our methodology relies on a qualitative approach involving 21 semi-structured interviews with editors-in-chief of international scholarly journals from various fields (STEM and SSH), organized between February and April 2026. Our grid interview enabled us to explore the mechanisms and impact of the flipping experience, as well as the consensus and dissension within the journal community, the choice of infrastructure

by the journals, and the reputation and legitimisation of the new journals. The following table outlines the data corpus.

Infrastructures	Number	Fields	Status
Open Library of Humanities (OLH) - UK	8	SSH	Mixed (in transition and flipped)
Epi-Sciences - France	6	STEM	Mixed (in transition and flipped)
OpenEdition - France	1	SSH	Flipped
University press - MIT Press, University of Calgary Journal Hosting	3	Interdisciplinary	Mostly flipped
Centre Mersenne - France	1	STEM	Flipped
Berghahn Journals - UK/ USA	1	SSH	Flipped
Érudit - Quebec	1	SSH	Flipped

Our results highlight that the conditions for the success of journal flipping mainly rely on the intricate relationship between the editor-in-chief (their authority and legitimacy) and the journal community. Building on this relationship, the editor-in-chief, as a leader and a gatekeeper, can make the journal identity 'portable' (Anderson, 2023). This portability encompasses the entire process: technical (hosting infrastructures), economic (funding support) and social (community practices shift). They endorse the whole transition by playing a leading role in making the flipping feasible and sustainable (Laakso et al., 2016). Many factors influence community cohesion or division, including genuine commitment to open access, attachment to reputational metrics (mainly the Impact Factor), generational differences (between early-career and senior researchers) and community attitudes towards perceived unfair behaviour or injustice from publishers (Beigel, 2025). In this case, flipping can be considered as a trial of loyalties and the key to its success or failure.

The study also reveals that flipping can be divided into two stages: 1) a process of loss and dispossession, and 2) a process of reconstruction. The latter can be seen as evidence of the governance of knowledge production by the journal's scientific communities. This restores the role and status of the editor-in-chief and reaffirms the value of editorial labour. It also reclaims community control over the process. This allows us to conclude that the success of a journal's transition to the Diamond model is primarily a matter of how scientific communities govern their own research production and dissemination.

KEYWORDS

Diamond; Open Access; Scientific community; Journals; Flipping

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Being Seen or Used? Open Access Models and Discoverability in Translating Science into Patents

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ABSTRACT

Background

Science policies increasingly emphasize open access (OA) as a mechanism for enhancing the circulation and societal impact of scientific knowledge. Lowering barriers to access, OA is expected to facilitate the reuse of research beyond academia, including in technological innovation. One domain where this relationship can be observed is the interaction between scientific publications and patents. Patents frequently cite scientific literature through non-patent references (NPRs), which have long been used as indicators of science-technology linkages.

Despite the expansion of open access, relatively little is known about how different OA publishing models shape the ways in which scientific knowledge is mobilized in patents. Existing studies typically focus on whether open access publications are more likely to be cited in patents, often treating OA as a binary characteristic (Jahn et al., 2022; Ottonicar et al., 2020). However, open access encompasses a wide range of publishing arrangements, such as hybrid, bronze, green, gold, and diamond OA, that differ substantially in governance structures, business models, and integration into scholarly communication infrastructures.

Moreover, the presence of a citation in a patent does not necessarily indicate substantive use of scientific knowledge. Patent citations may reflect legal disclosure requirements, examiner-added prior art, or routine search practices rather than direct engagement with scientific research (Bryan et al., 2020; Marx & Fuegi, 2022). As a result, citation frequencies alone provide only a partial understanding of the role of open access in technological innovation.

Research questions

This paper proposes to distinguish between two processes through which scientific knowledge becomes incorporated into technological invention: selection and translation. In the selection stage, scientific publications must first be “discovered” and retrieved by inventors or patent examiners within the broader landscape of scientific

information. In the translation stage, the selected knowledge is integrated into the technological content of the patent, implying a degree of conceptual alignment between scientific research and the invention.

Building on this perspective, the study addresses two main questions:

- How does the distribution of open access models among scientific publications cited in patents compare to the distribution observed in the scientific literature as a whole?
- Conditional on being cited in patents, do publications disseminated through different OA models differ in their cognitive proximity to patented technologies?

Data and methods

The empirical analysis relies on large-scale data linking patents to scientific publications through non-patent references (NPRs). We use the global dataset developed by Marx and Fuegi, which contains more than 44 million patent-publication references extracted from patent documents worldwide (Marx, 2023). Each reference links a patent to a scientific publication cited as prior art and provides information about the location of the citation within the patent document (front section, body of the patent text, or both).

These NPRs are matched with publication metadata from OpenAlex, which provides information on publication year, disciplinary classification, citation impact, and open access status (closed, hybrid, bronze, green, gold, and diamond OA). Patent abstracts are retrieved from the PatentsView database (<https://patentsview.org/home>), allowing textual comparison between patents and the scientific publications they cite.

Because the full NPR dataset contains tens of millions of observations, we construct analytical samples that allow balanced comparisons across citation positions. Following robustness checks, we draw random samples of 50,000 publication-patent pairs for each citation position (front citations, body citations, and citations appearing in both locations), resulting in three comparable datasets.

To evaluate the cognitive relationship between patents and scientific publications, we compute semantic similarity between patent abstracts and the abstracts of cited publications. Text embeddings are generated using the SPECTER-2 language model (<https://github.com/allenai/SPECTER2>), a transformer-based model trained on citation networks that maps scientific documents into a shared semantic space. For each patent-publication pair, cosine similarity between embedding vectors is used as an indicator of conceptual proximity between scientific knowledge and technological invention.

This approach makes it possible to distinguish between the selection of publications into patent citations and the degree of cognitive alignment between cited science and patented technologies, while accounting for differences across open access models and citation positions within patents.

Results

The results reveal a clear distinction between visibility-driven selection and substantive knowledge integration.

First, the distribution of open access models among patent-cited publications differs markedly from the distribution observed in the scientific literature. Hybrid and bronze OA publications are significantly overrepresented among patent citations across disciplinary domains. These models are often associated with prestigious journals hosted on large commercial publishing platforms and benefit from strong integration into indexing services and search tools used in patent offices.

Second, the semantic analysis shows that this dominance in citation frequency does not correspond to stronger cognitive alignment with patented technologies. When semantic similarity between patents and cited publications is examined, publications disseminated through fully open access models, particularly gold OA journals and, to a lesser extent, diamond OA journals, exhibit equal or higher levels of semantic proximity to patented technologies.

These differences are especially pronounced for citations appearing in the body of patents, which are more likely to reflect substantive engagement with scientific knowledge during the inventive process. In contrast, differences across publishing models are weaker for front-section citations, which are often associated with formal disclosure practices.

Discussion and implications

To sum up, these findings suggest that patent citation patterns reflect not only technological relevance but also the institutional organisation of scholarly communication and information infrastructures. Publishing models that are strongly embedded in dominant discovery systems benefit from greater visibility and are therefore more likely to be retrieved and cited during patent preparation and examination.

At the same time, fully open access journals may disseminate research that is equally or more relevant to technological problem-solving, yet remain less visible within these infrastructures. This result highlights the importance of discoverability as a key mechanism linking scholarly communication systems to technological innovation, and suggests that patent citation patterns may, to some extent, reproduce the prestige-based hierarchies observed in scholarly publishing.

More broadly, the study suggests that the impact of open access on innovation cannot be understood solely through access to publications. The way in which publishing models are embedded in scholarly information systems, through metadata standards, indexing practices, and discovery platforms, plays a central role in shaping how scientific knowledge is mobilised in technological development. Improving the discoverability and integration of fully open publications within innovation-relevant information systems may therefore be as important as expanding open access mandates themselves.

KEYWORDS

societal impact; open research; open access models; patents; innovation; non patent references

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Building a Moodle Course: Introduction to Managing Research Data According to the Principles of Open Science

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ABSTRACT

The implementation of FAIR data principles in everyday research practice remains inconsistent and is often limited by a lack of knowledge, insufficient skills, and variable institutional support. Although Open Science and FAIR-related policies are increasingly common, their practical adoption still depends on effective and targeted training.

This contribution presents the development of a structured Moodle course, Introduction to Managing Research Data According to the Principles of Open Science, designed for researchers, doctoral candidates, supervisors, and other interested stakeholders. The course was developed as part of the activities under the Slovenian Action Plan for Open Science by the University of Ljubljana in response to identified needs for practical support in data planning, documentation, sharing, long-term preservation, and publishing research data. It is intended for anyone seeking to improve the transparency and reproducibility of their work and to ensure the sustainable use of their research outputs.

The course is organised into thematic units structured around the research data lifecycle, covering key topics such as the basics of Open Science, definitions and types of research data, phases of the data lifecycle, preparation of Data Management Plans (DMPs), trusted repositories and persistent identifiers, metadata creation, data sharing, and licensing of research data.

While the course places particular emphasis on locally relevant content, such as national funder requirements (e.g. ARIS's DMP template) and information on data stewardship support, it is designed for broader applicability. Originally developed for the Slovenian research community, it is also available in English to support non-Slovenian-speaking researchers and doctoral students who need to comply with national legislation on the publication of research results. Both versions are aligned with Horizon Europe requirements, including FAIR-aligned Data Management Planning and references to the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), ensuring relevance across the wider European research area.

Structured as a modular learning environment, the course guides participants through key steps of the research data lifecycle, supporting them in preparing reusable, well-documented data publications. It brings together essential practical information that researchers often struggle to find, such as where to publish data, how to navigate legal and policy requirements, and where to seek support, thereby providing clear pathways for applying knowledge in practice.

The course also includes practical, scenario-based activities, such as exercises, self-assessment tasks, and knowledge checks, which encourage participants to engage actively with the material and reflect on their own research workflows, while supporting

flexible, needs-based learning.

The presentation will demonstrate how the gap between theory and practice can be addressed by offering concrete, actionable approaches to supporting researchers in their work. It will highlight key design decisions, challenges encountered during development, and lessons learned, while also reflecting on participant feedback and exploring how such courses can be adapted across institutional and disciplinary contexts. The goal is to enable researchers to move efficiently from data to reusable, well-documented data publications in a streamlined and practical way.

KEYWORDS

Open Science; FAIR data; Research Data Management; Training and education; E-learning; Moodle; Data literacy

Connecting the scholarly record through community action: ways of leveraging Crossref's open relationship metadata

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ABSTRACT

The scholarly metadata openly available through Crossref's interfaces materialises the sustained efforts of the academic community to build a permanent scholarly record. While often viewed as a technical utility, the global open metadata infrastructure provided by Crossref is fundamentally a community-led effort in shared governance and collective responsibility (Hendricks et al. 2020).

Members of Crossref act as stewards of their records and have the responsibility for metadata quality and completeness. Crossref facilitates improvements by supporting a social process of feedback loops and by operating technical enrichment mechanisms, such as metadata matching and the inclusion of information from external sources. For example, among 2 billion citation links between records in Crossref, more than half are generated through automated matching (Korzec et al., 2026).

These records do not exist in isolation; instead, the relationships between them can be surfaced via Crossref's interfaces for humans and machines, providing rich contextual information on the network of connections between works, actors, institutions, and processes involved.

Relationship metadata are contextual bridges that enable communication between distinct communities. These links demystify the research lifecycle, allowing the community to trace research news through the funding stream, the underlying dataset, or the early manuscript versions before revisions (e.g. Tkaczyk, 2023; Portenoy, 2026). Open metadata also enables collaboration and innovation, inviting the creation of tools that help peers make the most of the data.

Recent developments further illustrate Crossref's commitment to community integration. The introduction of the Data citations API endpoint enables the systematic retrieval of citation relationships between datasets and scholarly publications, supporting dedicated efforts for enhancing data citation practices (Rittman & Cousijn, 2026).

Dedicated datasets are another way to surface community-relevant information. Such as the regularly released funding metadata set, and the latest one on citation relationships (Portenoy, 2026), which covers over 2 billion connections, and is also a testament of the growing network of works that the community can use for any research or development purposes. Further, Crossref actively invites the community to find new ways to leverage metadata in its corpus through in-person Metadata Sprints and online competitions, resulting in tools, dashboards, and combined datasets that address the community's questions and needs.

Here, we highlight the (often untapped) potential of the open relationships metadata available through Crossref's interfaces, how the community is making contributions, and

how they can continue developing integrations to leverage this metadata. We encourage the community to actively engage with Crossref's open metadata relationships and discover new ways in which this can support transparency, foster collaboration, deepen their understanding of the scholarly landscape, and extend the societal impact of their work.

KEYWORDS

open infrastructure; open scholarly metadata; scholarly community

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Academic Libraries as Open Science Communities in the European Research Area: Evidence from Scoping Review

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ABSTRACT

The global landscape of Open Science implementation is characterised by uneven adoption (Rafols, 2024; UNESCO, 2023). This disparity is observed geographically, with progress more advanced in wealthier countries that possess greater resources, and thematically, as institutions make strategic choices about which aspects of Open Science to prioritise. Academic libraries are formally recognised as key stakeholders in the 2021 UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science (UNESCO, 2021). At a broader level, this talk will aim to answer the following question: what is the reported evidence on how academic libraries within the European research landscape conceptualise and implement Open Science?

To answer this question, we opted to perform a scoping review using the PRISMA-ScR guidelines. This presentation will report findings from such a review, conducted following the Arksey and O'Malley (2005) framework, enhanced by JBI methodology (Peters et al., 2020).

The focus on the European research landscape complements existing non-European perspectives (Scotti et al., 2025) and global overviews (Liu & Liu, 2023). To date, no scoping review has systematically mapped how academic libraries across this geographic landscape conceptualise and implement Open Science.

The review will employ a data charting framework capturing bibliographic metadata; study characteristics, including geographic coverage across the European countries, within the review's scope, institutional context, and populations studied; and substantive content spanning Open Science aspects (Open Access, Research Data Management/FAIR, Open Educational Resources, Citizen Science, Open Infrastructure, and others), services offered, librarian roles and competencies, advocacy efforts, enabling factors, and barriers (the full scope of the review is detailed in the registered protocol, available through OSF: <https://osf.io/zxs38>). The review adopts an expansive definition of Open Science and is therefore expected to capture adjacent library topics, such as APC management and transformative agreements, among others. Key findings, recommendations, and illustrative evidence from included sources will also be extracted, enabling a rich and multi-layered synthesis.

The presentation will bridge this empirical mapping to several conference themes. First, regarding community ownership and governance, the review will document how academic libraries across the European landscape assume distinct roles in governing open scholarly publishing and maintaining shared infrastructure, from institutional repositories to research data management services, revealing varying degrees of institutional ownership over Open Science agendas between EU member states and extended European scope countries. Second, as a presentation of existing communities, the review will chart successful and emerging examples of library-led community

building across diverse Open Science areas, including possible directions in diamond open access publishing, repository infrastructure, and capacity development activities, with the geographic breakdown illustrating how communities of practice form differently across resource-varied countries and where gaps persist. Third, concerning shared responsibilities, ethics, and evaluation, the review will identify the drivers, barriers, and enabling conditions that shape how libraries share responsibility for Open Science with researchers, institutions, and policymakers, highlighting collaborative initiatives, advocacy efforts, and the infrastructural foundations that underpin community-driven scholarly communication.

By connecting a systematic evidence base to questions of community governance, practice, and shared responsibility, this presentation aims to inform where further research and policy support are needed to strengthen and diversify library-led Open Science across Europe.

GenAI Statement: Regarding the use of artificial intelligence: generative AI (Anthropic Claude) will be used for editing and language optimisation of project documentation, and to produce code or other analytical support where required; all such uses will be reported transparently in the OSF project directory. ASReview, an open-source software, will be managed according to the literature and methodological planning identified in the registered protocol. All screening, eligibility, and analytical decisions will be made and verified by human reviewers.

KEYWORDS

academic libraries; community governance; European research area; Open Science; scholarly communication infrastructure; scoping review

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Navigating Openness: Exploring Perspectives from Social Sciences and Humanities

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ABSTRACT

To contextualize open research, we aimed to develop discipline-specific indicators within our project "Open Science Magnifiers," focusing on the Social Sciences and Humanities. However, after initially concentrating on outputs such as journal articles, book chapters, conference papers, blog posts, and open data, we encountered challenges due to a lack of available data sources, making the process more complex than anticipated. Although data sources are limited, we still observed a variety of open research practices that differ among researchers and research communities.

Inclusive, flexible, and co-created indicators for open research monitoring purposes are essential to increase the visibility of such practices, thereby enabling the sharing of best practices across communities. The Open Science Monitoring Principles (Bobrov et al., 2025) state: 'The long-term goal is to converge towards a core set of quantitative and qualitative indicators that facilitate comparability and collective learning.' Without well-developed indicators that take values and processes into account, many outputs and open research practices may be overlooked and go unrecognised. Rafols et al. (2024) additionally point out that open research processes, such as collaborative practices (including societal engagement), are not yet included in open research monitoring frameworks. In light of current efforts to reform research evaluation, there is an increasing risk of perpetuating the belief that all open research tools and practices are universally applicable across various research methodologies. Moreover, this presentation aims to critically examine both the ways of measuring open research and the assumption that indicators are scalable in the context of research assessment. The development of qualitative, value-based approaches to monitoring becomes more important to avoid introducing new inequalities into the academic system. Few studies have introduced the concepts of open research case studies and narratives for monitoring open research uptake (Bezuidenhout et al., 2024; Pownall, 2025).

In our project, we have initiated 'Open Science Case Studies for the Social Sciences and Humanities' to shift the focus from monitoring open research outputs to monitoring open research processes, and to contribute to the development of open research as a broad concept related to values. Guided by the project title "Open Science Magnifiers" and Bezuidenhout et al. (2024), we adopt the term "Open Science Case Studies," while noting that, in our study, "Open Science" and "Open Research" are used interchangeably across SSH and STEM, consistent with the UNESCO (2021) definition. To identify and develop these Open Science Case Studies, we have conducted narrative interviews with 12 researchers from various fields within the Social Sciences and Humanities at German academic institutions. We carefully documented and coded conversations with researchers and reflected on their subjective narratives, blind spots, and the complexities of openness. Conversations focused on the very concept of openness, practices of

openness, and its contextualisation in the researcher's professional biography. What is important to them, at what stage in their career, and why? What is not shared openly and what are the underlying reasons?

The open research practices in SSH we identified span from sharing the researcher's initial ideas to published results: collaboration, data sharing practices, preprint publishing, open peer review, the availability of research infrastructures, and different publishing and communication formats. Personal motivation, workload, and recognition were important topics in the conversations as well. In this presentation at the PUBMET2026 Conference, we will present and discuss the results of our qualitative method for monitoring open research practices in SSH. By presenting and discussing the framework and methodology of our approach and results, we would also like to contribute to other initiatives on identifying and cataloguing open research practices in SSH (Adams et al., 2026), and operationalising these for monitoring purposes. In supporting diverse and critical perspectives on describing open research practices, we aim to contribute to developing more inclusive monitoring frameworks that take into account discipline-specific perspectives. The PUBMET2026 Conference would offer a great opportunity for us to discuss and further refine this approach within the professional community.

KEYWORDS

Open Research; Open Science; Open Science Indicators; Open Science Monitoring; Social Sciences and Humanities

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From Fragmentation to Coordination: The European Diamond Capacity Hub and the National Capacity Centres

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ABSTRACT

Open scholarly communication is not only shaped by policies, standards, and tools, but fundamentally by the communities that build, maintain, and sustain it. In an increasingly complex and fragmented scholarly communication landscape, communities play a crucial role in supporting and promoting community-owned, equitable publishing efforts that enable access to knowledge and provide the model and structure for sustainable open publishing solutions. Central to this effort is the relationship between European-level coordination and local initiatives, which is realised through the National Capacity Centres (NCCs). By acting as the operational link, these centres connect broader institutional frameworks with local communities of practice, ensuring that collective infrastructures remain responsive to the specific needs of regional publishing ecosystems in Europe.

Building on the outputs of the DIAMAS and CRAFT-OA projects, the European Diamond Capacity Hub (EDCH), an ongoing OPERAS programme, is a collective that provides services for Diamond Open Access Publishers, Service Providers, and Tools & Technology Providers. It was created to serve as a central hub fostering alignment, sustainability, and robustness of services and tools supporting Diamond OA publishing across the European landscape. It takes the lead in addressing this fragmentation by offering services and common quality standards, and coordinating the network of NCCs that supports Diamond OA at the local level. Currently, the network comprises 22 NCCs across 23 European countries, with 14 fully operational centres and 8 currently in development. This growing NCC network illustrates both the potential and the challenges of building shared infrastructure and capacity development programmes across diverse regions. NCCs operate in different policy and resource availability contexts and are at different levels of maturity, yet must align their approaches to ensure inclusivity, and long-term sustainability of Diamond OA publishing in the European Research Area.

The EDCH facilitates coordination among these NCCs, providing a robust platform for visibility and knowledge exchange, and streamlining services in support of publishers, libraries, service providers, and technology partners across Europe. Together, NCCs strengthen the Diamond OA ecosystem at the local level by offering tailored national, regional, and local support, advocacy, and capacity-building in ways that are responsive to specific national and regional community needs.

In some countries, well-established institutional publishing ecosystems and dedicated funding streams provide a strong foundation for Diamond OA publishing, while in others,

initiatives remain emerging, often relying on time-sensitive project-based support or volunteer-driven efforts. This uneven landscape requires NCCs to balance capacity-building with service provision, adapting their activities to local realities while contributing to shared European objectives and vision via the EDCH.

The development of this network also brings challenges related to governance, resource allocation, and long-term sustainability. Ensuring equitable participation across regions, maintaining consistent levels of service, and securing stable funding beyond project cycles are ongoing challenges.

This presentation highlights the work of the EDCH and its network of NCCs through the lens of community: as a hub of shared practices, collective governance, and distributed responsibility and ownership. NCCs are not only service providers but also facilitators of communities of practice, enabling dialogue among publishers, infrastructure providers, and all actors of scholarly publishing. They contribute to shaping governance models that are participatory and context-specific, while aligning with broader European and global developments in Diamond OA publishing and Open Science.

The presentation also explores how community-led coordination through the EDCH helps address fragmentation and supports more coherent and resilient Diamond OA ecosystems. It will highlight practical examples of how NCCs foster collaboration, support the adoption of shared standards, and enable knowledge exchange across borders. It will also reflect on key challenges, including aligning local and European priorities, ensuring sustainable funding, and balancing standardisation with diversity.

Building on the important work of the EDCH and recognising the need for stability and long-term support for these collective efforts, the Horizon Europe project AEGIS-OA was recently launched to focus on translating regional coordination into practical implementation for Diamond OA. The AEGIS-OA project expands and operationalises the EDCH services portfolio, with particular attention to improving metadata quality, supporting bibliodiversity, aligning workflows, strengthening funding approaches, and enhancing collaboration across stakeholders. It also broadens the scope of the EDCH to now include Diamond OA books, acknowledging the importance of monographs and edited volumes, especially within the social sciences and humanities.

By focusing on communities as both drivers and stewards of open scholarly communication, and the contribution of the EDCH NCCs network, this presentation offers insights into how shared infrastructures like the EDCH can support more inclusive, participatory, and sustainable models of publishing. It aims to contribute to ongoing discussions on governance, responsibility, and the role of collective action in bridging the gap between Open Science policies and everyday practices.

KEYWORDS

community-led publishing; diamond OA; scholarly publishing

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From competencies to communities: aligning Intellectual Property with Open Science in practice

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ABSTRACT

Despite strong policy support at the European level, aligning intellectual property (IP) management with Open Science (OS) in everyday research practice remains challenging. The main difficulty lies not in defining principles, but in applying them in concrete situations where different professional perspectives must be reconciled. Researchers, research managers, knowledge and technology transfer professionals, legal experts, data stewards, Open Science ambassadors, and librarians often operate within different frameworks, expectations, and risk assessments. This makes coordinated decision-making complex—especially when balancing openness with the protection and valorisation of research results.

This talk presents the approach developed within the IP4OS project, which addresses this challenge through a combination of multi-professional learning, open methodological tools, and a sustained Community of Practice (CoP). At the core of this approach are the Synergy Framework and an extensive Toolbox supporting all project activities. One of the key components is the Pilot Learning Lab, designed as a series of practice-oriented training sessions that provide an experimental environment in which multi-professional teams work on realistic, case-based challenges involving IP-OS tensions. These include questions of data sharing versus protection, licensing choices, timing of disclosure, and pathways to knowledge valorisation. Working with real-life examples from their own institutional contexts enables participants to test not only their knowledge, but also their capacity to negotiate, align perspectives, and reach context-sensitive decisions.

The learning process in the Lab is supported by the IP4OS Toolbox, a set of openly available and reusable tools designed to guide decision-making and discussion. The Synergy Framework helps map the relationship between IP and OS across the research lifecycle. The Knowledge Valorisation Rubric provides structured support for identifying and assessing possible impact pathways. The FAIR-R²L Rubric links FAIR data principles with different levels of readiness for reuse and valorisation, especially in AI settings. In addition, the Valorisation Consultancy Form provides a practical structure for interactions between researchers and support services. These tools are not presented as fixed solutions, but as adaptable instruments that can be integrated into institutional practices and further developed through use.

Long-term sustainability is addressed through the IP4OS Community of Practice, which connects participants beyond the Pilot Learning Lab and enables continuous exchange. The CoP supports the sharing of experiences, the refinement of tools, and gradual alignment of practices across institutions, without relying on a formal governance structure. An important element of expanding the CoP is the Open Innovation Challenge, which invites teams to engage with broader, forward-looking problems related to IP and Open Science. In this format, participants are encouraged not only to solve predefined cases, but also to co-develop approaches and proposals that respond to emerging needs

in their own contexts. This shifts the focus from training alone to collaborative exploration, problem-solving, and community building.

Drawing on insights from over twenty Pilot Learning Labs and the adoption of the Toolbox, the IP4OS project shows how multi-professional collaboration, when supported by shared tools and a sustained community framework, can enable more consistent and informed handling of IP-OS intersections. It argues that long-term impact depends less on producing new guidelines and more on embedding reusable instruments and peer-learning mechanisms that remain accessible and actionable beyond the lifespan of individual projects.

KEYWORDS

Intellectual Property; Open Science; Knowledge Valorisation; Multi-professional approach; Competency building; Community of Practice

After the architecture: Who governs the federation?

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ABSTRACT

At PUBMET 2025, the LUMEN data mesh framework was presented as an architectural response to a problem: scientific data locked within disciplinary silos, communities unable to share resources across domain boundaries. The architecture proposed a federation of four scientific communities – Social Sciences and Humanities, Mathematics, Earth System Science, and Molecular Dynamics – organised around data products, data contracts, and a shared discovery infrastructure, with a federated governance layer as one of its three core components.

This contribution picks up where that presentation left off. Architectural frameworks for federated infrastructures necessarily leave certain questions open: how governance responsibilities are distributed across participating communities, what mechanisms enable collective decision-making, and how community-level arrangements align with the requirements of broader infrastructural contexts such as the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). This talk examines how LUMEN is approaching these questions in practice, and what the process reveals about the organisational dimensions of building federated open science infrastructure.

Three layers of complexity emerge.

The first is institutional. LUMEN brings together communities of different natures: research groups embedded in a large national research organisation with its own internal decision-making structures, and an independent research infrastructure with its own governance model and member network. This diversity of institutional structures makes it necessary to establish, early on, how governance decisions are made and whose mandate they carry.

The second layer is component-level. A federated infrastructure is not a single thing – it is a set of outputs, each with different institutional owners, different user communities, and different sustainability trajectories. Governing the federation means governing the relationships between these outputs. When the question of who sustains any given component after the project ends is raised, the answer is not obvious: an existing research infrastructure, the coordinating institution, an EOSC node, or some combination. Governance must accommodate this complexity while remaining actionable.

The third layer is infrastructural. EOSC integration adds external requirements – authentication, persistent identifiers, monitoring, service onboarding – that carry their own governance logic, which does not always map cleanly onto how academic communities organise themselves.

Rather than waiting for these questions to resolve before acting, the LUMEN governance community is building iteratively: a cross-institutional task force meeting regularly,

internal alignment sessions across workstreams, and a stakeholder panel planned for autumn 2026 to bring in expertise from distributed and federated platform communities. Data contracts – already piloted across five communities – serve as the first concrete instrument: making expectations explicit, establishing accountability, and providing a shared language across communities with different cultures and institutional backgrounds.

This talk presents the LUMEN case not as a model but as a worked example of what federated governance looks like from the inside – and an invitation to the PUBMET community to share how similar challenges have been approached elsewhere.

KEYWORDS

data mesh; EOSC integration; federated governance; open science infrastructure; research communities

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Building Open Science Capacity through European Collaboration: The Open4UA Approach to Research Reform in Ukraine

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ABSTRACT

Open science – understood as transparent, accessible, and collaborative knowledge production – is increasingly recognised as a cornerstone of resilient and trustworthy research systems. In Ukraine, its implementation is closely tied to post-war recovery, where reproducible and credible research is essential for innovation, international integration, and evidence-based policymaking. The Open4UA project, coordinated by Lviv Polytechnic National University, directly supports the implementation of the National Open Science Plan (2022) by advancing systemic reform of research practices, evaluation, and infrastructure in alignment with European frameworks.

This presentation examines how the Open4UA project translates open science principles into coordinated, evidence-based reform at multiple levels of the research system. Drawing on survey data from over 24,000 respondents across Ukrainian higher education institutions (2021–2023), the project identifies persistent barriers to open science, including a lack of recognition, limited skills, insufficient infrastructure, and resource constraints – further exacerbated by the ongoing war. In response, Open4UA adopts a metascience-informed approach, using empirical evidence to guide cultural and institutional change.

The project is structured around three core objectives. First, it supports national legislative reform by contributing to the development of a draft law on open science. Second, it advances responsible research assessment in line with CoARA principles, including the development of open databases of funded research projects and new evaluation criteria for research funding and institutional certification. Third, it supports institutional transformation through practical tools, policies, and pilot actions that embed open science practices into everyday research workflows. Recent policy developments, including the introduction of performance-based research funding in Ukraine in 2026, demonstrate the increasing alignment between national governance reforms and the recommendations developed through Open4UA.

A central pillar of this transformation is the combination of mature repository infrastructures with professional data stewardship. European and national infrastructures – including EOSC, OpenAIRE, Zenodo, and emerging national data services – provide the technical and organisational backbone for FAIR data management, interoperability, visibility, and long-term preservation. However, infrastructure alone does not create open science practice. Data experts – including data stewards, repository managers, and research support professionals – are essential for translating open science principles into institutional routines. They support data management planning, metadata standardisation, researcher training, reproducibility practices, repository use, and compliance with funder and policy requirements. Their role is particularly important in systems facing fragmented infrastructures, uneven institutional capacity, and disruption caused by war.

Open4UA places a strong emphasis on international collaboration as a catalyst for capacity building and policy learning. Workshops such as those held in Ljubljana and Delft bring together Ukrainian stakeholders with established European open science communities, including experts connected to the Slovenian Social Science Data Archives. These engagements facilitate the exchange of repository governance, FAIR data implementation, and reproducibility practices, functioning as co-creation spaces for adapting proven models to the Ukrainian context.

The project's findings highlight that open science is inseparable from research integrity, reproducibility, and research assessment reform. Accordingly, Open4UA promotes a shift away from narrow bibliometric indicators toward narrative CVs, diversified academic career paths, and inclusive, sustainable research cultures. It also supports early-career researchers, displaced institutions, and citizen science initiatives, while fostering communities such as the Ukrainian Reproducibility Network to sustain grassroots momentum.

By demonstrating how infrastructure, expertise, policy reform, and international collaboration interact, this presentation offers transferable insights for countries facing structural and cultural barriers to open science. It highlights how coordinated, evidence-based approaches can enable gradual but systemic transformation toward more transparent, reproducible, and globally integrated research ecosystems.

KEYWORDS

Open Science Law; Responsible Research Assessment; Reproducibility; Data Stewardship; Research Data Repositories; International Collaboration; Ukraine



POSTERS

The Diamond Program of UiT The Arctic University of Norway

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ABSTRACT

While there is broad support for diamond open access publishing on political and management levels, this support rarely comes with financial backing. Recently, the literary budget of the university library at UiT The Arctic University of Norway was restructured following the cancellation of the Wiley publish-and-read (PAR) deal and a 25% cost reduction in the Elsevier PAR deal. Consequently, money has been freed up to financially support diamond open access publishing (Aspaas 2025) and in April 2026 the multi-year “Diamond Program” was launched at UiT The Arctic University of Norway. Briefly, the Diamond Program consists of four main pillars, with the first focusing on supporting international diamond open access initiatives and infrastructures. Secondly, a portion of the budget is allocated to strengthening and developing UiT’s diamond open access publishing service, Septentrio Academic Publishing. The third pillar provides funding to diamond open access journals and series, whether published by Septentrio Academic Publishing or other publishers, as long as the journals are affiliated with UiT. Finally, a large portion of the budget is allocated to flipping larger UiT-affiliated journals from their current publishing model to the diamond open access model.

As a central tenet of diamond open access is that it should be scholar-led, a steering committee of researchers and student representatives at UiT oversees the Diamond Program and can restructure the Diamond Program’s budget. The steering committee was established by asking the faculty deans to propose a researcher from their faculty to serve on the steering committee. Further, the steering committee includes three student representatives. In addition to being responsible for the Diamond Program as a whole, the steering committee will also be responsible for deciding which applications are funded under the third pillar of the Diamond Program (i.e. funding diamond open access journals and series affiliated with UiT). Furthermore, in line with the goal of making the Diamond Program scholar-led, we are establishing a user council consisting of editors of journals and series published by Septentrio Academic Publishing to advise and guide the usage of the money in the second pillar of the Diamond Program, namely the budget going to Septentrio Academic Publishing. We have asked some editors to serve on an interim user council until the formal user council will be elected at a general meeting for all Septentrio editors in June 2026. At PUBMET 2026, I will present the Diamond Program – with a particular focus on the involvement of scholars and our initial experiences of this process.

KEYWORDS

diamond open access; publishing; scholar-led

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When Openness Isn't Enough: Case Study on Autism Framing in Croatian Scientific Discourse

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ABSTRACT

A crucial aspect of Open Science concerns opening science to society through 'open engagement of societal actors and open dialogue with other knowledge systems' (UNESCO, 2023, p. 1), connecting Open Science to achieving equity, diversity, and inclusion in science (Bertram et al., 2023). Thus, the Open Science movement can be discussed in relation to epistemic injustice: opening science to society relates to the status of people in society as epistemic agents, and their role as knowers, interpreters, and providers of information (Fricker, 2007). By recognising non-researchers as epistemic agents through practices like citizen science and co-produced research, Open Science emphasises the importance of respecting community-held knowledge and language (UNESCO, 2023, pp. 19, 32; Bertram et al., 2023). Language is used to search for and synthesise existing literature, precisely define technical terms, develop research questions and hypotheses, and present findings and interpretations (Schmalz et al., 2025). As such, language does not merely describe the objects of study; it actively constructs them (Botha et al., 2023; Schmalz et al., 2025). Narrative choices embedded in scholarly writing can thus either reinforce existing power hierarchies or, in line with the aim of Open Science, contribute to more inclusive and participatory forms of knowledge production.

We investigate the importance of language in scholarly writing by focusing on research on autism. Milton and Bracher (2013) criticise autism research both for failing to fully engage autistic lived experiences in scientific work and for framing autism using problematic narratives. They argue that, while autistic individuals often do express their perspectives, these perspectives are frequently misunderstood, dismissed, or filtered through non-autistic interpretations. This highlights how language can shape not only how autism is described, but how it is understood throughout the research process. These issues are already evident in the theoretical framing of autism. For instance, the 'medical model' has often been used in scientific discourse despite having been criticised for suppressing autistic voices and pathologising their communication styles (Milton and Bracher, 2013). However, when applied uncritically, alternative models can also overlook the diversity of perspectives within autistic communities. Such biases extend into empirical research methods, where using standardised methods that rely on language may exclude individuals who are non-speaking, situationally mute, or have co-occurring learning disabilities, leading to samples which are typically more verbal and more educated (Botha et al., 2023). Finally, in the dissemination phase, language used in articles is considered important, as evidenced by the debate around using person-first ("person with autism") versus identity-first ("autistic person") language. Despite there being no consensus on this matter within the scientific community, autistic communities often advocate for identity-first language as a reflection of political and cultural identity. In their work, Botha et al. (2023) stress the importance of listening to what autistic

communities are saying, as they are the ones being represented. When the subjects of research are not meaningfully included in shaping how they are described, there is a risk of increasing epistemic injustice, not only through exclusion from research processes, but also through the imposition of external narratives which may not align with lived experience (Milton and Bracher, 2013).

We contribute to these debates and to diversifying the largely Anglophone focus of the existing body of work in both Open Science and autism by focusing our investigation on how autism is framed within the Croatian scientific literature. Through its technical infrastructure for supporting Open Science, primarily provided by the University Computing Centre (SRCE), which provides access to over 540 journals (platform HRČAK) and a diverse range of digital objects (platform DABAR), Croatia has established a strong technical foundation that makes it easier for scientists to open their research and for the public to access it (Bolkovac et al., 2025). Thus, literature on autism is accessible to a wider range of professionals and individuals. Our aim is not to evaluate the scientific validity of existing autism research in Croatia, but to qualitatively analyse the ethical and epistemological implications of how such research is communicated. To do so, we will conduct a content analysis of a sample of Croatian scientific publications on autism. Data extraction will be performed manually by multiple coders using a systematic protocol to evaluate linguistic patterns across the texts based on two criteria: 1) the use of person-first versus identity-first language when referring to autistic people and 2) the use of pathologising language when describing autism. We will present the results of our analysis and discuss them in light of debates within autism research that aim to raise awareness of community-preferred language and engagement with the perspectives of communities that are being studied.

KEYWORDS

Autism; Epistemic justice; Inclusivity; Language

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Mapping Open Science in Central and South-Eastern Europe

Maja Bogataj Jančič [Open Data and Intellectual Property Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia]

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ABSTRACT

Mapping open science policies and legislation in the field of open science in Central and South-Eastern Europe is essential for understanding the current state of development of open science in the region. It is essential for understanding the differences between the different regimes in countries; Slovenia and Croatia are already EU members and follow EU strategies and policies regarding research governance, with open science playing an increasingly important role. Mapping open science across the region is key to identifying differences and gaps and consequently identifying opportunities for improvement, which could also lead to better regional cooperation. For countries in the region that are not yet EU members, this can be a key signal of what adjustments are needed in this area in order to more effectively progress towards deeper integration with the European Research Area.

Among the countries to be analysed, Slovenia has already adopted some of the most advanced open science strategies in the EU, supported by legislative measures such as rights retention obligations and the secondary right to publication included in the Scientific Research and Innovation Act (ZZrID). These provisions strengthen the ability of researchers to retain key substantive copyrights in negotiations with publishers, allowing them to publish their research results in open access, thereby accelerating the practical implementation of open science principles. The Slovenian approach can serve as a valuable model for other countries in the region.

The project Mapping of Open Science is supported by the Knowledge Rights 21 (KR21) and conducted by the Open Data and Intellectual Property Institute with the cooperation of members of the KR21 Regional Alliance.

KEYWORDS

mapping; open science; policy; legislation; rights retention; SPR

Building Skills for Open Science

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ABSTRACT

In 2025, Croatia adopted the National Plan on Open Science. The Plan sets out recommendations and actions for putting open science into practice, based on international principles from UNESCO, the European Commission, and the OECD. It covers key areas such as open access to publications, open research data, open science infrastructure, research assessment, and the development of support, education, and skills related to open science.

At the same time, Croatia still does not have a formal or nationally organised education programme for data stewards. Training in research data management and open science is therefore mostly provided through standalone initiatives. This gap is clearly recognised in the National Plan on Open Science. The Plan highlights the need for quality and sustainable professional support, as well as education and training related to tools, systems, and services used in open science and research data management. It also stresses the importance of regular training for researchers to help them understand open science principles and apply them in everyday research practice. The Plan also recognises the role of higher education institutions, research organisations, libraries, and national service providers in providing training and support. Within this context, the University of Zagreb University Computing Centre (SRCE) addresses these needs through two frameworks: SRCE Academy, which provides structured educational packages for institutions and helps them plan training for their employees, and the Educational Programme, which offers learning opportunities for individual participants to pursue training on their own terms. Within these frameworks, SRCE offers e-courses covering topics of Open Science, Research Data Management, and FAIR principles, in addition with complementary courses on Advanced Computing, Programming, Statistics, and Data Analysis. All these courses are tailored to the national open science and advanced computing infrastructure, as well as the policy environment.

This poster will present three existing courses: Research Data Management, Documentation and Anonymization of Research Data, and Open Science and Licensing of Research Results. These courses were developed in collaboration between SRCE and the broader community, with active contributions from the National and University Library in Zagreb, the University Library Rijeka, the University Library in Split, the City and University Library in Osijek, and the Croatian Science Foundation. Courses will be revised in 2026 with the aim of aligning them with developments in infrastructure and the National Open Science Plan, and of making them more engaging and easier to follow.

In addition to presenting the existing courses, a new self-paced course on Research Software Management will be introduced. Research software is a crucial research output that requires skills and proper management. This new course will provide participants with a basic understanding of research software, its role in open and reproducible research, and good practices in research software management.

KEYWORDS

Open Science; RDM; Research Software Management; training; SRCE Academy

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Exploring the unknown heritage of Moslavina: students as researchers and contributors to open knowledge

Iva Galić [Primary school Mate Lovrak, Kutina, Croatia]

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ABSTRACT

In the contemporary context of open science communication, the need for inclusive, participatory and community-oriented models of knowledge creation and sharing is increasingly emphasized (European Commission, 2020; UNESCO, 2021). Schools are increasingly recognized as important stakeholders in open science because they enable the development of scientific, information and digital literacy and responsible participation in the creation of knowledge from an early age (UNESCO, 2021). Citizen science, which involves the active participation of citizens in collecting data, interpreting results and creating knowledge, represents an important link between education, open science and science communication (Bonney et al., 2016). Despite this, local cultural heritage, especially in smaller and less represented regions such as Moslavina, often remains insufficiently researched, documented and publicly accessible.

This paper presents the project Exploring the Unknown Heritage of Moslavina: Students as Researchers and Contributors to Open Knowledge that integrates the principles of open science into the primary school context, positioning students as active participants in the research and dissemination of locally relevant knowledge. The project was carried out in collaboration with the school library, teachers, the local community and a local ethnologist. The school library played a key role in developing students' information literacy, providing research support, evaluating information sources and disseminating project results.

The aim of the paper is to demonstrate the potential of primary education as a platform for developing the competencies needed to participate in open scientific communication, while simultaneously raising awareness of the importance of preserving cultural heritage. The project was implemented through an interdisciplinary and extracurricular approach and was theoretically based on constructivist and participatory learning models that emphasize the active role of students, collaboration, and learning in an authentic context. Additionally, the project was based on the principles of open education and open science, with an emphasis on accessibility, transparency and the possibility of reusing knowledge.

The methodological framework encompassed project-based, research-based and experiential learning. Sixteen students conducted field research focused on various aspects of local heritage, including traditional architecture, folk costumes, lifestyle, music and customs. Data were collected through observation, photography, recording and interviews with members of the local community. The collected materials were then analyzed, interpreted, structured and in the final phase, published in openly accessible digital formats, thus becoming part of a wider, publicly accessible body of knowledge.

The results indicate a significant educational and social impact of the project. Students develop key competences, including communication and research skills, critical thinking

and digital literacy. At the same time, the project contributes to the development of a sense of responsibility towards local cultural heritage and strengthens students' identity awareness. At the community level, the project encourages intergenerational cooperation, knowledge exchange and the active involvement of local stakeholders in the educational process.

The special value of the project is reflected in the increased visibility and preservation of lesser-known elements of Moslavina's heritage. By openly sharing the collected content, the project actively contributes to the development of open scientific communication and enables its further use for educational and research purposes. In conclusion, the work confirms that primary schools can have an important and so far underutilized role in the development of sustainable, inclusive and socially relevant models of open science.

KEYWORDS

citizen science; community participation ; cultural heritage of Moslavina ; open education; open science; primary school

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Open access to master theses: Follow-up of nine SEA-EU Alliance universities, 2019–2023

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ABSTRACT

This paper is a follow-up to our 2019 study in which we examined the availability of master's theses in the repositories of nine European universities within the SEA-EU alliance (Gudelj et al., 2022). Our initial interest in this topic emerged from our work with Dabar, from which we extracted master's theses needed for the open-access journal ST-OPEN. ST-OPEN is organized as an online open-access overlay interjournal that extracts most of its content from documents deposited in the national platform DABAR – Digital Academic Archives and Repositories (<https://dabar.srce.hr/en/repositories>).

Master's theses are often an underrecognized part of scholarly output in higher education. They frequently include original empirical findings, theoretical developments, and methodological contributions that can significantly enrich scientific knowledge. However, they have historically been difficult to access, often confined to university libraries or restricted archival systems. This limited visibility stands in stark contrast to recent trends in science, where open science has become a key priority (Thibault et al., 2023).

We analyzed the public availability of master's theses for nine SEA-EU universities located in European port cities in 2019 and 2023: Cádiz (Spain), Gdansk (Poland), Kiel (Germany), Malta (Malta), Naples (Italy), NORD (Bodø, Levanger, Norway), Split (Croatia), and Western Brittany (Brest, France). The 2019 data for the universities of Cádiz, Gdansk, Kiel, Malta, Split, and Western Brittany were taken from our previous analysis (Gudelj et al., 2022). The 2019 data for Algarve (Faro, Portimão, Portugal), Naples (Parthenope University, Italy), and NORD (Bodø, Levanger, Norway), as well as the 2023 data for all nine SEA-EU universities, were collected in 2025.

Data on master's theses were collected from universities' websites and verified through direct contacts with librarians at each institution. The number of enrolled students in 2019 and 2023 was obtained from universities' websites or through administrative contacts.

We present descriptive analyses of the number of enrolled students and the access status of students' master's theses at individual universities and across scientific disciplines. Results are reported as frequencies and percentages for the two study years. Differences between access types were tested using the chi-square test with $\alpha = 0.05$, using MedCalc v23.3.7 (MedCalc, Ostend, Belgium).

Based on access-status categories (open access, authorised access, institutional access, temporarily closed, and closed access), we found substantial variation across universities. This variation reflected national and institutional policy frameworks: universities with a

legal mandate for open-access deposit (Split, Algarve) showed higher rates of open access, while those with voluntary deposit schemes (Brest, NORD) or selective criteria requiring deposit only of highest-graded theses (Cádiz, Malta) showed more limited openness. Three universities where master's theses are not publicly available (Gdansk, Kiel, Naples) were excluded from this analysis; none of these institutions has a regulation requiring deposit of master's theses in institutional repositories.

Our follow-up study of the availability of master's theses in the repositories of nine European universities from 2019 to 2023 indicates that there has been no major improvement in the openness of master's theses. Moreover, the contribution of master's theses available under open-access conditions appears to have remained similar or decreased at several universities in 2023 compared with 2019.

KEYWORDS

SEA-EU alliance; repository; master's thesis; open access

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An insight into the diamond open access encyclopedic collections of the Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography

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ABSTRACT

The Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography is a publishing house and a scientific institution (defined by a governmental act as a public institution of relevance for the Republic of Croatia), which has been involved in lexicography and encyclopedistics since its foundation in 1950. Its main mission is to systematize, preserve and communicate scientifically verified knowledge across the broadest span of fields and disciplines, as well as to contribute to the understanding of Croatia's natural, historic and cultural heritage, and to preserve its cultural and social identity. Over its 75 years of existence, the Institute has produced more than 450 volumes of various reference works (encyclopedias, lexicons, dictionaries, atlases, bibliographies, journals, special editions, etc.). The Institute's potential lies in the huge resources of created and stored knowledge, while digital technologies have transformed the ways in which it is presented and facilitated its distribution, accessibility and usage (Jerman & Jecić, 2018; Jerman & Jecić, 2020).

The systemic digital transformation of the Institute was initiated in 2008, when it started developing freely accessible collections of digital editions, a rather innovative endeavour in Croatia at the time. This poster presentation aims to give an overview of the development of the Institute's digital collections, which currently comprise approximately 400,000 articles from 30 editions available in open access.

Since 2008, print editions have been continuously digitised to become freely available to users in their original print version via the platform Portal of Knowledge (<https://enciklopedija.lzmk.hr/>), which was launched in 2009. This collection currently offers open access to eleven digitised editions covering fields such as biography, literature, film, medicine, technology, etc. In 2023, new features and an updated interface for the Portal were implemented, and it now also provides access to the ongoing online editions, Croatian Encyclopedia and the Croatian Encyclopedia of Technology, as well as to the Collection of Encyclopedic Heritage, serving as the main access point to the Institute's online content.

The launch of the online edition of the aforementioned Croatian Encyclopedia (<https://enciklopedija.hr/>) in 2013 was a key step in the Institute's digital transformation. This is a constantly updated and expanded comprehensive general encyclopedia, based on the print edition published in 11 volumes from 1999 to 2009, which was authored and edited by over 1,000 high-profile experts and has become established as one of the principal digital reference sources in the Croatian language, with up to 50,000 page views per day.

The Croatian Encyclopedia of Technology was launched in 2014 as the first Croatian encyclopedia simultaneously published in online and print editions on the Portal of Croatian Technology Heritage (<https://tehnika.lzmk.hr/>). The Portal provides content-

related data in each article, primarily aimed at linking to external sources, thus serving as the basis for interoperability with digital repositories of other cultural and research institutions. In 2023, the Atlas of the Croatian Technology Heritage was launched – a new functionality for connecting encyclopedic articles with space (Tolj Smolčić, 2025).

The Collection of Encyclopedic Heritage (<https://e-bastina.lzmk.hr/>) was launched at the end of 2023 and offers access to twelve digitised archival editions printed from 1954 to 1996, dedicated to medicine, fine arts, forestry, agriculture, seamanship, sports, etc. A new model had to be designed and implemented to digitise these editions for online publication (Kraus et al., 2024).

All the aforementioned editions and collections, as well as additional digital content (e.g. the scientific journal *Studia lexicographica* or more than 2 million leaflets of the Catalogue of Retrospective Bibliography of Articles), are openly accessible via the Institute's website (<https://www.lzmk.hr/e-leks/online-izdanja>).

In addition to facilitated access and searchability, diamond open access professional encyclopedias enable the dissemination of reliable, scientifically verified information and direct interaction between experts and the wider public, thus serving as a specific genre or channel for knowledge exchange between academia and society (Giménez Toledo et al., 2022; Sivertsen et al., 2026). Furthermore, they provide the possibility of linking to digital data and collections of other research and cultural institutions, thus contributing to the networking of knowledge (Jermen & Jecić, 2018).

KEYWORDS

knowledge dissemination; open access encyclopedia publishing; publication genre for societal interaction

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Libraries as citizen science initiators and hubs: The case of National and University Library in Zagreb

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ABSTRACT

Citizen science in Croatia has developed intensely over the past decade, growing from isolated, mostly environmental initiatives to a structured movement in which libraries take a lead role as intermediaries between the scientific community and the general public. Libraries are particularly well positioned for this role, combining public trust, educational mission, access to collections and digital infrastructures, and long-term institutional capacity for sustaining community engagement. Within the Croatian context, this strategic positioning allows libraries to act as vital bridges between science and society, effectively operationalising citizen science hubs.

A descriptive case study of the National and University Library in Zagreb (NSK) serves to illustrate how a library can function as both an initiator and a hub of citizen science. Based on project documentation and institutional reports, the study examines the implementation processes, challenges, and outcomes of NSK's citizen science initiatives. The National and University Library in Zagreb (NSK) recognised the potential of this model early on, transitioning into a national leader for citizen science through its participation in the international Erasmus+ project CeOS_SE (Citizen-Enhanced Open Science in Southeastern Europe), which ran from 2022 to 2024. Coordinated by LIBER Europe (Association of European Research Libraries), this project aimed to establish research libraries as knowledge hubs for open and citizen science. Within this framework, NSK implemented two foundational pilot activities: the Bees, Life, People project, a landmark collaboration between NSK, the Ivanić-Grad Public Library, and the Croatian Web Archive (HAW), and the Self-Help and Well-Being in the Academic Online Environment activity conducted with students from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb. These activities show that citizen science in libraries can connect environmental monitoring, digital heritage, and academic learning within one institutional setting.

NSK has continued to solidify its role through specialised projects that bridge cultural heritage and modern technology. Notable initiatives include Dendroteka, HAWathon, and Musical Intelligence in the Service of National Heritage. Dendroteka highlighted the intersection of ecological monitoring and citizen engagement by involving the community in collecting data about tree species and urban greenery. HAWathon represents a specialised "marathon" in web archiving, engaging students in the systematic selection and preservation of digital content and ensuring that ephemeral web data is saved for future research. Musical Intelligence in the Service of National Heritage is a pioneering project exploring the synergy between citizen science and Artificial Intelligence by engaging volunteers in the processing and categorisation of musical heritage.

A cornerstone of NSK's strategy is the development of robust institutional partnerships. This is most evident in its collaboration with the Working Group for Citizen Science in

Libraries (GZUK) of the Zagreb Library Association, which serves as a platform for connecting different types of libraries in community-driven science. A key current collaboration is the ongoing project "BioBlitz and Libraries". This joint initiative represents the next phase of institutional synergy, attracting more than 60 libraries across Croatia and demonstrating the capacity of the library network to conduct large-scale environmental monitoring and data collection.

Through these diverse efforts, NSK has positioned itself as a central institution for providing specialised education on citizen science for both libraries and the scientific community, with plans to extend these programmes to library users in the near future. Beyond practical implementation, the Library acts as a consultancy hub, advising other organisations on how to design and manage citizen science activities. Addressing the challenge of sustainability, these initiatives are transitioning from temporary, project-funded activities, such as those under the CeOS_SE project framework, into permanent institutional practices by integrating citizen science into regular programmes and leveraging existing library infrastructure and networks. By simultaneously conducting original research and expanding the theoretical framework of citizen science within librarianship, NSK ensures that its work is deeply rooted in both practice and academic theory. This dual approach supports a sustainable ecosystem that bridges national expertise with grassroots professional networks and strengthens the future of open and citizen science in Croatia.

KEYWORDS

Citizen Science; Croatia; Libraries; National and University Library in Zagreb

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From Open Access to Open Science Ecosystems: A Bibliometric Analysis of Governance, Community, and Infrastructure Research in Scholarly Communication

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ABSTRACT

Purpose

The development of Open Science has significantly transformed scholarly communication by encouraging transparency, accessibility, collaboration, and shared research infrastructures. Alongside the expansion of Open Access publishing, increasing scholarly attention has been directed toward governance models, community-oriented initiatives, and sustainable research infrastructures supporting open scholarly ecosystems. The purpose of this paper is to map the intellectual and thematic structure of research related to Open Science, Open Access, and scholarly communication, with a particular focus on governance, community, and infrastructure dimensions. The study further examines whether the evolution of the literature reflects a conceptual transition from Open Access as a publishing model towards Open Science as a broader scholarly ecosystem characterised by governance structures, collaborative communities, and shared research infrastructures.

Methodology/Approach

The study applies descriptive bibliometric indicators and science mapping methods to publications indexed in the Web of Science Core Collection (all editions). Data retrieval was conducted using a Topic search (titles, abstracts, author keywords, and Keywords Plus) combining the terms "open science," "open access," and "open scholarly communication" with governance-, community-, and infrastructure-related concepts. The dataset was refined according to publication type, language, and Web of Science subject categories, resulting in a corpus of 5,276 scientific publications published between 1966 and 2026. Data analysis was conducted using Biblioshiny and VOSviewer. The analysis included descriptive bibliometric indicators, annual scientific production, keyword co-occurrence analysis, thematic evolution, co-authorship patterns, and the geographical distribution of scientific production.

Findings

The results indicate a substantial growth in scientific production related to Open Science ecosystems, particularly after 2010, with a significant increase observed after 2020. The annual growth rate of publications reached 8.8%, confirming the increasing importance of collaborative and infrastructure-oriented approaches in scholarly communication. The dataset includes 5,276 documents published across 360 scientific sources by 14,533 authors, with an average of 3.49 co-authors per document and an international co-authorship rate of 23.58%.

The analysis identified dominant research themes associated with Open Access, institutional repositories, scholarly communication, governance, research infrastructures, and community engagement. Thematic clustering revealed several interconnected research areas, including infrastructure and repository development, governance and policy frameworks, collaborative scholarly ecosystems, and digital transformation in research communication. The thematic evolution suggests that the research field has progressively expanded beyond Open Access publishing towards a broader Open Science ecosystem in which governance, collaborative communities, and shared infrastructures represent central components of scholarly communication. Rather than reflecting only an increase in publication volume, the findings indicate a conceptual broadening of scholarly communication research towards ecosystem-oriented perspectives integrating policy, sustainability, collaboration, and community participation. The geographical distribution of publications indicates strong research activity in the United States, China, the United Kingdom, and several European countries, reflecting the global expansion of Open Science initiatives and collaborative scholarly networks.

Originality/Value

This study provides a systematic overview of the development and thematic evolution of governance-, community-, and infrastructure-oriented Open Science research. By combining descriptive bibliometric indicators with science mapping techniques, the paper contributes to understanding how scholarly communication research increasingly incorporates ecosystem, sustainability, and collaboration perspectives. The findings demonstrate that the evolution of Open Science research is characterised not only by quantitative growth but also by a conceptual shift from publication-centred openness towards ecosystem-oriented models integrating governance, collaborative infrastructures, and scholarly communities. The findings highlight the growing role of international collaboration and community-driven infrastructures in shaping the future development of Open Science and scholarly communication practices.

KEYWORDS

open science; open access; scholarly communication; bibliometric analysis; governance; community

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The Role of Centre for Electronic Publishing in the Academic Community of the University of Rijeka

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ABSTRACT

This poster presents the role of the Centre for Electronic Publishing (CEN) at the University of Rijeka as a community-oriented infrastructure supporting open scholarly communication and digital education practices. Established within the University of Rijeka Library, CEN focuses on providing support to academic and teaching staff in the preparation and publication of various electronic editions, thereby strengthening institutional publishing capacities.

CEN offers a range of services related to the design, layout, and production of digital publications, including scientific and professional books, textbooks, and teaching materials. These services include the preparation of publications in PDF and EPUB formats, with the possibility of export to HTML, as well as graphic design, technical review of materials, and assistance in ensuring compliance with selected citation styles. In addition, CEN supports the digitisation of print publications issued by the university. These publications are authored by current and former university staff who have granted permission for their works to be digitised and deposited in the institutional repository, thereby contributing to their wider accessibility and long-term preservation. Furthermore, CEN provides assistance in developing interactive electronic teaching materials, with the aim of enhancing and facilitating teaching and learning processes. Such materials go beyond static text and images, incorporating multimedia and interactive elements such as video content, 3D models, hyperlinks, and self-assessment tools. This approach supports more engaging and flexible learning environments, while also enabling teachers to adapt content to different pedagogical needs. Particular emphasis is placed on improving the accessibility of educational materials, including their adaptation for students with specific learning difficulties. In addition, these materials can be exported and made available in a variety of formats, allowing for their use across different platforms and learning contexts.

The availability of centralised support for the creation of multimedia and interactive educational content offers academic staff an optional institutional resource that complements existing faculty-based practices. The primary aim of this service is to ease the technical aspects of publishing digital educational materials, allowing teaching staff to focus more on content development and pedagogical design. This model enables more efficient use of available resources, supports consistent quality standards, and provides structured professional and technical assistance to those who choose to use the service.

CEN contributes to aligning publishing practices with strategic priorities related to digital transformation, innovation in education, and the accessibility of knowledge. By embedding publishing support within the academic environment, CEN reflects principles of community ownership and governance, in which scholarly outputs are developed and managed within the institution.

The poster will present the number and types of publications produced with CEN support over the past five years, including their distribution across different categories of electronic editions. It will also include usage data, providing insight into the reach and impact of these publications. The poster will also showcase selected examples of interactive textbook content, illustrating the possibilities of multimedia and interactive educational publishing supported by CEN. Additionally, it will examine the alignment of CEN's activities with the university's strategic framework and highlight its role in the development of the planned UNIRI Press platform as a centralised digital publishing environment, aimed at integrating and increasing the visibility of the university's publishing output.

KEYWORDS

Centre for Electronic Publishing; Digital Publishing; University of Rijeka; University of Rijeka Library

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Advancing Open Science in India Through a Student-Led Initiative

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ABSTRACT

One of the main goals of open science is to increase access to scholarly research and its resources. While these goals of open science have been recognised globally, for example by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), not all geographical areas are currently represented in the discourse around open science equally.

Much of the literature on open science in international journals comes from researchers employed in the Global North, where adoption of open science has been facilitated through a mix of top-down pressures, incentives, and bottom-up initiatives. These also affect Higher Education, with many training programmes in open science being geared towards PhD students. More recently, open science practices have also been embedded in undergraduate and graduate curricula (Read et al., 2022), including our Master's programme in Cognitive Sciences at the University of Rijeka. Over the course of the programme, we have learned about open science practices and have applied them to our own research by sharing our data and code and documenting our methods in an attempt to make our research more transparent and reproducible. In addition, we strive to encourage similar engagement among fellow students and enhance their exposure to open science and its principles. Here, we present a project that is being developed as a student-led initiative for a specific geographical region that may benefit from such bottom-up approaches to complement existing top-down regulations.

India has made notable strides in advancing open science through a range of initiatives. These include the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), which provides freely accessible online courses, lectures, and educational resources aimed primarily at undergraduate and postgraduate learners. Another major initiative is the Open Source Drug Discovery (OSDD) project, launched in 2008 by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), in which researchers pooled and openly shared biological and genetic data through a common platform. Additional efforts include EPrints@IISc, one of the earliest institutional repositories established in the country; the Government of India's Universal Library Project, which offers free searchable access to nearly one million public-domain books along with digitization support; and the Delhi Declaration on Open Access, spearheaded by Open Access India (OAI), a community committed to promoting open access. India has also seen the emergence of platforms such as AgriXiv, a preprint repository for agricultural research.

Together, these initiatives contribute to the broader goals of open access and open science by expanding both access to research outputs and educational resources. Nonetheless, several authors argue that significant gaps persist in awareness, engagement, and the effective use of open access resources (Dhiman & Tiwari, 2022;

Arunachalam, 2004). Therefore, relying solely on top-down initiatives is not sufficient to create long-lasting and meaningful change, as sustainable reform also depends on genuine conviction and awareness among researchers, which are factors that are often more effectively cultivated through bottom-up efforts. In the Indian context, where socioeconomic and research funding constraints remain substantial, bottom-up initiatives may be particularly effective because they can encourage cultural and behavioral shifts without requiring extensive financial investment (Scaria and Ray, 2018).

In Europe, student-led initiatives have been effective in bringing students interested in open science together and raising awareness of research integrity, different publication models, and reproducibility (Fitzgibbon et al., 2020; King et al., 2016). At the same time, student-led and community driven initiatives promoting open science are also gaining momentum in India. Some of the bottom-up initiatives currently active in India include online journal clubs organized by student-led communities such as “Bioclues” and “QueriosiTea” under the broader ReproducibiliTea movement. Another example is the Psych #rstats Club, a peer-driven open science learning community focused on statistics and R programming, where participants ranging from undergraduate students to PhD scholars across the world collaborate, exchange resources, and learn together in an open and supportive environment. On the other hand, according to a report by Scaria and Ray (2018), some of the reasons why people hesitate to share data and publication in India are the lack of awareness of repositories, fear of someone else using the shared resource for their own purposes, and thinking it was not important to engage in these practices.

Creating a space where awareness can be shared through community engagement can help further navigate through these challenges. Our student project aims to adopt a community-learning approach in which students, early-career researchers, and independent researchers are encouraged not only to access resources but also to actively contribute to discussions, identify local challenges, and collaboratively explore context-sensitive solutions. Drawing on Kathawalla et al. (2021), we incorporated several ideas that were relevant to the goals and context of our initiative. In its initial phase, the community will operate through recurring online meetings and webinars, leading up to yearly openly available workshops and other community-led activities, followed by iterative refinement based on participant feedback and engagement. The author’s team is responsible for the initial organization, moderation, and development of resources, while long-term sustainability is envisioned through gradual involvement of local researchers and international collaborators in shaping and maintaining the community. The initiative additionally aims to foster connections between researchers in India and Europe, with the longer-term goal of supporting international and interdisciplinary collaboration across research communities.

KEYWORDS

higher education; open science; student-led initiatives

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Thinking in Ecosystems for OA Book Publishing: Multilinguality, AI Assistance, and Collaboration

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ABSTRACT

Recent studies show that, despite multilingualism being inherent in SSH research, multilingual scholarly output is increasingly being displaced by indexing databases and research assessment systems (OPERAS et al. 2025), as is the case with long-form publications (Bandura-Morgan et al. 2024). Our goal as a publisher creating an OA publication platform for books is to serve a multilingual research community, with a focus on the Central European region. The broad community dealing with OA book publishing consists of researchers, research institutions, libraries, infrastructure providers, publishers, and funding organisations. As a member of this community, our role entails catering to the needs of the other stakeholders and sharing our expertise in manuscript preparation, print and online representation, and dissemination.

L'Harmattan Publishing House (Budapest), a charitable for-profit organisation, launched its open access book publishing platform in 2022, publishing mainly Hungarian, English, German, and French monographs, edited books, and scholarly editions. Currently, over 180 OA volumes are available on openaccess.hu / openaccess.pub under a free licence with detailed metadata. Our project aims to publish and distribute OA books in accordance with international policies. We are the only publisher in Hungary engaged in this activity, operating within the framework of a state-funded research and development project. While some university libraries are experimenting with OA book publishing in an OMP environment, these efforts are in the early stages, as they focus on journals and research data instead.

Although the definition of diamond open access rightly emphasises community ownership and being academically driven (see, for example, Ancion et al. 2022), we believe that traditional small publishers (either non-profit or charitable for-profit and operating at a low profit margin) also have an important role to play in the diamond OA transition. The poster details our shared workflow with the OA book publishing community, ensuring that scholars and universities retain control over research quality and content. It also introduces the infrastructure ecosystem that we use and maintain for publishing, distributing, and archiving.

Here are a few examples of the operational aspects detailed on the poster. Editorial boards are independent of the press; they decide which manuscripts to accept and manage the peer review process. All books in the series are co-publications, so research institutions are also represented as publishers in the imprint. If a university press can take over manuscript preparation tasks, we only get involved during the OA publication and distribution phase. The distribution to research databases is mostly handled by Thoth Open Metadata. Archiving is managed by the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, university libraries, and the Thoth Archiving Network. Under the cooperation agreements with universities and libraries, publication costs are not borne by the authors but by their institutions. Since we are sharing the workload, this also leads to a reduction in costs. Further details will be presented in the poster and on our website.

KEYWORDS

longform publications; multilinguality; open access books; publishing infrastructure; publishing ecosystems

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AI tools in student research practice: A longitudinal study on open digital tools and creativity development in secondary education

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[view poster](#) | [more info](#)

ABSTRACT

The growing integration of open digital tools and artificial intelligence (AI) into secondary education raises important questions about how these technologies influence student research practices, creativity, and epistemic autonomy. This study presents findings from a two year longitudinal quasi-experimental research examining the relationship between students' use of open AI tools and the development of creativity in physics research papers.

The study followed the same cohort of high school students ($N = 57$) at a general gymnasium in Croatia across two academic years (2023/2024 and 2025/2026). In the first phase, students' research papers were assessed using an analytical creativity rubric based on the AAC&U VALUE framework, alongside a survey on motivation and digital tool usage. In the second phase, a follow-up survey examined students' attitudes toward AI tools in learning, their perceptions of the contribution of AI to the creative process, and self-assessed creativity.

Quantitative analyses showed no statistically significant differences between control and experimental groups in overall attitudes or self-assessed creativity. However, Spearman correlation analysis revealed a significant positive association between the frequency of AI tool use and students' perceptions of AI's contribution to both the creative process ($\rho = .358$, $p = .007$) and the overall quality of their research papers ($\rho = .403$, $p = .002$). Notable gender differences were also observed: male students reported significantly more positive attitudes toward AI tools in the context of research paper development, while no gender differences emerged in general perceptions of AI as a learning support tool.

The findings suggest that AI tools do not function as direct generators of creativity but rather as cognitive scaffolds whose impact develops gradually depending on the intensity and context of use. These results have direct implications for open science education, highlighting the need for structured, pedagogically grounded integration of open AI tools to support responsible, reflective, and creative research practices among emerging researchers.

KEYWORDS

artificial intelligence in education; creativity development; open digital tools; open science; student research practice

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Croatian Centre for Diamond Open Access: From Community Practice to National Coordination

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ABSTRACT

The Croatian scholarly publishing landscape has a long tradition of publicly supported and scholar-led open access publishing. More than 300 Croatian scholarly journals operate according to the Diamond Open Access (DOA) model, providing immediate open access without charging fees to authors or readers. This ecosystem has developed through the work of infrastructure providers, editors, researchers, libraries, and non-profit publishers (research performing organisations, higher education institutions, learned societies, and other types of organisations), creating a sustainable but largely decentralised publishing environment. The initiative for creating the European Diamond Capacity Hub (OPERAS / Coalition S, 2025) has raised awareness of the need for a national DOA centre in Croatia.

This poster presents the establishment of the Croatian Centre for Diamond Open Access (CroDOA), a national initiative aimed at strengthening the coordination, support, and long-term sustainability of DOA publishing in Croatia, not only for journals, but also for books and other types of publications. CroDOA was initiated through collaboration among members of the OPERAS-HR consortium and partner institutions (University of Zadar (OPERAS National Node for Croatia), the University of Zagreb University Computing Centre (SRCE), the University of Zagreb Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Croatian Association for Scholarly Communication (ZNAK / CROASC), and the National and University Library in Zagreb (NSK)) involved in scholarly communication, publishing infrastructures, and Open Science development. In 2025, these institutions formalised their cooperation through a Memorandum of Understanding (National and University Library in Zagreb, 2025), strengthening the basis for a coordinated national approach to DOA support.

Rather than creating a new publishing platform or replacing existing initiatives, CroDOA

is designed as a collaborative support and coordination network that connects existing infrastructures, services, and communities. The organisational model is based on distributed responsibilities and collaborative governance. Each participating partner contributes according to its expertise and existing activities, creating a networked structure rather than a centralised authority. The Centre aims to serve as both a national support and capacity hub and a point of connection with European networks, communities, and initiatives. It aims to contribute Croatian expertise and practices to wider discussions on sustainable and equitable scholarly publishing, but also to implement the international standards and best practices within national communities.

An important planned activity of CroDOA is the development of a methodology for identifying and categorising DOA journals within the HRČAK portal (Jeršec Musap and Celjak, 2025). Although many Croatian journals already operate according to DOA principles, there is currently no formalised national framework for their systematic recognition and classification. The Centre therefore plans to develop criteria and procedures for identifying DOA journals, taking into account international recommendations, while adapting them to the Croatian publishing environment. This process will include an analysis of editorial and funding models, publishing workflows, ownership structures, and fee policies to create a transparent categorisation framework that will support the development of a national policy for sustainable DOA publishing, help to plan advocacy activities, and raise the international visibility of journals.

Another important strand of CroDOA's activities is related to building capacity and enhancing existing infrastructures for Diamond book publishing, initially by mapping the current funding models and existing infrastructures.

CroDOA will provide guidance, professional support, education, and training, primarily by organising workshops and webinars, to help researchers, journal editors, librarians, and publishers implement best Open Science practices in their work.

Besides educational activities, guidance, and support, CroDOA will assist in the implementation of the Croatian Open Science Plan (MZOM, 2025) and promote the Diamond Open Access Standard (DIAMAS, 2024) by building a more equitable, transparent, and sustainable publishing landscape.

By presenting the structure and planned activities of CroDOA, the poster highlights how existing scholarly communities can transition from informal cooperation towards more strategic and coordinated support models. The initiative demonstrates how national collaboration can strengthen scholar-led publishing while preserving bibliodiversity, multilingual scholarship, and equitable access to scholarly communication.

KEYWORDS

CroDOA; Diamond Open Access; EDCH; national capacity centre; scholarly communication; sustainability in publishing

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The brightness of Spanish diamond journals

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ABSTRACT

The Dulcinea directory indexes active Spanish academic journals. It currently lists 1,905 journals, of which 1,293 are free for authors (no APCs) and readers and use open licences. Of these, 1,055 belong to universities and research-performing organisations (RPOs), and 238 to scholarly societies.

The aim of this study was to identify and analyse the characteristics of these journals in accordance with the criteria defined by the Diamond Discovery Hub (DDH): 1. Persistent identification; 2. Scholarly journal; 3. Open Access with open licences; 4. No fees; 5. Open to all authors; 6. Community-owned. Eighty-one percent of these journals are owned and published by universities and research centres. The distribution by discipline is as follows: fine and performing arts, 1.9%; health sciences, 7.0%; life sciences, 3.4%; experimental sciences, 1.8%; social sciences, 49.0%; humanities, 34.0%; engineering, 1.9%; mathematics and physical sciences, 1.2%. With regard to disciplines, journals in the social sciences and humanities account for the highest percentages of journals published by universities and research centres, whilst in the health sciences the highest percentage corresponds to associations or learned societies. The following table shows the type of license used by journals from institutions and association/learned societies.

License	No. of journals from institutions	%	No of journal Asoc/ learned societies	%
CC By	364	34,5	40	16,7
CC By NC	140	13,3	50	20,9
CC By ND	10	0,9	6	2,5
CC By SA	40	3,8	9	3,8
CC By NC SA	136	12,9	37	15,5
CC By NC ND	364	34,5	97	40,6

With regard to Creative Commons licences, CC BY-NC-ND is the most widely used by societies (40.63%), whilst in the case of academic institutions, the use of CC BY (34.57%) and CC BY-NC-ND (34.59%) is most common.

Copyright belongs mainly to publishers and, in 58.6% of cases, to authors (18.4% exclusively and 26.2% of authors retain copyright and grant the publisher the right to publish the work through a non-exclusive licensing agreement). In summary, the Spanish journals analysed meet all the criteria for Diamond Open Access journals, although not all demonstrate the same degree of openness due to the licences used. In particular, the CC BY-NC-ND licence, which is the most restrictive of the Creative Commons licences, means that their openness is not uniform.

KEYWORDS

Diamond journals; Open access; Spain

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Embedding Open Access in Institutional Book Publishing Workflows: A Library-Led Diamond Model

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ABSTRACT

The transition to Open Access (OA) in scholarly book publishing has been slower and more uneven than in journal publishing, particularly in the Humanities and Social Sciences. In Croatia, this transition has largely developed without strong national mandates, relying instead on institutional initiatives and shared infrastructures. This paper presents a case of a library-led approach to embedding Open Access within institutional book publishing workflows in such a context.

The case is situated at the University of Zagreb Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, where a dual publishing structure has historically existed: a traditional faculty press focused on print production, and a library-operated digital platform, FF Open Press, established in 2018 to support Open Access publishing. While the platform has enabled the publication of over 180 scholarly books in OA, earlier practices often treated digital dissemination as secondary to print, and licensing conditions were not always consistently defined or communicated at an early stage.

The paper analyses a recent shift towards an OA-first model for scholarly books, in which digital Open Access publication is positioned as the primary mode of dissemination, with print as a complementary format. This shift has been facilitated by changes in internal research and publishing funding frameworks, which created an opportunity to redefine criteria, workflows, and support mechanisms. Within this process, the library has acted not only as a service provider but also as an active contributor to institutional policy development and workflow design.

Particular attention is given to the integration of licensing and copyright considerations into the early stages of the publishing process. Authors retain copyright to their works, and Creative Commons licences are applied more consistently, with clearer communication about licensing options and reuse conditions. The library provides guidance on copyright compliance, including the use of third-party materials, which helps to reduce legal uncertainty and improve transparency.

At the same time, the paper acknowledges that the practical implementation of these principles remains uneven. Despite the adoption of clearer guidelines, the use of third-party materials and the application of open licences continue to present challenges in everyday publishing practice, requiring ongoing support and education.

The organisational dimension is also considered. A dedicated library team supports the platform, collaborates with the faculty press and governance bodies, and provides consultations for authors and editors. There is a strong uptake of the OA-first model

among authors, with the majority of recent publishing proposals opting for OA-only, OA-first, or simultaneous Open Access and print publication. The case suggests that, in the absence of strong external mandates, sustained institutional engagement and workflow integration are key to the adoption of Open Access in scholarly book publishing.

KEYWORDS

Open Access books; diamond publishing; library-led publishing

AEGIS-OA: Advancing Diamond Open Access Publishing in Europe

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ABSTRACT

The AEGIS-OA project is a Horizon Europe-funded project launched in March 2026 to strengthen a transparent, sustainable, and high-quality Diamond Open Access (OA) publishing ecosystem across Europe. The project aims to address the fragmented landscape of OA journals and books into a cohesive, sustainable, and high-quality Diamond OA ecosystem. This poster demonstrates how AEGIS-OA operationalises, scales, and integrates community-led services operated within the European Diamond Capacity Hub (EDCH) to solve these exact capacity challenges without duplicating existing efforts.

The AEGIS-OA consortium is powered by 24 partners from 16 European countries, bringing in expertise in Diamond OA and scholarly publishing, including research-performing organisations, infrastructure providers, and National Capacity Centres, reflecting the diversity and collaborative nature of the Diamond OA community.

Diamond OA is an equitable model of scholarly publication that charges no fees to authors or readers and is based on distributed, community-driven models that often face challenges related to fragmentation, limited resources, uneven capacity, and levels of maturity across regions. The AEGIS-OA project responds to these challenges by leveraging and extending the quality standards, services, tools, and frameworks developed through earlier European projects, including DIAMAS, CRAFT-OA, and PALOMERA, and currently operated via the EDCH. Rather than creating new services and tools from scratch, the project focuses on operationalising, integrating and refining the existing EDCH services and tools to ensure alignment, interoperability, and long-term sustainability across the service offerings.

A major aim of AEGIS-OA is to support the coordination of a growing and motivated network of European National Capacity Centres (NCCs), which act as regional centres for Diamond OA expertise, training, and service provision and are all coordinated via the EDCH. These centres play a key role in aligning national initiatives, fostering collaboration across stakeholders, and ensuring that community needs are reflected in the development of shared services, tools, and practices for Diamond OA.

The project is structured around key pillars, including extending the EDCH services, establishing quality assurance and certification, and building robust training programmes and resources for publishing professionals. Specifically, it extends the scope of EDCH services to include Diamond OA books, recognising the importance of monographs and edited volumes, particularly in the social sciences and humanities. Second, it strengthens quality assurance and standardisation efforts by extending frameworks such as the Diamond Open Access Standard (DOAS) and developing

certification mechanisms. Finally, it focuses on capacity building through targeted training programmes for publishing professionals and the development of skills across regions. It also aims to enhance technical infrastructure by improving discovery services and providing ready-to-use publishing tools aligned with the EDCH.

AEGIS-OA also emphasises the long-term sustainability of Diamond OA services and the NCCs. It strives to align national funding approaches, support resource sharing, and enable long-term planning for Diamond OA communities. By connecting institutional publishers, service providers, and infrastructures across countries, it contributes to a more resilient and cohesive ecosystem across borders and disciplines.

This poster introduces the vision, structure, and early activities of AEGIS-OA, highlighting its role in advancing community-led scholarly publishing in Europe. It showcases how the project contributes to strengthening shared infrastructures, improving publishing practices via training, and ensuring the long-term sustainability and uptake of Diamond OA services and tools.

KEYWORDS

Community-led Publishing, Diamond OA Publishing, Scholarly Publishing

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International Collaboration and Language Preservation: Case Study of an Agricultural Journal

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ABSTRACT

The Journal of Central European Agriculture (JCEA) was established in 1999 as an online, peer-reviewed, open-access journal designed to support regional scientific communication while also strengthening the role of national languages in agricultural science.

JCEA was founded through cooperation between universities in Croatia, Hungary, and Slovakia, and it later expanded into a multinational publishing platform involving nine Central European countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Serbia. This structure reflects the journal's dual mission. On one hand, it supports international scholarly exchange and visibility through English-language publishing, indexing, and online accessibility. On the other hand, it preserves linguistic diversity by allowing authors from member countries to publish in their native languages, provided that titles, abstracts, keywords, and extended abstracts, as well as table and figure content, are also available in English. This bilingual publishing policy aligns with the principles of the Helsinki Initiative on Multilingualism in Scholarly Communication, which promotes the equal value of national languages alongside English in scientific communication, as well as with the Diamond Open Access Standard guidelines on multilingualism, which encourage inclusive and accessible multilingual publishing practices. In JCEA, multilingual standards are operationalised through mandatory English metadata and extended summaries for papers published in national languages, enabling both international discoverability and the preservation of professional agricultural terminology within local scientific communities. This model helps maintain agricultural terminology in national languages while ensuring that the research remains accessible to reviewers and readers beyond the local context.

A distinctive feature of JCEA is its editorial organisation. The journal is managed by national editorial boards that participate in peer review and editorial decision-making, while coordination is maintained through an international editorial structure and rotating executive responsibility. This arrangement distributes responsibility among member institutions and broadens the reviewer base, which is particularly valuable for a multidisciplinary journal covering agriculture, plant science, animal science, environmental issues, and agricultural economics. The review process is designed to ensure scientific quality while accommodating manuscripts in different languages, including clearly defined bilingual publication requirements for manuscripts written in national languages. Over time, JCEA has developed beyond its original regional focus. Although the journal continues to publish a large share of papers from member countries, it increasingly attracts authors from non-member regions, including Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. This broader geographic reach indicates that the journal's multilingual and open-access model has relevance beyond Central Europe. The journal's inclusion in major bibliographic databases such as the Web of Science Core Collection (ESCI), Scopus, CAB Abstracts, Agricola, DOAJ, and EBSCO further increases the visibility

and dissemination of published research.

The JCEA case illustrates how a scholarly journal can combine regional cooperation, multilingual publishing, and digital accessibility into a sustainable editorial model. Its experience shows that language diversity need not conflict with international scientific communication. Instead, when supported by clear editorial rules, bilingual publication standards, and strong institutional collaboration, multilingual publishing can enhance both scientific exchange and cultural continuity. In this sense, JCEA represents not only a publication outlet but also a long-term infrastructure for knowledge transfer, professional development, and the preservation of agricultural terminology in Central Europe.

KEYWORDS

agricultural sciences; digital publishing; multilingualism; scientific communication

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Sense of community, power, and Scholarly Outputs: Insights from the Researcher Mental Health Observatory STAIRCASE Survey

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ABSTRACT

Concerns about researcher mental health are increasingly recognised as closely linked to how research systems are formed and governed, yet these issues are often discussed separately from scholarly communication, inclusion, diversity, and open science practices. Academic communities are not neutral spaces: they are shaped by norms, evaluation practices, and power relations that influence who belongs, who advances, and whose work is valued. This paper uses data from the Researcher Mental Health Observatory STAIRCASE Survey (Lasser et al. 2025; Lasser et al. 2026) to explore how researchers' sense of community and experiences of power differences shape their positions within academic communities, and how these dynamics relate to research outputs across different scientific disciplines.

The data for the STAIRCASE Survey were collected with an online questionnaire between September 2023 and August 2023, and the sample comprises 4,296 researchers from various countries, primarily in Europe. It is a cross-sectional non-probability survey, but it includes researchers at different career stages and from diverse disciplinary contexts (from natural sciences and technology to social sciences and humanities), allowing for comparative perspectives.

STAIRCASE data capture a broad range of variables related to academic working conditions, including feelings of belonging and social support, perceptions of hierarchy and power asymmetries, research and publication practices, and disciplinary background. These variables make it possible to examine how academic communities include or exclude researchers in different ways, and how community boundaries are created, reinforced, or challenged through both formal and informal structures such as authorship norms, performance indicators, funding arrangements, and career hierarchies.

Using descriptive and comparative bivariate and multivariate analyses, including mean comparisons and correlations, this study examines how sense of community and perceived power asymmetries vary across disciplines and career stages, and how these patterns are connected to differences in reported research productivity and dissemination practices, including engagement with open science practices. Rather than treating research outputs solely as individual achievements, the analysis situates them within social and institutional contexts. Particular attention is paid to disciplinary cultures and their expectations of productivity, visibility, and collaboration, and to how these expectations may privilege some researchers while marginalising others. Such dynamics may strengthen community boundaries that affect not only participation and recognition, but also wellbeing and long-term career sustainability.

By placing researcher mental health within the context of inclusion, diversity, and community boundaries in scholarly communication, this contribution bridges debates that are often addressed separately. It highlights how power relations and community structures shape both research practices and the lived experiences of researchers. We argue that reforms aimed at improving research quality, openness, and integrity must also address the social organisation of research communities and the unequal distribution of power within them. Understanding how community structures influence research outputs is crucial not only for supporting researcher wellbeing, but also for building more inclusive, resilient, and trustworthy scholarly communication systems. The study also considers how open science practices may both expand access and participation, while simultaneously reproducing existing inequalities, depending on how they are implemented in different contexts. The findings are expected to inform discussions on responsible research assessment and the development of evaluation practices that recognise disciplinary diversity and non-linear career paths.

KEYWORDS

diversity; inclusion; mental health; scholarly communication; sense of community; power asymmetries

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CoreTrustSeal certification of the Repository of the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb: The first certified institutional repository in Croatia

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ABSTRACT

Digital repositories represent a key infrastructure for the storage and dissemination of scientific and educational content. Their importance increases further in the context of open science and research data management, where repositories are not only expected to ensure content availability, but also to provide long-term reliability. Such reliability includes technical stability, clearly defined procedures, and transparent management of digital objects.

CoreTrustSeal certification is one of the internationally recognised models for assessing the reliability of digital repositories. It is based on a set of 16 criteria that cover the organisational, management, and technical aspects of the repository's work and enable a systematic evaluation of its compliance with the relevant standards.

The Repository of the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb has officially received the CoreTrustSeal certificate of trustworthiness – an international recognition given to a repository that meets high standards of data management, preservation, and availability. The Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, thus became the first institution in Croatia with this certificate, and its repository is one of only 150 repositories in the world that currently possess it.

Our poster shows the process of obtaining the CoreTrustSeal certificate on the example of the Repository of the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb. The focus is on the key stages of the procedure, challenges in the preparation of documentation, and the effects of certification on the organisation and transparency of repository practices.

The development of the repository at the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb took place gradually, from local initiatives to an institutional repository integrated into the national Dabar infrastructure. Such an environment enabled the standardisation of work and ensured the technical prerequisites for long-term storage of digital content. Today, the repository includes various types of materials, including student papers, scientific publications, and research data, with a high proportion of openly accessible records.

The certification process included self-assessment according to defined criteria, the collection and structuring of evidence, and communication with international reviewers. The procedure took place iteratively, through several rounds of evaluation and refinement of documentation, with the aim of providing a clear and transparent presentation of repository practices.

One of the main challenges was related to the formalisation of existing procedures and their systematic documentation. Activities that were already part of daily work needed to

be further elaborated, clearly described, and linked with appropriate evidence. Additional challenges included harmonising different sources of information, organising documentation, and ensuring content comprehensibility in an international context.

The results show that the certification contributed to a clearer definition of responsibilities, improved documentation, and increased transparency of the repository's work. The obtained certificate confirms the repository as a reliable infrastructure for the storage and dissemination of scientific results.

The experience of the Repository of the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb shows that CoreTrustSeal certification can be successfully implemented within national infrastructure systems, with a clear division of responsibilities and effective cooperation between the institution and the technical service provider.

CoreTrustSeal certification can be seen as a development tool that encourages the systematic improvement of repository practices and contributes to their long-term sustainability in the context of open science.

KEYWORDS

CoreTrustSeal; digital repositories; certification; reliability; open science

Open Research Data capacity building: lessons from Gdańsk University of Technology

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[view poster](#) | [more info](#)

ABSTRACT

This poster presents the implementation and outcomes of activities carried out at Gdańsk University of Technology as part of “The Excellence Initiative – Research University” (IDUB) programme. The main aim of these activities was to promote and raise awareness of Open Research Data among the academic community. The work was carried out between 2024 and 2026, coordinated by the Open Science Competence Center at the Gdańsk Tech Library.

The initiative aims to promote awareness, develop skills, and strengthen competencies in research data management (RDM) within the academic community. Its primary objective is to disseminate effective methods and best practices related to publishing, sharing, and managing research data. A key element of the project is the establishment of a network of qualified data stewards who provide discipline-oriented support to researchers and doctoral candidates. Instead of focusing solely on the direct training of researchers, the project invested in a selected group of data stewards representing different disciplines across the university, including: architecture and urban planning; automation, electronics, electrical engineering, and space technologies; economics and finance; computer science and telecommunications; environmental engineering; mining and energy; biological sciences; and chemical sciences. The team of seven data stewards consisted of two librarians and five researchers. The librarians already possessed a certain level of expertise in research data management and, within the project, represented selected scientific disciplines of their choice. The team participated in targeted training delivered by internal experts, combined with opportunities for knowledge exchange and peer learning. This approach enabled the multiplication of expertise and the creation of a distributed support system embedded within faculties.

A comprehensive range of targeted activities was implemented within the programme. These activities included the systematic preparation and publication of research datasets in the open institutional repository, as well as the development of data descriptor articles to enhance the visibility, accessibility, and reusability of research data. As part of the project, over 300 dataset collections were deposited in the institutional data repository, and the team successfully developed skills in preparing data descriptor articles, resulting in several manuscripts describing their own self-created datasets, including three published in peer-reviewed journals (<https://pg.edu.pl/en/openscience/idub-activities/data-descriptors>).

One of the programme’s key achievements was the development of seven model Data Management Plans (DMPs) tailored to selected research disciplines, providing concrete, discipline-specific guidance and serving as reference frameworks for researchers (<https://pg.edu.pl/en/openscience/idub-activities/data-management-plan-templates>). In parallel, the team conducted a structured review of data sharing practices across selected scientific disciplines, producing analytical overviews that identify common standards,

challenges, and domain-specific approaches to open data (<https://pg.edu.pl/centrum-kompetencji-otwartej-nauki/dzialania-idub/przeglاد-dyscyplin>).

Capacity-building efforts were supported through an extensive series of training sessions and workshops delivered throughout the programme (<https://pg.edu.pl/centrum-kompetencji-otwartej-nauki/dzialania-idub/materialy-szkoleniowe>). These activities were complemented by the development of an open online course on Data Management Planning, designed to ensure long-term accessibility of the knowledge generated (<https://pg.edu.pl/en/openscience/idub-activities/course-data-management-planning>). Together, these initiatives significantly contributed to disseminating standards and best practices for open and responsible research data management, while also supporting researchers in the practical implementation of DMPs and data publication strategies.

By showcasing a practical example of capacity building, this poster highlights the role of data stewards as catalysts for Open Science communities. Data stewards play a crucial role in supporting the research lifecycle. Their responsibilities include providing discipline-specific guidance on data management planning, data curation, repository selection, and compliance with funder and publisher requirements. Through the programme, participants were equipped not only with technical knowledge but also with the practical skills necessary to translate Open Science policies into discipline-specific practices.

The experience of the Gdańsk University of Technology demonstrates the importance of institutional support, targeted training, and community engagement in advancing Open Research Data practices. The presented case study may serve as a model for other research institutions seeking to develop or expand their Open Science strategies. In conclusion, the described initiative represents a comprehensive approach to strengthening research data management and promoting Open Science.

KEYWORDS

Data Stewards; Data Stewardship; Open Research Data; Open Science; Research Data Management

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Researchers for Diamond Open Access: Theory vs. Practice

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ABSTRACT

Diamond Open Access, a scholarly publishing model that involves no fees for authors or readers, is often regarded as an ethical and fair ideal of Open Access publishing due to its (potential) contribution to inclusivity and epistemic justice (Andringa et al., 2024; Fuchs & Sandoval, 2013). Although this ideal hinges on Diamond Open Access being global, Diamond Open Access publishing is not evenly spread across the geographical regions or disciplines. In terms of geographic representation, the highest percentage of Diamond Open Access publishing venues is found in Latin America and Eastern European countries, while other regions show much lower prevalence (Bosman et al., 2021). In terms of disciplinary representation, the highest percentage is found in the Humanities and Social Sciences, followed by the Sciences and then Medicine (Bosman et al., 2021). Discussions around Diamond Open Access commonly centre on current problems faced by authors and journals, as well as the model's sustainability (Bosman et al., 2021; Subaveerapandiyana et al., 2025). Nonetheless, despite these short-term and long-term challenges, Diamond Open Access continues to be the ideal publishing model that many individuals in the Open Science community (Cavalli, 2025) and institutions strive for, as evidenced within the European context by the cOAlition S consortium and the European Diamond Capacity Hub.

Here, we are concerned with the current complexities of navigating Open Access publishing from the perspective of authors actively researching or promoting Diamond Open Access. If authors actively promote Diamond Open Access, a naïve reader may reasonably assume that these authors publish their articles predominantly or even exclusively in Diamond Open Access journals. The reality, however, is unlikely to be this simple, as where an article ends up being published is commonly influenced by factors that go beyond an individual author's attitude towards different publishing models. These additional factors range from the availability of these publishing models within the author's discipline, to top-down pressures such as requirements from funders and the author's institution, and horizontal pressures from peers and collaborators, such as disciplinary norms and co-authors' attitudes.

A first step toward recognising what other factors influence where an author who supports Diamond Open Access chooses to publish is to establish where such supporters of Diamond Open Access ultimately publish their work. Thus, in this study, we aim to map out the Open Access status of publishing venues used by authors who publish on Diamond Open Access. To do so, we focus on all articles with a title and abstract available in English that mention the term 'Diamond Open Access' in their title, regardless of discipline, and which can, based on their abstract, be classified as having an overall positive or somewhat positive attitude towards Diamond Open Access publishing. For these articles, we extract the information on the journal and record its Open Access status. Additionally, we extract information on the corresponding author of these articles

and on where this author's subsequent articles are published. We will present these results descriptively and discuss possible explanations and implications. The results of this study can serve as the basis for further investigations, including surveys on authors' decision-making processes and challenges with Diamond Open Access publishing, in order to help work towards equitable publishing systems that take into account geographical, disciplinary, and other forms of diversity.

KEYWORDS

Diamond Open Access; Diversity; Inclusivity; Open Science; Scholarly publishing

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AI in Scientific Publishing: Support or Subversion?

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ABSTRACT

The integration of technology into science in general and scientific publishing, including both academic writing by scientists and the preparation of publications by publishers, has been a well-established practice since the mid-20th century. Over many decades, academic writing has been supported by personal computer applications for formatting, data visualisation, grammar checking, and, recently, predictive text (supported by online services). These tools are now universally accepted, and their use is generally not viewed as a threat to academic integrity (Perlo, 2026). Artificial Intelligence (AI) represents only the latest technological evolution designed to support the scientific community and its core activities.

Recently, the accessibility of AI tools, online and offline, has accelerated the integration of AI into various scientific fields. Earlier computer systems, including expert systems, have been superseded by machine learning, deep learning, chatbots, and generative AI. Researchers now use AI tools like chatbots to develop research protocols and plans, process research data, and validate empirical results. AI tools also assist in conducting literature reviews, manuscript preparation by refining grammar, particularly for non-native speakers of English, automating citation creation, and extracting insights from a large number of information resources (Ajiye & Omokhabi, 2025), including already published academic papers and books available online, mostly in open access. These AI tools also facilitate the visualisation of research results, content summarisation and restructuring, and the generation of abstracts and multimedia (Kocak, 2024). AI has also been used in the peer review process for finding potential reviewers and detecting instances of plagiarism, but it has also introduced issues around accountability and transparency, as well as reviewers' bias, so human oversight is still necessary (Ateriya et al., 2025).

The rise in the use of generative AI tools for content creation blurs the distinction between original authorship and machine-created content intended for publishing. Over-reliance on AI tools may lead to academic dishonesty and a loss of intellectual rigour by undermining critical thinking and writing skills (Ajiye & Omokhabi, 2025). Major concerns additionally include ethical dilemmas throughout the research lifecycle, such as fairness, justice, and accountability (Vuyani, 2025), as well as reproducing biases, spreading misinformation, plagiarism, and lack of transparency (Cárdenas, 2026), as well as intellectual property issues (Ajiye & Omokhabi, 2025; What is publication ethics?; Ateriya et al., 2025).

The expanded use of AI tools in scientific publishing appears inevitable for both authors and publishers. To support researchers, journals should establish clear guidelines for the use of such technology. As Kocak (2024) notes, drafting these guidelines is difficult because ethical boundaries are rarely "black and white." Nevertheless, formal guidance

is essential; a lack of regulation may encourage the proliferation of “paper mills”, which produce AI-generated manuscripts often based on fraudulent research, and other forms of misconduct.

This poster examines the author’s dilemma regarding the use of AI-supported tools in scientific publishing. It is based on a literature review and cases of publicly available AI resources or tools used by scientists during academic manuscript preparation and by journals and scientific publishers to validate received manuscripts and to support publishing processes.

KEYWORDS

Academic writing; AI tools; Ethical use of AI tools; Scientific publishing

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Building a Transnational Research Community in Central and Eastern European Life Sciences: The Contribution of the University of Zagreb School of Medicine to the Alliance4Life_BRIDGE Project

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ABSTRACT

The persistent research and innovation gap between Western and Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries cannot be reduced solely through funding schemes or policy mandates. Sustainable change requires functioning communities of practice: networks of institutions, researchers, mentors, and societal actors that share infrastructures, knowledge, and standards in an open and responsible manner. Alliance4Life_BRIDGE (A4L_BRIDGE; Horizon Europe, Grant Agreement 101136453) brings together progressive life-science and medical research institutions from CEE countries with the aim of strengthening research excellence, institutional reform, and doctoral training (Alliance4Life, 2024; European Commission, 2024).

This contribution presents the role of the University of Zagreb School of Medicine (UZSM), the Croatian partner institution in A4L_BRIDGE, with a particular focus on scholarly communication, open infrastructures, and shared governance of doctoral education as activities that illustrate how shared infrastructures can reshape research culture and scholarly communication practices.

A central component is the development of two alliance-wide infrastructures coordinated by UZSM: the Database of Mentors and the Database of Thesis Committee Members.

These openly searchable databases enable partner institutions to identify international experts for doctoral supervision and doctoral thesis committees. Their purpose is not only administrative, but structural: reducing academic inbreeding, increasing transparency in doctoral evaluation, and enabling transnational peer review and mentorship across institutional and national borders, thus operationalising the recommendations of the European Charter for Researchers (European Commission, 2005).

The second major element is the Virtual Research Centre (VRC), an online platform connecting researchers through thematic departments that organise online seminars, journal clubs, mini-conferences, and collaborative activities. UZSM researchers coordinate departments in cardiovascular research and membrane biochemistry (Sedlić, 2025a), while the platform also channels researchers towards Seed Fund and Open Call instruments intended to stimulate new collaborative projects and generate preliminary data for larger competitive proposals. The experience of the VRC demonstrates how a virtual community can convert dispersed expertise into joint research planning and shared publications.

Third focus area concerns capacity building in doctoral education and research integrity through workshops for doctoral programme directors and early-career mentors, organised in collaboration with ORPHEUS, complemented by an e-learning platform that hosts educational resources openly accessible across partner institutions (ORPHEUS et al., 2012). These and other collaborative activities underscore how European university alliances like UNIC or YUFE and thematic research alliances such as Alliance4Life are complementary communities of internationalisation (Sedlić, 2025b).

Three lessons emerge from these first years of implementation. First, durable Open Science communities in CEE depend less on isolated open-access mandates and more on shared, openly governed infrastructures such as mentor databases, virtual research environments, and common educational resources. Second, doctoral education represents a strategically important dimension of open scholarly communication because transnational mentorship and committee composition influence research quality, integrity, and institutional culture. Third, smaller national research communities benefit disproportionately from participation in transnational alliances that share governance, responsibility, and infrastructure. The UZSM experience within A4L_BRIDGE thus offers a transferable model of how a single institution can both contribute to and benefit from a community-driven approach to Open Science in the life sciences.

KEYWORDS

Alliance4Life; Central and Eastern Europe; doctoral education; open science; power asymmetries; research community; shared infrastructures

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WORKSHOPS

Generative AI and Law: Copyright Challenges from Training Data to AI Outputs

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ABSTRACT

Generative AI is transforming the way knowledge is created, accessed and disseminated while simultaneously challenging fundamental principles of copyright law. This workshop provides a structured overview of the legal issues surrounding generative AI, following the lifecycle of AI systems—from the use of protected works as training data to the legal implications of AI-generated outputs.

The first part focuses on AI inputs, examining the copyright framework governing the training of generative AI models. It presents a comparative legal analysis of the approaches adopted in the European Union and other leading jurisdictions, reviews the most significant court cases and ongoing litigation, and discusses the practical implications of the EU Text and Data Mining (TDM) exceptions, with particular emphasis on Articles 3 and 4 of the DSM Directive. A Slovenian case study illustrates how these legal issues are emerging in practice and what they mean for research organisations and libraries.

The second part addresses AI outputs, exploring questions of authorship, the copyright protection of AI-generated content, and the broader legal challenges arising from the use of generative AI.

The workshop concludes with an overview of the forthcoming European debate on copyright and generative AI. It examines why legislative reform is increasingly considered necessary, what evidence the European Commission is currently gathering, the expectations of different stakeholders, and the possible directions of future policy.

The final discussion highlights the strategic importance of developing sovereign European generative AI and the central role of the mandatory research Text and Data Mining exception under Article 3 of the DSM Directive in enabling innovation, supporting research infrastructures, and strengthening Europe's digital and technological sovereignty.

Among the countries to be analysed, Slovenia has already adopted some of the most advanced open science strategies in the EU, supported by legislative measures such as rights retention obligations and the secondary right to publication included in the Scientific Research and Innovation Act (ZZrID). These provisions strengthen the ability of researchers to retain key substantive copyright rights in negotiations with publishers, allowing them to publish their research results in open access, thereby accelerating the practical implementation of open science principles. The Slovenian approach can serve as a valuable model for other countries in the region.

The project "Mapping of Open Science" is supported by the Knowledge Rights 21 (KR21) and conducted by the Open Data and Intellectual Property Institute in cooperation with members of the KR21 Regional Alliance.

Turning scientific journals into semantic knowledge systems using artificial intelligence

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ABSTRACT

The value of a scientific journal lies not only in its individual articles, but in the body of knowledge they collectively create. Although scholarly publishing has become largely digital, its underlying infrastructure remains primarily focused on storing and retrieving individual documents. Most journals provide access to content through PDF files and keyword-based search, while more advanced publishing platforms additionally publish articles in structured XML format to support interoperability and indexing in international bibliographic databases. However, the full potential of this structured content remains largely untapped. Advances in artificial intelligence (AI) now make it possible to leverage the same infrastructure for a new role for journals – not merely as repositories of publications, but as active knowledge systems.

Using the journal *Cardiologia Croatica* as a case study, this workshop presents the transformation of more than 2,000 peer-reviewed articles published over the past decade into a semantic knowledge system. The textual content of structured XML records was converted into vector embeddings and stored in a vector database, enabling semantic retrieval across the journal's entire archive based on meaning and conceptual relationships rather than keywords alone. This allows users to identify related publications regardless of differences in terminology, trace the evolution of scientific topics over time, and uncover relationships among authors, concepts, and publications that remain hidden using conventional search methods. The platform combines traditional and AI-enabled approaches to accessing scientific content. In addition to browsing by author, keyword, and publication year, it enables semantic literature searches using natural language. There is a conversational AI agent, based on a Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) architecture, which was trained on retrieving relevant sections of the journal's corpus and exclusively uses journal insights to generate responses. The same infrastructure also supports AI-generated educational flashcards, interactive clinical case presentations, and chronological visualisations of the development of scientific topics and the contributions of individual publications.

Alongside presenting the system architecture and implementation process, the workshop will discuss the applicability of this approach to other scientific journals, institutional repositories, and digital archives. The broader adoption of this model has the potential to transform traditional literature archives from collections of individual publications into dynamic knowledge infrastructures that provide more personalised access to scientific research, education, and scientific knowledge.

Whose journal is it anyway? Workshop on journal ownership

Convened by **Milica Ševkušić**, **Sofie Wennström**, and **Johan Rooryck**.

ABSTRACT

Current work on the Diamond Discovery Hub (DDH) at the European Diamond Capacity Hub has revealed that journal ownership is one of the most significant hurdles for journals to comply with the six operational criteria that determine admission to the DDH.

The criterion specifies that journals should be “community-owned”, and community ownership is defined as “The journal title must be owned by public or not-for-profit organisations (or parts thereof) whose mission includes performing or promoting research and scholarship. These include but are not limited to research performing organisations (RPOs), research funding organisations (RFOs), organisations connected to RPOs (university libraries, university presses, faculties, and departments), research institutes, and scholarly societies. The journal should explain its ownership status on its webpage”.

In many cases, journal editors and publishers have never given thought to ownership, because they see their contributions to the journal as community service and part of their tasks as scholars. This situation has led many Diamond journals to be taken over by commercial publishers with little or no pushback. A strong and resilient Diamond OA ecosystem needs to make sure that Diamond OA journals are legally owned so that predatory takeovers can be effectively resisted.

In addition, within the Diamond OA community, questions arise as to what ownership of a journal title really means when all of its content is CC BY. Under that view, the journal is then just the thread that binds these articles together, and there is nothing to own. However, it can be argued that every journal has a bundle of intangible assets. These assets include the journal title, its ISSN, its aims and scope, its database of authors and reviewers, its archives, its governance and organisation, editorial and publishing policies, and its social capital in the journal’s community. Together, these do represent a set of identifiable resources that can be owned by a legal entity.

In this workshop, we will invite a number of specialists to discuss their perspectives on the issues of determining journal ownership, focusing on four aspects:

What are the practical difficulties encountered by a DDH Trusted Source in identifying journal ownership?

What are the practical solutions for handling journal ownership?

What mechanisms can help balance potential tensions between editorial independence and ownership?

How can we define what assets are “owned” when “journal ownership” is discussed?



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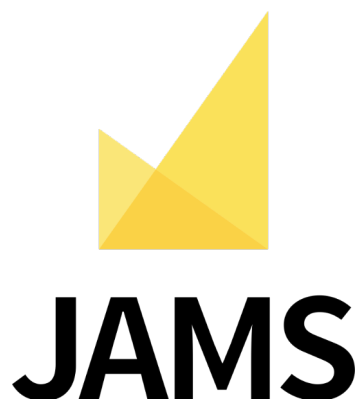


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