ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΔΥΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΤΤΙΚΗΣ
Τμήμα Αρχειονομίας,
Βιβλιοθηκονομίας και
Συστημάτων Πληροφόρησης

Academic Libraries as Open Science Communities in the European Research Landscape

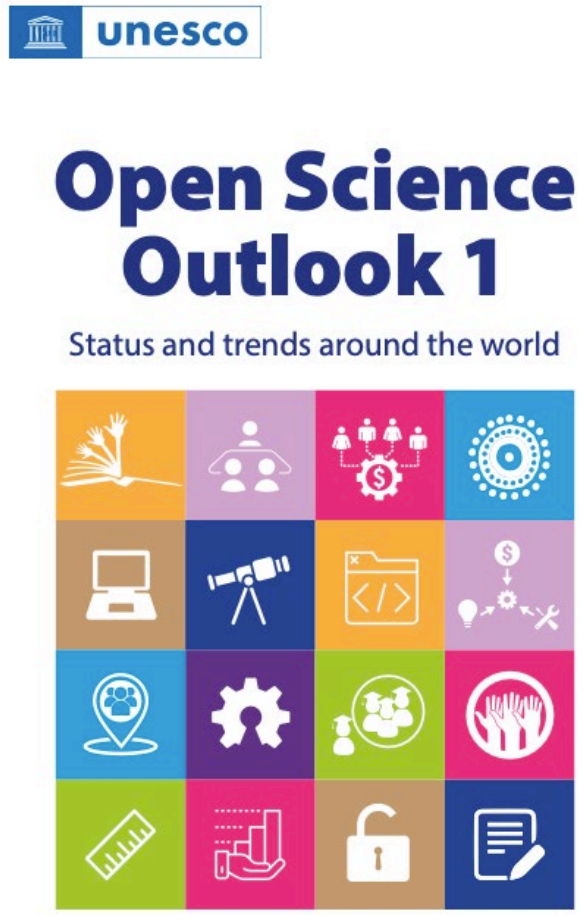
Evidence from a scoping review

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University of West Attica
11 September 2026 · Zadar, Croatia

PUBMET 2026

What we already know: adoption is uneven

- Inequality in the global starting point
- Disparities in Open Science infrastructure
- Financial barriers in open publishing
- Divergent regional priorities
- Academic libraries named as key stakeholders in the 2021 UNESCO Recommendation



MAIN RESEARCH QUESTION

What is the reported evidence on how Academic Libraries within the European research landscape conceptualise and implement Open Science?

From the question to the Conference themes

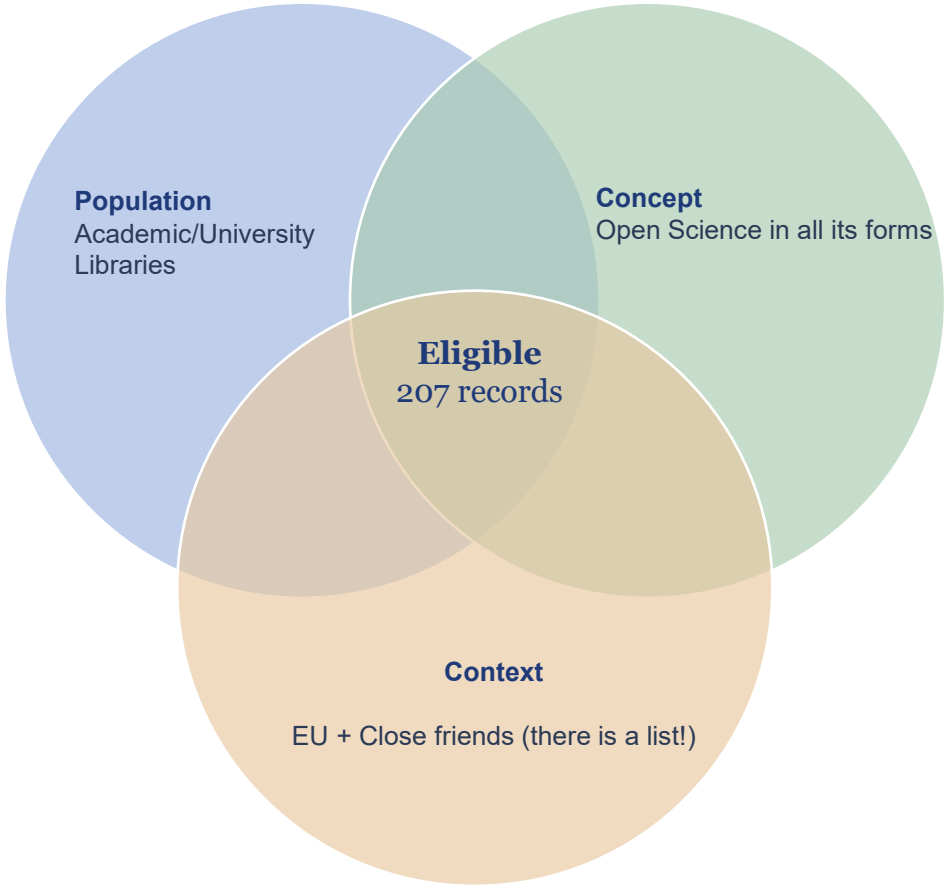
What is the reported evidence on how Academic Libraries within the European research landscape conceptualise and implement Open Science?

- Presentation of Existing Communities
- Community Ownership & Governance
- Shared Responsibilities, Ethics and Evaluation

SCOPING REVIEW · METHOD

Inclusion Criteria

PCC criteria, registered protocol on OSF (zxs38); PRISMA-ScR; Arksey and O'Malley with JBI guidance



11,540 records retrieved, four databases

7,629 after deduplication, screened in ASReview

263 agreed relevant at Title/Abstract Screening

207 eligible after full-text charting

Characteristics of included records (n = 207)

Characteristic	Category	n	%
Publication type	Journal article	159	76.8
	Conference paper	32	15.5
	Other (report, magazine, thesis)	12	5.8
	Book chapter	4	1.9
Language of publication	English	109	52.7
	German	54	26.1
	Other European language	34	16.4
	Spanish	10	4.8
Year of publication	2014 to 2018	74	35.7
	2019 to 2022	59	28.5
	2023 to 2026	74	35.7
Geographic tier (Annex A)	Tier 1: EU member state	168	81.2
	Tier 2: extended European scope	37	17.9
	Multi-national, tier not assignable	2	1.0

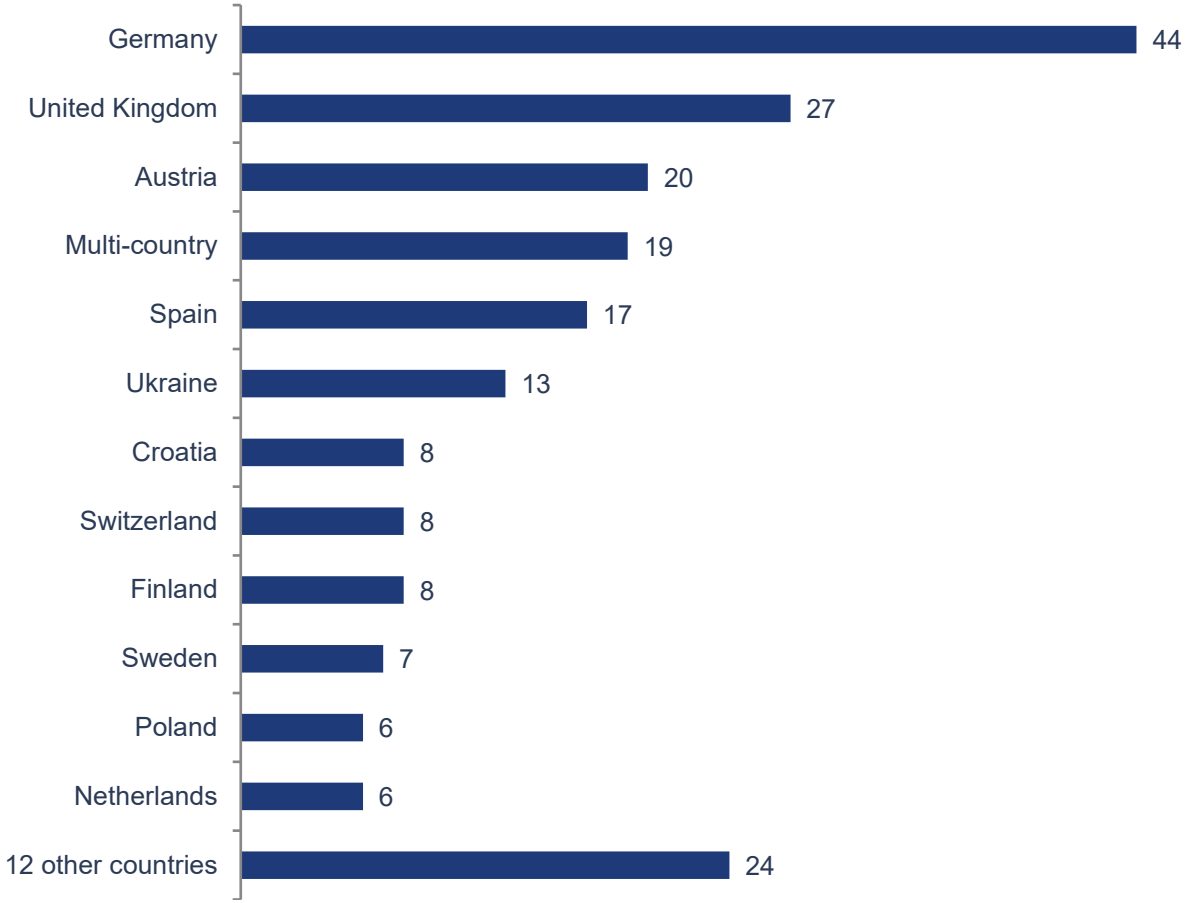
Characteristic	Category	n	%
Institutional context	Single institution	102	49.3
	National	67	32.4
	Multi-institution or consortium	21	10.1
	Multi-national	17	8.2
Type of study	Descriptive, no study design	109	52.7
	Quantitative	44	21.3
	Conceptual or positional	22	10.6
	Mixed methods	17	8.2
	Qualitative	15	7.2
Primary Open Science aspect (11a)	Open access and publications (OS1)	86	41.5
	Research data (OS2)	44	21.3
	Open Science in general (OS0)	29	14.0
	Open educational resources (OS6)	16	7.7
	Citizen science and engagement (OS9)	13	6.3
	Open infrastructure (OS8)	11	5.3
	Other pillar (OS3, OS4, OS5)	8	3.9

Theme 1

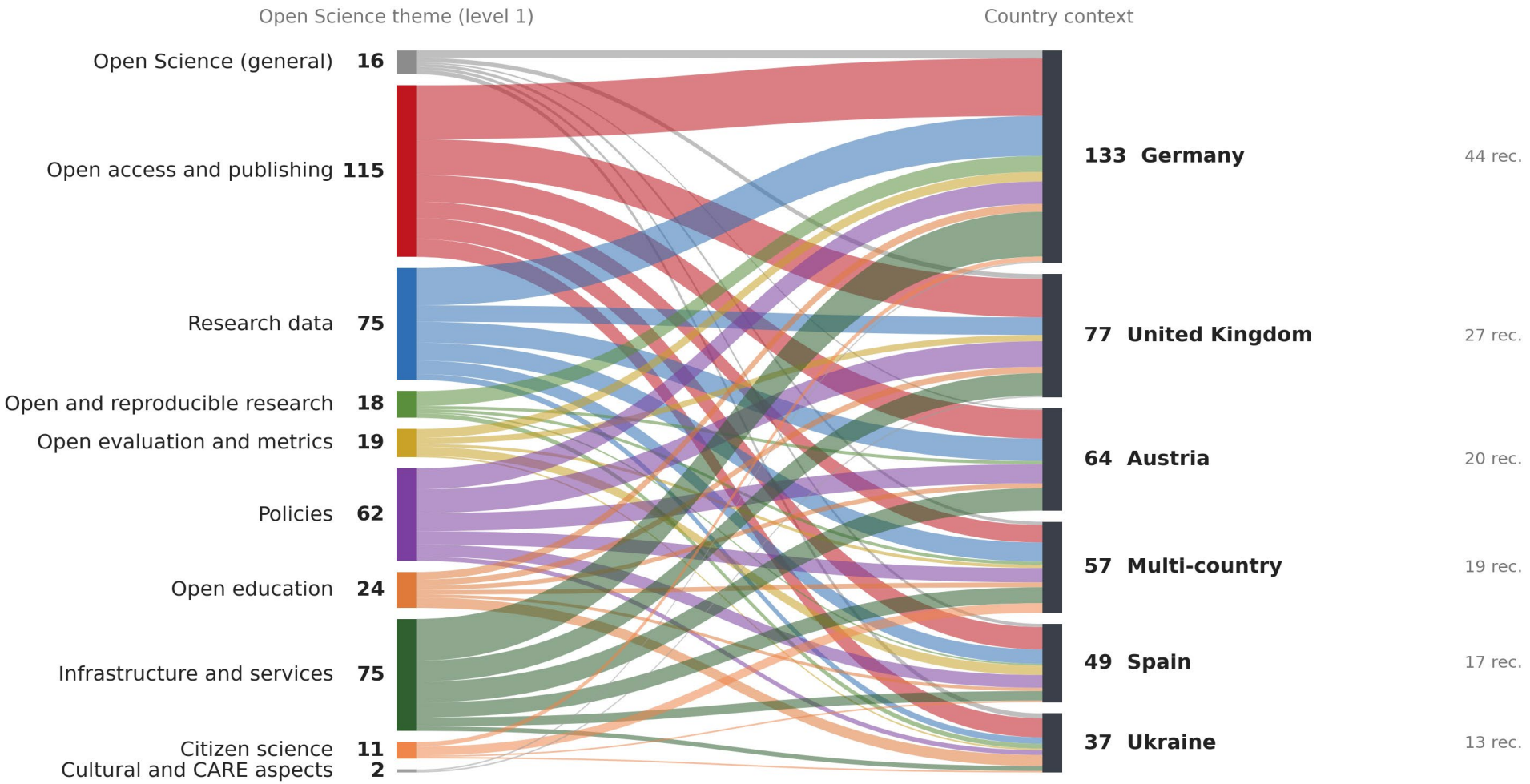
Presentation of Existing Communities

Mapping the evidence base

Records by primary country context.



Which themes flow to which countries



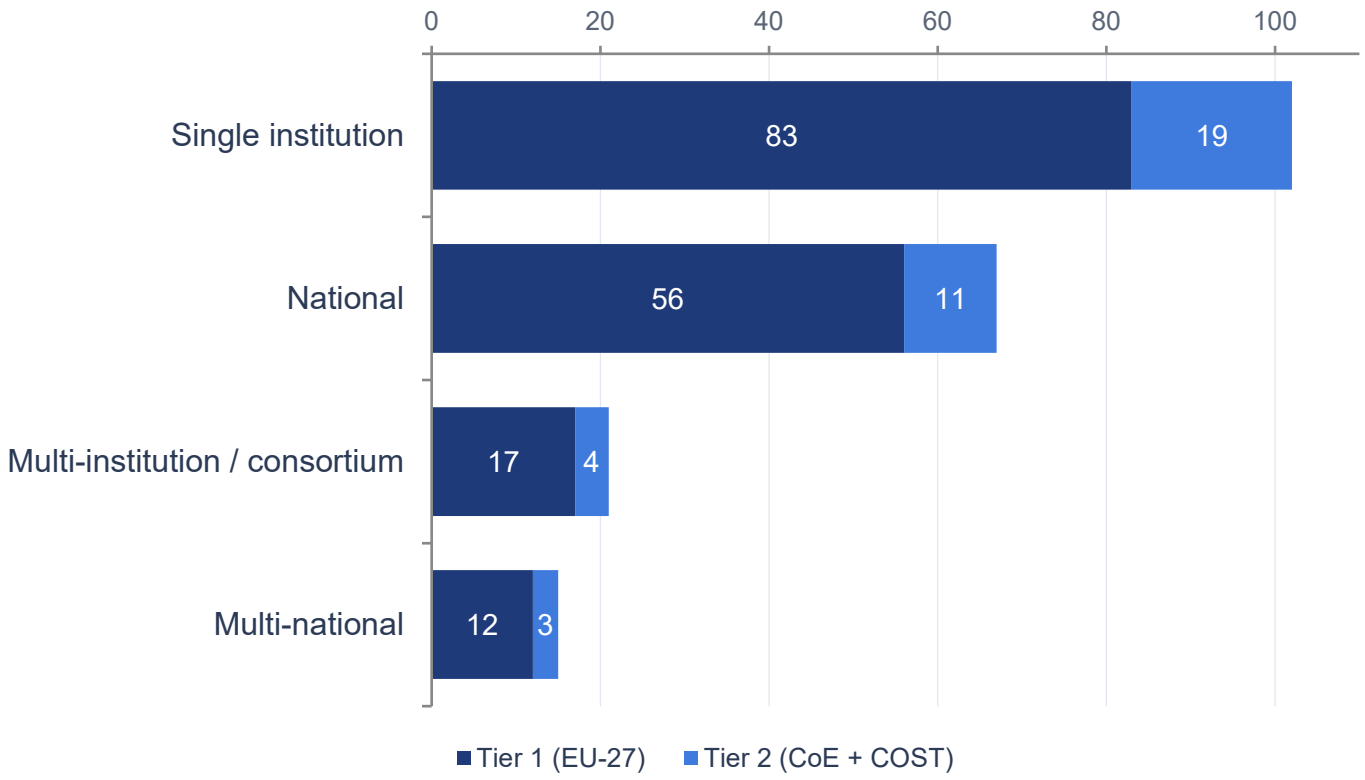
Theme 2

Community Ownership and Governance

THEME 2 · COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Who owns the infrastructure?

Institutional context of the 207 eligible records, by Annex A tier of the primary setting



THE INFRASTRUCTURE MOST OFTEN REPORTED

Research data management services
OS2.2.3 · 75 records

Institutional repositories
OS1.1.3.1 · 57 records

WHAT MAKES OWNERSHIP POSSIBLE

62% name collaboration or a consortium as an enabler

24% where the library sits in the organisation

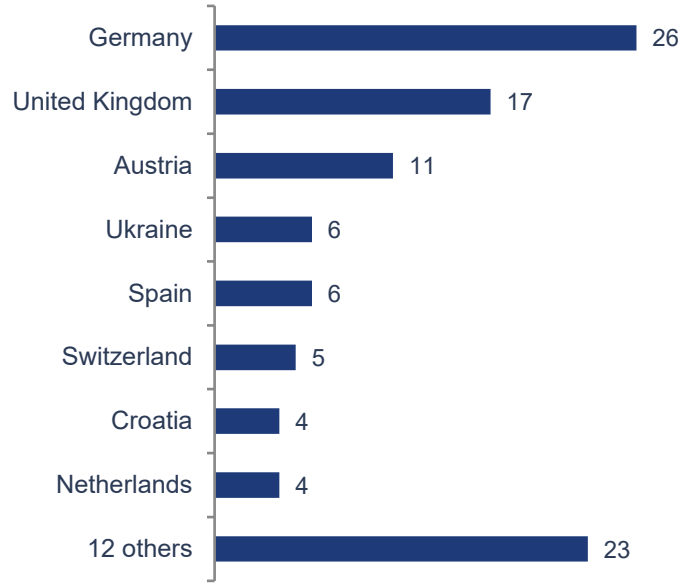
22% leadership or senior sponsorship

THEME 2 · COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

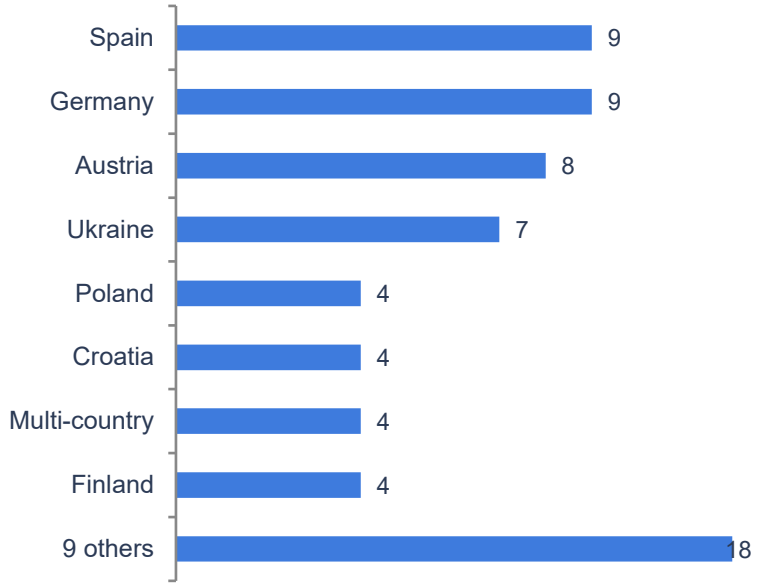
Who owns what, and where

The 102 single-institution and 67 national-scope records: where they come from, what kind of national work, and which infrastructure the library itself runs (field 14)

Single institution · 102 · by country



National scope · 67 · by country



What the library runs · records

Class of tool	Single	National
Repository platform	39	17
National infrastructure (named)	23	18
CRIS	16	14
Publishing platform (OJS, OMP)	14	8
DMP tool	11	1

Theme 3

Shared Responsibilities, Ethics and Evaluation

Enabling factors and barriers reported (n = 207)

Enabling factor (field 16)	n	%
Policy and regulation	150	72.5
Collaboration and consortia	128	61.8
Funding	95	45.9
Infrastructure and tools	94	45.4
Existing capacity	88	42.5
Skills and expertise	68	32.9
Organisational placement	49	23.7
Leadership and sponsorship	45	21.7
Staffing	36	17.4
Incentives	35	16.9
Norms and culture	12	5.8
External event	12	5.8
Other	*144*	*69.6*

Barrier or challenge (field 17)	n	%
Funding and sustainability	95	45.9
Infrastructure and tools	94	45.4
Staffing and time	75	36.2
Awareness	68	32.9
Norms and culture	66	31.9
Skills	59	28.5
Policy and regulation	51	24.6
Legal and ethical	49	23.7
Incentives	39	18.8
Definitional instability	33	15.9
Evidence and measurement	26	12.6
Organisation and governance	25	12.1
Publisher and market	22	10.6
Disciplinary heterogeneity	20	9.7
Recognition	18	8.7
External event	7	3.4
Other	*160*	*77.3*
NR	*3*	*1.4*

Funding as an enabler and a barrier

As an enabling factor

“A national agreement means that the research-intensive universities will not be alone in bearing the costs for the transition”

Söderbergh Widding, 2024 · Sweden · consortial negotiation of open access agreements

As a barrier

“The main burden of financing this path to open access falls to the universities, their libraries, and their budgets”

Hacker, 2023 · Switzerland · national open access strategy

CONCLUDING REMARKS

More questions than answers

- Research data is everywhere; open and reproducible research is thin. Why?
- Citizen science and cultural and CARE aspects are barely present
- Do libraries have a responsibility to do more, or are we at the limit of what we can do?
- Building more OS support means developing skills for Academic Librarians

Limitation: What is documented is not all that is practised.

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Thank you!

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BACKUP · METHOD

The search string

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Population: (academic OR universit* OR "higher education" OR college* OR research)  W/3  librar*  AND  Concept: about ninety open science terms, in six groups
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Open access and scholarly communication

"open access" · "open science" · gold / green / diamond OA · preprint* · APC · "open publishing" · "scholarly communication" · "transformative agreement"

Research data and FAIR

"research data management" · RDM · "open data" · "data sharing" · "data reuse" · "data curation" · "FAIR principles" · "CARE principles"

Evaluation and review

"open peer review" · "open review" · altmetric* · bibliometric* · "open metric*" · "open evaluation" · "responsible evaluation"

Open education

OER · "open educational resources" · "open textbook*"

Infrastructure and reproducibility

repositor* · "open repository" · "open infrastructure" · "open source" · reproducibilit* · "open protocol*" · "preregistrat*" · "registered report*"

Rights, policy, citizen science

copyright · licens* · "creative commons" · "author rights" · "right* retention" · "open polic*" · "open access mandate*" · "citizen science" · "participatory science" · "open innovation"

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Second clause: (training OR workshop* OR advocacy OR outreach OR instruction OR seminar* OR webinar* OR "capacity building" OR "professional development" OR "skills development")  W/5  <open science terms>
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Scopus master; W/3 becomes N3 in EBSCOhost and NEAR/3 in Web of Science and ProQuest; TS= rather than ALL= in Web of Science because of the 49-operator cap. Peer reviewed against the PRESS checklist by two reviewers. No geographic qualifiers: the search is global and Europe is isolated at screening against Annex A.