PUBMET2025

The 12th Conference on Scholarly Communication
in the context of Open Science

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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PUBMET2025

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INTRODUCTION

Dear colleagues,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 12th PUBMET Conference on Scholarly Communication in the Context of Open Science (PUBMET2025), held from 11–12 September 2025 at the University of Zagreb Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology.

For more than a decade, PUBMET has been a meeting point for researchers, librarians, publishers, editors, students, policymakers, and all those passionate about open science and the future of scholarly communication. Each year we have gathered to share knowledge, exchange experiences, and inspire one another to rethink and reshape the systems that govern research. This year, we turn our focus to one of the most essential questions: What makes scholarly communication and research high-quality in the era of open science?

The programme of PUBMET2025 reflects this theme across eight diverse sessions, bringing together keynote lectures, short presentations, posters, and interactive panels. Together, we will explore topics such as quality in peer review and research assessment, legal frameworks for open science, reform of research systems, education and awareness, data sharing and reuse, diamond open access, infrastructures and tools, and the evolving standards of scholarly publishing.

We are honoured to be joined by distinguished keynote speakers Jadranka Stojanovski, Ana Lazarova, Merle Jacob, Mikael Laakso and Livia Puljak, who will each bring their expertise and perspectives to this important dialogue.

Organised by the Croatian Association for Scholarly Communication – ZNAK; Ruđer Bošković Institute; University of Zadar, Department of Information Sciences; University of Zagreb, Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology; University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences; University of Rijeka, Faculty of Medicine; University of Zagreb, School of Medicine; and Dubrava University Hospital, PUBMET2025 continues the tradition of fostering collaboration and dialogue with the support of many partners and friends from the European open-science community.

We hope this Book of Abstracts serves as both a guide and a record of the ideas, projects, and initiatives shared during PUBMET2025. May it inspire new collaborations, spark discussions, and contribute to advancing the quality, integrity, and openness of scholarly communication.

Thank you for being part of PUBMET2025. We wish you an engaging, thought-provoking, and enjoyable conference experience.

On behalf of the Organising Committee,

Martina Žugaj
Ruđer Bošković Institute

Ivana Končić
Ruđer Bošković Institute

KEYNOTE
PRESENTATIONS

Beyond Proxies: Re-Evaluating Quality in Scholarly Communication for Meaningful Research Assessment

Jadranka Stojanovski

University of Zadar

ABSTRACT

Quality in scholarly communication is a multifaceted and contested concept. For decades, the academic community has relied heavily on a limited set of quantitative indicators—publication counts, citation metrics, journal rankings, or publisher prestige—as shorthand measures of quality. These indicators have undoubtedly shaped academic cultures, career progression, and funding decisions, but their use as proxies for quality is problematic. They capture only a narrow dimension of scholarly activity, often distort incentives, and can inadvertently reward quantity over substance. Reliance on such indicators has also contributed to practices such as "publish or perish", citation gaming, and overemphasis on journal brands rather than the content of research itself.

A more comprehensive understanding recognises that quality is embedded in practices, infrastructures, and cultures. It is not a static label applied at the point of publication, but a dynamic property that spans the entire research lifecycle. Quality must therefore be understood both as a process—how research is designed, conducted, reported, disseminated, and preserved—and as an outcome, in terms of credibility, reliability, and societal relevance.

In this presentation, I will discuss a six-dimensional framework of quality that seeks to make this complexity more visible.

- Research quality encompasses rigour, reproducibility, originality, and ethical conduct. These features are fundamental to trustworthy knowledge creation and include robust methodological design, appropriate analysis, and adherence to established ethical standards.

- Reporting quality highlights the clarity, transparency, and completeness with which research is described. Adherence to reporting guidelines, transparent disclosure of limitations, and correct referencing are essential for enabling others to evaluate and reuse results.

- Publication and editorial quality refers to the integrity of the publishing process: fair and transparent peer review, strong editorial oversight, and reliable production processes including metadata accuracy and correction mechanisms. It also includes openness in licensing and the use of persistent identifiers.

- Communication quality concerns accessibility and dissemination. Research should be written clearly, made available in multiple languages where possible, and presented in ways that engage broader audiences, including policymakers, practitioners, and the public.

- Infrastructure and process quality acknowledge the technical and organisational environments that underpin scholarship. This involves FAIR-compliant data practices, sustainable repositories, transparent governance, and inclusive community ownership of infrastructures.

- Cultural and ethical quality captures the values and norms shaping research: integrity, equity, diversity, inclusiveness, and the safeguarding of academic freedom.

Peer review remains a central pillar of scholarly communication and evaluation. Within this framework, it can be seen in two complementary ways. First, it is a tool for evaluating research outputs, ensuring that research outputs are scrutinised for rigour, novelty, originality, and ethical soundness. Second, peer review itself must be recognised as a subject of quality assessment. Processes vary widely in fairness, transparency, timeliness, and constructiveness, and new models such as open peer review, post-publication commentary, and community-based reviewing are emerging to strengthen accountability and inclusiveness.

Over the past decade, numerous international initiatives have challenged the dominance of metrics and advanced Responsible Research Assessment (RRA). The San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) (2012) argues against using journal-based metrics to evaluate individuals. The Leiden Manifesto (2015) sets out ten principles for the responsible use of metrics, emphasising context, transparency, and diversity. The Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) (2022) brings institutions together to implement reforms in practice, encouraging narrative CVs, recognition of broader contributions, and reduced dependence on journal prestige. More recently, the Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information (2024) has underlined the importance of open, transparent, and auditable data sources to ensure accountability in assessment. Collectively, these initiatives point towards qualitative, contextualised, and plural approaches to evaluation, recognising a wide range of contributions including datasets, software, community service, mentoring, and engagement.

The rise of Open Access publishing has been a milestone in widening access and visibility. Yet, it has not resolved systemic inequalities, as high article processing charges can exclude some researchers and institutions. Nor has it dismantled the commercial dominance of a handful of large publishers. To move beyond access alone, the broader agenda of Open Science must be embraced, incorporating open data, open methodologies, open peer review, and the FAIR principles. These practices reinforce transparency, reproducibility, and inclusivity, and align research more closely with societal needs.

Ultimately, research assessment must evolve alongside research itself. The

assessment of quality should reflect the diversity of scholarly outputs, value contributions across the full spectrum of knowledge creation, and ensure fairness, particularly for early-career researchers and those in underrepresented regions or disciplines. It must also strengthen trust in science by embedding integrity, accountability, and openness at every stage.

By moving beyond proxies and embracing a multidimensional view, research communities can build responsible research assessment systems that are more equitable, sustainable, and aligned with the true purposes of scholarship: advancing knowledge, nurturing people and communities, supporting research cultures, and contributing positively to society.

KEYWORDS

Responsible Research Assessment (RRA); Research quality; Metric Indicators; Peer review; Open science; Scholarly communication

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Open Science and the Legal Regime of Scholarly Publications

Ana Lazarova

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ABSTRACT

The presentation will explore the Secondary Publication Right (SPR) as a promising legal instrument to remedy the systemic access barriers in the European academic publishing landscape. Despite the European Union's persistent efforts to foster open science and ensure the accessibility of publicly funded research, existing soft-law strategies and funding conditions have proven insufficient to achieve the intended goals of open, equitable access to scientific outputs across Member States and disciplines.

In response to these persisting challenges, several EU Member States – Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, France, Belgium, and more recently Bulgaria and Slovenia – have adopted legislative mechanisms to allow academic authors to republish their work via institutional or other not-for-profit repositories. These national SPR regimes vary in their legal framing, however, they universally serve to rebalance power asymmetries between researchers and publishers by providing authors with a legal basis to disseminate their work more openly and independently. The SPR has a dual function – on the one hand, it empowers researchers to legally disseminate their own work, thus enhancing the visibility and citability of publicly funded research; and on the other, it supports broader public access to information and knowledge by promoting non-commercial dissemination beyond traditional publishing channels.

On the other hand, Secondary Publication Obligations (SPOs) impose a legal duty on authors or institutions to deposit research outputs arising from publicly funded projects in open access repositories – typically immediately or soon after initial publication in conventional outlets. Unlike the SPR, which grants a right to self-archive, an SPO makes self-archiving mandatory, ensuring broader dissemination of taxpayer-funded research regardless of the publishing venue or contractual terms with publishers. Countries such as Spain, Germany, Slovenia, and Bulgaria have introduced SPO provisions – in the latest cases, specifically to complement existing or newly introduced SPR regimes, reinforcing the national commitment to open science and knowledge accessibility.

Finally, even though the dual approach – right and obligation – may serve as a legislative model for an EU-wide solution, SPR and SPO alone may not suffice for a systemic reform of open access scholarly publishing. Limitations remain, on the

one hand, concerning the full integration of SPR into the EU copyright and data frameworks, and on the other, its practical implementation on the institutional level. The speaker will draw on Bulgaria's example to discuss the practical implementation of this legal framework in an interdisciplinary way.

KEYWORDS

Copyright Law; Green OA; Open Access; Scholarly Publishing; Secondary Publication Obligation (SPO); Secondary Publication Right (SPR)

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Leveraging multilevel governance to achieve excellence and national research system diversity

Merle Jacob

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ABSTRACT

The marriage of research and innovation policies (RI), initiated in the late 1980s in European Union member states, has produced a series of policy measures aimed at leveraging science to enhance national competitiveness and more recently grand challenges (Edler & James, 2015; Kuhlman & Rip, 2018). This discourse (narrative and practices) has over time become more complex with ever more sophisticated means of governance. Although the RI policy landscape is highly dynamic, research funding remains a crucial building block. The European Union accounts for approximately. 5% of the total research funding available within the EU block but EU funding norms and instruments are often tone giving for national funding. What does multilevel governance of research imply for national research policies in EU member countries?

This paper aims to explore this question by addressing three dominant trends in research policy and their implications for national research systems and individual researchers: internationalization, institutional standardization, and Excellence funding (Moore et al., 2017; Yudkevich et al., 2023; Hellström and Jacob, forthcoming). These three policy imperatives present diverse challenges, depending on the size of the research system, the level of integration of the national research system within the global science system, and the size of the science budget. The paper uses the case of the European Excellence Initiative —a funding instrument that embodies all three of the above-mentioned research trends —to highlight how they converge. Member state organizations are encouraged to seek EU research funding, and many member states' research funding portfolios are imitative of EU funding priorities. This accounts for the tone-setting role of EU research funding, as mentioned earlier. The paper concludes that while multilevel coordination of national and EU research funding is desirable, it is essential to maintain diversity and robustness across the research ecosystem.

Why we need to work together for better open bibliometric data: improved research, more informed science policy, and a healthier publishing landscape

Mikael Laakso

Tampere University, Finland

ABSTRACT

Scholarly journals have been publishing materials on the web for several decades which could easily lead one to assume that there during that time would have emerged an all-encompassing open and transparent way of indexing and keeping track of all the content being made available. That is unfortunately not the case and we are still in a situation where the data provider one choses for representing the scholarly journal landscape has a massive impact on what gets included and what is left outside of consideration (Khanna, Ball, Alperin 2022). This deficiency concerns rudimentary journal-level data signalling their existence, more detailed metadata concerning individual articles are in an even much worse state when it comes to data comprehensiveness and data quality. I call for collaboration among all actors in the international scholarly journal landscape to improve practices for massive benefits to research, in having better informed science policy, and a healthier publishing landscape.

Lost in publication: a journey through questionable evidence

Livia Puljak

Catholic University of Croatia

ABSTRACT

The credibility of scientific research depends on its reproducibility, transparency, and methodological rigor. However, numerous studies across disciplines have highlighted pervasive challenges in these areas, including incomplete reporting, outcome switching, lack of protocol registration, and insufficient data sharing. These issues undermine the reliability of findings, hinder evidence synthesis, and contribute to research waste.

This lecture will explore the scope and consequences of the reproducibility crisis, with a particular focus on biomedical and health research. Drawing on systematic reviews and meta-research analyses, it will highlight how deficiencies in study design, data management, and reporting standards affect research quality. Emphasis will be placed on the role of preregistration, adherence to reporting guidelines, and the adoption of FAIR data principles in enhancing transparency

The lecture will also present practical strategies for improving research practices, including educational interventions, institutional policies, and open science tools that promote trustworthy, high-quality research. By critically examining current standards and proposing paths forward, the lecture encourages researchers to move beyond the “publish or perish” mindset and towards a culture of credible, reproducible science.

SHORT TALK
PRESENTATIONS

Research Assessment at the European University of the Future

Saša Zelenika[1], Nataša Jakominić Marot[1]

[1]University of Rijeka

ABSTRACT

In its 2021-2025 strategy with the vision of a European University of the Future (UNIRI, 2021), the University of Rijeka (UNIRI), Croatia, focuses on its people: teachers, researchers, students and citizens, all within a community engagement framework. To foster its human resources, and align its policies and practices with the relevant initiatives and strategies of the European Union and the global scale, in the last few years UNIRI has, therefore, organically worked on many elements of its research assessment framework, basing them on responsibility, accountability, transparency, equity, efficiency and sustainability.

As the first university in Croatia and, one of the first ten that embraced the Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R) and gained the HR Excellence in Research logo already in 2010, UNIRI has renewed this status in 2019 and again in 2024, redefining its HRS4R strategic priority areas and producing a detailed action plan for their implementation, clearly defining the respective deadlines, roles and responsibilities (UNIRI, 2024b).

Aware of the shortcomings of current research assessment practices based on quantitative bibliometric data and their negative effects, especially on early and mid-career researchers (EMCRs), in 2022 UNIRI was also among the early signatories of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (RRA) under the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) (CoARA, 2022). Since then, UNIRI has actively contributed to the CoARA commitments, especially as part of the Working Groups on Reforming Academic Career Assessment as well as on EMCRs. In this framework, UNIRI has developed a comprehensive Action Plan with the respective timeframes and responsibilities (UNIRI, 2023c). More recently, UNIRI has also been awarded a Horizon Europe (HE) CoARA Boost Teaming project.

In many of these activities UNIRI relies heavily on its membership in the Young Universities for the Future of Europe (YUFE) European University alliance, as well as in the Young European Research Universities Network (YERUN). In the framework of the H2020 project YUFERING, UNIRI has therefore co-created the YUFE Competence Framework for Researchers, and as part of the H2020 project DIOSI, an innovative doctoral learning model. Also, as part of the YUFE4Postocs Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action, elements of the narrative CV have been included in the selection of the applicants. Several policy documents related to academic assessment have, in

turn, been co-created within the YERUN network, stressing the need to recognise and reward the diversity of researchers' contributions.

UNIRI is also actively contributing to research assessment-related HE projects Sustainable Careers for Researcher Empowerment (SECURE) and Open and Universal Science (OPUS). Aiming to improve research careers and reduce career precarity, in SECURE UNIRI is one of the research-performing organisations (RPOs) piloting measures to create, trial and implement an innovative research career framework (RCF). From a broad set of topics and actions, UNIRI has chosen and achieved the set results in 14, thus contributing to the definition of a revised RCF with a comprehensive set of 80 actions across topics focusing on strategy, stability, conditions, skills, mobility, assessment, pathways, and interoperability, i.e. a practical toolbox for RPOs and research-funding organisations (RFOs) enabling them to select and implement actions tailored to their strategic needs. In OPUS, the project consortium is working on measures to reform the research(er) assessment towards a system that incentivises and rewards open science (OS). A comprehensive researcher assessment framework (RAF) was structured here around categories such as research, education, leadership, and valorisation, each encompassing specific indicators and interventions. In this framework, UNIRI pilots actions in research, education and valorisation, with concrete interventions and coupled metrics in policies, resources, repositories, awareness raising and training. Via mutual learning with other involved RPOs and RFOs, clear gains in exchanging practical solutions and raising transparency and collaboration have been attained.

Many of these activities have also been used to promote and foster UNIRI's actions related to OS, including fostering the FAIR principles, the adoption of research data management plans, as well as the development of citizen science. Indeed, already in 2019 UNIRI issued its Declaration on European OS, in 2021 it signed the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), while in the same year the Senate approved the UNIRI's OS Policy, which has recently been revised (UNIRI, 2025). In this document, a comprehensive set of institutional OS goals is defined, as are the respective responsibilities, all accompanied by the basic terms, principles, and a broad set of references. The coordinated work with the partners on the YUFE OS calendar and the full OS model, as well as on the YERUN OS advent calendar and the OS awards, is part of these activities. Closely related are UNIRI's activities on ethics and research integrity, and on gender equality and diversity. The involvement of the highly dedicated and professional UNIRI University Library's (SVKRI) staff, especially its OS Centre, is instrumental in all institutional OS activities. SVKRI is also UNIRI's interface towards the well-developed national repositories system. Also part of the same context, based on the activities of its Center for Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity (AIRI) and its coordination of the European Digital Innovation Hub EDIH Adria, is the UNIRI artificial intelligence (AI) tools usage policy, adopted at the beginning of 2024. The policy outlines the principles for AI usage in research and teaching, based on the firm conviction that it is always the human (teacher/student) who uses the AI tools that is responsible for the quality

and reliability of the obtained results, but also a broad set of precautionary ethical provisions (UNIRI, 2024a).

Finally, as part of citizen science activities, UNIRI has established a Science Outreach Centre (SOCRI), which systematically works to promote UNIRI's research results within the broader community, and to develop researchers' skills in science communication. In the latter field, in collaboration with professional science journalists, a series of guidelines and training courses has been developed.

UNIRI has been active in the outlined framework at the national level as well, advocating the inclusion of OS and qualitative assessment in the discussed set of new national criteria for the selection and promotion of research and teaching staff. At the institutional level, UNIRI has, in parallel, adopted its Rules and Regulations on Scientific, Artistic, and Innovation Activities (UNIRI, 2023b) and, maybe even more importantly, the Guidelines for Additional Criteria for the Selection of Academic Staff (UNIRI, 2023a). These activities should foster a systemic change of the institutional assessment practices promoting a paradigm (cultural) shift in the researchers, their attitudes, values and expectations.

Despite the challenges along this path and the fact that national support is crucial, the UNIRI practices clearly show that a lot can be done at institutional level, where a participatory process that is also transparent, open and flexible, with strong leadership support and devoted resources, and acknowledging the diversity of roles, career stages, and disciplines, can truly do miracles. Being an active part of the EU and global efforts towards the reform of research assessment practices is crucial in this endeavour, as is exchanging experiences via joint projects and mutual learning, as well as by developing dedicated action plans with included trainings, workshops and awareness raising campaigns. All this catalyses and incentivises institutional activities providing an extremely positive impact towards the institutional strategic goals, concurrently promoting UNIRI's quality and international visibility.

KEYWORDS

CoARA; HRS4R; open science; policies; research assessment; university alliances and networks

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Bringing More Equity and Inclusion to Peer Review with PREreview

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PREreview

ABSTRACT

PREreview is an open-source platform for the open review of preprints, home to an international community of individuals committed to improving the scholarly evaluation process. Peer review determines which research is funded, published, and recognized, shaping what both the scientific community and society consider knowledge. Our work is a direct response to the flawed way this process is undertaken. Behind closed doors, a handful of unpaid reviewers – selected opaquely and often through personal connections – use subjective criteria to decide the fate of a research article. Reviewers often undergo minimal training for this crucial task and may be unaware of how to address issues of bias and systemic oppression, leading to a perpetuation of current inequities within scholarly publishing.

For example, we see the majority of journal publications coming from the Global North (Tennant JP, 2020) along with an under-representation of female authors and the highest cited early career authors coming from so-called 'prestigious' institutions (Krauss, A., Danús, L. & Sales- Pardo, 2023). This is in line with the demographics of peer review gatekeepers, where we also see an overrepresentation of male gatekeepers who predominantly live in North America and Europe (Murray et al., 2019).

At PREreview, we are reimagining peer review as an open, inclusive, and community-driven process. We empower early-career researchers (ECRs) and historically excluded scholars to review preprints in a way that is both meaningful and rewarding. By harnessing preprints, we create opportunities for transparent evaluation, mentorship, and constructive feedback.

The PREreview.org platform currently supports preprints from across 30 different preprint servers, with more added regularly, including an integration via COAR Notify where preprint authors can submit feedback requests to PREreview's global community of over 3,300 reviewers at the point of submission on bioRxiv, SciELO preprints, and Preprints.org. The recently launched request a review feature currently has feedback requests for 1,007 preprints, with 8.5% having received a review in response, a number which is growing and shows the potential for greater matching of reviewers with preprint topics of interest. Reviewers can review in any language, and we are working on localizing and translating PREreview into other

languages in collaboration with our global community, starting with Latin American Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese.

In this talk, we'll explore PREreview's community-driven approach to transform peer review, rooted in values of equity, openness, and collaboration. We'll highlight key features of our community-informed open preprint review platform and our training programs aimed at fostering fair, constructive feedback while addressing systemic biases. Training in peer review ensures that more voices – especially from underrepresented groups – are included in shaping research and that feedback received by authors is constructive rather than unhelpful or potentially harmful. Over the last year, we have trained more than 125 experts who joined us from a wide range of career levels, disciplines, and over 30 different countries. Our annual Champions cohort has also adapted our openly available resources for peer reviewers in their local communities, reaching approximately 250 participants worldwide in 2024. We will also demonstrate the impact and potential of a more inclusive peer review system and share ways to get involved in revolutionizing research evaluation.

KEYWORDS

bias, equity, inclusivity, peer review, preprint peer review

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Redefining Academic Publishing in Ukraine: National Journal Rankings for a European Future

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ABSTRACT

Ukraine's academic publishing system is currently undergoing substantial reform amid wartime challenges and the country's broader efforts to align with European standards and practices. Since the last reform cycle, more than 1,700 scholarly journals have been included in the national list of recognised academic publications. However, many of these journals have raised significant concerns regarding editorial transparency, the integrity of peer review processes, and overall scientific quality. These issues have underscored the urgent need for a more rigorous, transparent, and internationally harmonised framework for evaluating academic journals (Sīle et al., 2018; Serenko & Bontis, 2024).

In response, the Working Group of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine has developed a comprehensive revision of the criteria and procedures for forming the national list of academic journals. The list comprises Ukrainian scientific periodicals, divided into two categories. Category "A" is assigned to scholarly journals indexed in the Web of Science Core Collection and/or Scopus databases. Category "B" is assigned to scholarly journals that meet a set of technical and quality requirements, including policies, peer review practices, and other editorial activities. The primary purpose of this list is to officially recognise scholarly publications for the submission and defence of doctoral dissertations, academic titles, research evaluations of institutions and researchers, and the assessment of grant proposals funded by state or local budgets.

Drawing from established European models of quality assurance in academic publishing, which were carefully analysed (Sīle et al., 2018), the reform introduces a multi-faceted system of monitoring and evaluation. This initiative represents a significant step toward enhancing the quality of academic publishing in Ukraine and aligning national practices with European and global standards (CoARA, n.d.; DORA, 2012).

The draft regulation presents a new version of the national journal ranking system and includes several key innovations:

- Revision of the principles for forming the national list of academic journals, including the introduction of a three-year update cycle to ensure regular monitoring and compliance with established criteria;

- Establishment of a new advisory body at the Ministry of Education and Science: the Commission on Publication Ethics and Journal Evaluation;
- Simplified submission procedures for publishers seeking inclusion in the list;
- Categorisation of academic journals into clusters;
- Revised requirements for forming editorial boards of scholarly journals and the formal recognition of peer review;
- A formal list of predatory publishing practices and mechanisms for excluding journals involved in unethical behaviour or cooperating with so-called "paper mills" (Serenko & Bontis, 2024).

In addition to presenting these regulatory changes, speakers, members of the Working Group, will outline complementary steps necessary to achieve the reform's objectives. These measures form part of a broader strategy aimed at ensuring quality and integrity in Ukraine's academic publishing environment.

The core measures include:

- Formal evaluation, carried out by national libraries, which verifies technical and metadata standards (e.g., ISSN, DOI, website quality), frequency of publication, and the availability of editorial policies, including guidelines on the use of artificial intelligence;
- Editorial and ethical assessment, conducted by the Commission, which evaluates journal policies and practices against international standards set by COPE, EASE, DORA (2012), DOAJ (n.d.), CoARA (n.d.), and other relevant organisations;
- Scientific quality evaluation, based on Ukraine's existing mechanisms for assessing national research projects by independent experts, which examines the originality, relevance, and scientific merit of published materials (Sīle et al., 2018).

The main aim of such additional measures is not only to enforce compliance but also to facilitate the development of national journals, particularly those with a local or regional focus.

Furthermore, the need for a pilot programme targeting non-commercial and university-based open access journals will be discussed. This initiative will provide capacity-building opportunities for editorial teams, including training on editorial workflows, journal management platforms (e.g., OJS), metadata standards, and the implementation of open science principles (DOAJ, n.d.; DORA, 2012). The current list does not include well-developed open science practices; however, one of the key objectives of the new list will be to enhance scientific openness and support open access journals.

Crucially, the proposed measures emphasize a constructive, non-punitive approach to monitoring, designed to encourage continuous improvement rather than impose sanctions. This includes educational support, conflict resolution mechanisms, and cooperation with international experts and organisations. The model is aligned with global trends toward meaningful research assessment, focusing on the quality and societal value of research rather than the quantity of publications, moving beyond the "publish or perish" paradigm (Serenko & Bontis, 2024; CoARA, n.d.; DORA, 2012).

Speakers in this session, members of the Ministry's Working Group, will share reflections, insights, and strategic recommendations for implementing the reform and supporting its long-term success.

While the technical discussion is primarily regulatory and policy-oriented, the broader academic conversation also relates to conceptual frameworks in semantics and meaning-making. For instance, foundational theories in linguistics and cognitive semantics (Clark, 1973; Talmy, 2000; Deane, 1993) inform our understanding of scholarly communication and its epistemological dimensions, particularly relevant in shaping editorial standards, metadata practices, and the integrity of academic discourse.

KEYWORDS

academic publishing; journal evaluation; journal ranking; Open Access; predatory journals; research integrity

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Barriers and Enablers for Open Science in Slovenian Copyright law

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ABSTRACT

Open Science is widely recognized as a driver of innovation and societal progress. The EU and its Member States have built a strategic and political framework that supports the implementation of principles of Open Science, yet legal barriers – particularly within copyright law – continue to limit its full potential.

Slovenia has implemented a structural, political and legal framework that supports the implementation of Open Science principles in practice. The KR21 study of barriers and enablers of Open Science in Copyright law analyses three jurisdictions. The presentation will focus on Slovenian copyright law and will present several barriers as well as enablers.

A key finding is that there is a gap between Open Science strategic and political commitments and legal realities. Although Slovenia has adopted a national strategy, along with policies and laws to promote Open Science, copyright law has not yet been aligned with these objectives. Instead, researchers must navigate a complex landscape where legal uncertainties, contractual restrictions imposed by law or legal presumptions create obstacles to the effective management of their copyrights according to principles of Open Science, including for publicly funded works.

The presentation will also address the fact that national differences in copyright law create challenges for cross border cooperation among researchers in general, and even more so in the area of Open Science. What is legally permitted in one country may be restricted in another, leading to an uneven landscape that complicates the international dissemination of scientific knowledge and limits the impact of the effort and funding invested in producing open knowledge.

Researchers and scientists have called for several decades now for a better legal environment for their research and scientific activities, including a more balanced copyright law, in order to achieve the full potential of science and research for the development of society. Open Science initiatives that rely on bottom-up approaches, for example through contract negotiation, can help mitigate some of these limitations. This is especially the case in the absence of balanced copyright frameworks with legally certain, broad and harmonised research exceptions. Even the efforts and activities of Open Science, which legally depend on private licences

and contracts, are potentially severely hindered by copyright regimes today. Copyright regimes should be better framed to support research and science and should be rapidly reformed not to hinder Open Science.

KEYWORDS

Open Science Policies, Copyright law, barrier, enabler, rights retention, secondary publication rights

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How Promising Are Institutional Rights Retention Policies as a Route to Open Science?

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ABSTRACT

The widespread adoption of Open Science in Europe continues to face persistent challenges, particularly when it comes to the legal complexities surrounding the sharing and reuse of copyrighted scholarly works. One promising mechanism to address this issue is the adoption of institutional rights retention policies, which enable researchers to retain sufficient rights over their outputs, thereby facilitating wider dissemination and permitting reuse by others.

This presentation shares insights from Project Retain, a two-phase research initiative led by SPARC Europe under the Knowledge Rights 21 programme. The project explored how rights retention and open licensing policies were being developed and implemented across a range of legal, political, organisational, and economic contexts in Europe. The study employed a mixed-methods approach combining policy analysis, stakeholder interviews and focus groups, with comparative case studies. In Phase 1, we conducted a desk-based review of rights retention and licensing practices across European institutions, complemented by interviews and focus groups with stakeholder representatives to contextualise the findings (Labastida et al., 2023).

In Phase 2, completed in spring 2025, we applied a qualitative comparative case study framework. This involved the selection of ten countries based on legal diversity, policy maturity, and geographical representation. We then conducted semi-structured interviews with institutional leaders, legal experts, and policy stakeholders from each country, supported by document analysis of institutional and national policy texts (Treadway et al., 2025).

The research revealed the significant influence of both external and internal factors in shaping institutional rights retention policies. Key external factors include:

- National legislation, particularly laws on copyright, intellectual property, contracts, and secondary publishing rights, which determine the scope of author and institutional control over scholarly outputs.
- Science and innovation policies, which can either incentivise or constrain institutions from adopting rights retention approaches.
- National Open Science frameworks, funder mandates, and research

assessment policies, which shape institutional priorities and researcher behaviour.

- Publishing culture and infrastructure, including the prevailing models of Open Access (green OA, gold OA with APC or Diamond OA), availability of repositories and platforms, and the role of read-and-publish agreements.

At the same time, some internal factors play a role in how institutions develop and implement policies, for instance:

- Existing institutional policies, such as those related to Open Access, intellectual property, or research dissemination.

- Leadership attitudes, which may range from proactive engagement to cautious risk aversion, significantly impact the speed and ambition of policy development.

- Institutional capacity, including the ability to support researchers, provide legal guidance, and handle publisher negotiations, which affect practical implementation.

Although policies remain in their early stages in many contexts, our findings demonstrate their potential to support researcher autonomy, improve Open Access compliance, and reduce dependence on publisher-controlled dissemination. The research highlights the need for greater awareness of the flexibility and strategic value of these policies, as well as the institutional and systemic conditions that facilitate their uptake.

To facilitate ongoing knowledge exchange and peer support, Project Retain launched the European Rights Retention Community of Practice in late 2024. This online space continues to bring together professionals working on Open Science and rights retention policies to share experiences, address common challenges, and develop coordinated strategies.

KEYWORDS

Copyright; Open Access; Open Science; Policies; Rights retention

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Repository related challenges in supporting Secondary Publication Rights and Rights Retention

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ABSTRACT

In the European Research Area, there is a clear commitment to advancing Open Science, with the ERA Policy Agenda identifying the open sharing and reuse of research outputs as a top priority. Achieving this goal, however, requires changes to the legal and regulatory frameworks that govern copyright. This need is further underlined in the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science (2021), which defines open scientific knowledge as including publications that are openly accessible and licensed to allow reuse, redistribution, and adaptation. It stresses that any copyright transfer or licensing should not hinder immediate open access to scientific publications. In alignment with these principles, the European Commission has prioritized the development of a copyright and data framework fit for research (European Commission, 2022), including analysis of legal barriers that prevent researchers and institutions from providing open access, and the consideration of mechanisms such as Secondary Publication Rights (SPR) and Rights Retention (RR).

In light of these developments, it becomes important to assess whether repositories across Europe, in terms of their metadata quality, are adequately equipped to support the implementation of these rights. Current evidence suggests this is not always the case: some institutional and national repositories lack standardised fields for recording and displaying licensing or copyright metadata, while others use these fields inconsistently or fail to present this information clearly. As emphasised in recent studies (Treadway et al., 2025; Labastida et al., 2023), repository readiness is an important factor in how effectively RR and SPR policies can be implemented. Well-functioning repositories support Green Open Access, facilitate compliance with institutional and funder mandates, and enable the broader application of open licensing strategies. Where such repository capacity is absent or inconsistently applied, the adoption of rights retention policies or exercising secondary publication rights already guaranteed by some national laws may be delayed or fragmented.

Furthermore, from a practical standpoint, the dissemination, visibility, and reuse potential of repository content depend on the clear communication of usage rights in both machine- and human-readable formats. When reuse is subject to conditions, such as when licenses more restrictive than CC BY are applied, metadata records must include information about the rights holder, i.e., the

individual or organisation authorised to grant permission for reuse.

This presentation will present an upcoming mapping project: a community-driven mapping initiative that examines how several national repository networks and aggregators handle metadata related to copyright status and ownership, and licences for reuse. The mapping exercise will be carried out through the Knowledge Rights 21 programme's network of National Contacts (https://www.knowledgerights21.org/about/national-coordinators/), in countries where these roles have been established.

Building on existing frameworks such as those employed by the OpenAIRE network and the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), the study explores gaps, variations, and promising practices in metadata implementation. Furthermore, it opens a discussion on the potential use of rightsstatements.org as a standard for communicating rights information across repositories in the Open Science ecosystem.

KEYWORDS

repositories; metadata; Secondary Publication Rights; Rights Retention

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Project SPOZNAJ and Action Plan for Open Science: Institutional Implementation of Open Science in Slovenia

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ABSTRACT

Compared to the adoption of various strategies and legislation, the institutional implementation of open science principles is the most demanding process. It involves numerous changes to the internal formal frameworks for the operation of research organizations, as well as staff empowerment and the development of appropriate infrastructure. This paper aims to highlight an example of good practice in this area in Slovenia and, in cooperation with other participants, discuss possible improvements. It is essential to establish intensive cooperation and transfer of experience and knowledge between different academic environments in this field. The aim of the presentation is also to encourage these processes.

In 2021, Slovenia introduced extensive legislative changes to scientific research activities, incorporating open science principles. This legislation fully aligns with the values of the Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe, as well as the measures within the European Research Area.

Concurrently, the Resolution on the Slovenian Scientific Research and Innovation Strategy 2030 (ReZrIS30) was adopted, viewing open science as a means of improving the quality, efficiency and responsiveness of research. To establish the necessary infrastructure and support the implementation of open science principles within public research organisations, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted an Action Plan for Open Science, setting out a number of measures to be implemented by 2030. These include measures to ensure the coordinated functioning of the national open science ecosystem, adapt the operations of public research organisations, and invest in and develop open science infrastructure. Other measures include a comprehensive reform of research assessment in accordance with open science principles; ensuring compliance of scientific research results with the FAIR principles; promoting socially engaged science; and taking action in the field of sustainable academic publishing.

In the first part of the presentation, we will outline the objectives and measures of the Action Plan. In the second part, we will provide a detailed overview of the SPOZNAJ project (https://projekt-spoznaj.si/en/). We will present the project's work packages, key objectives and initial results. Finally, we will present some interesting infrastructure projects that will support scientific research in the digital environment.

KEYWORDS

European Research Area ; Slovenia ; Action Plan for Open Science ; SPOZNAJ ; institutional implementation

Open Science Perceptions Across Career Stages: Comparing Early-Career and Senior Croatian Researchers in a European Context

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ABSTRACT

Open Science (OS) is an approach to scientific research and communication that promises greater transparency, reproducibility, accessibility and even research quality. However, despite growing international momentum toward OS practices, there remains a significant knowledge gap regarding their adoption and perception within the Croatian scientific community, particularly among early-career researchers. While previous studies have examined certain aspects of OS in Croatia, such as the 2021 survey by Baždarić et al. (Baždarić et al., 2021) which explored attitudes toward open data, preprints, and open peer review, and the 2024 survey by Macan et al. (Macan et al., 2024) which focused on publishing in open access, comprehensive research focusing on the broader spectrum of OS practices across different career stages has been lacking.

Our cross-sectional observational survey aimed to address this gap by investigating the knowledge, perception, and adoption of OS practices among researchers in Croatia, with special attention to early-career scientists (students, doctoral candidates, and postdoctoral researchers) who have been underrepresented in previous studies. The survey was structured into six distinct sections: (1) demographic information, (2) general perceptions about OS, (3) publishing in open access, (4) peer review processes, (5) scientific data, and (6) science communication and education. While the first two sections were mandatory, participants could choose to complete any combination of the remaining four sections, allowing for flexibility in participation while ensuring comprehensive coverage of OS dimensions. A detailed preregistration of the study, including goals, scope, methodology, and general concept, is available on the Open Science Framework (Hoić et al., 2024).

The survey was distributed through multiple channels, including institutional networks, scientific associations, social media platforms, and direct outreach to researchers, targeting both those based in Croatia and Croatian researchers

working abroad. This approach ensured representation across various scientific disciplines, institutional types, geographical regions, and career stages, with a focused effort to engage doctoral students, who ultimately formed the largest respondent group. By March 2025, we had collected 449 valid responses, with doctoral candidates and students accounting for 72% of the total.

In this presentation, we will share key findings regarding Croatian researchers' perceptions of OS and its core components. We will present differences in self-assessed knowledge, perceived advantages and disadvantages of various OS segments, and attitudes toward the evaluation and recognition of OS contributions. We will highlight variations in OS knowledge, attitude, challenges and implementation practices of open access, peer review and open data, across career stages and institutional settings, focusing on comparing early-career researchers (students and doctoral candidates) with more established scientists. In particular, we will compare differences in perspectives related to specific open practices that have the potential to enhance the quality of research – such as preregistration, the use of preprints, and open data sharing and management.

Furthermore, a recent study conducted through the Eurodoc network of associations representing early-career researchers and doctoral candidates in Europe (Berezko et al., 2021), surveyed researchers across Europe but failed to adequately represent the Croatian academic context, with only one Croatian respondent. By comparing our findings with those of the Eurodoc study and other European studies (Morais et al., 2021), we aim to situate the Croatian experience within the broader European research landscape, identifying both shared challenges and unique national characteristics influencing OS adoption. This comparative perspective can provide valuable insights for developing Croatia-specific strategies while aligning with European OS initiatives.

Based on these insights we will try to highlight actionable recommendations targeting different stakeholders that could further support the adoption of OS practices in Croatia, particularly among early-career researchers.

KEYWORDS

Croatia; early-career researchers; European context; open science; research practices, survey

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Bridging Gaps in Open Science Education and Support: A Survey of Croatian Researchers

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ABSTRACT

Open Science (OS) is reshaping research practices worldwide, promoting transparency, collaboration, and wider accessibility of scientific outputs. However, the adoption of OS practices varies greatly across countries and disciplines, often influenced by national policies, institutional support structures, and individual researchers' experiences (UNESCO, 2023). In Croatia, while various initiatives promoting OS have emerged, a comprehensive understanding of the available educational resources and institutional support mechanisms remains limited. This lack of systematic insight may hinder efforts to ensure high-quality scientific communication aligned with OS principles. To address this gap, we conducted a preregistered nationwide study aimed at understanding perceptions and practices in Open Science (Hoić et al., 2024) and to better interpret the results, we mapped the landscape of OS education and support across Croatian research institutions.

The study was designed to capture multiple dimensions of OS engagement among Croatian researchers and covered six core areas: (1) demographic information, (2) general perceptions about OS, (3) publishing in open access, (4) peer review processes, (5) scientific data, and (6) scientific communication and education. By analysing these domains, the survey aimed to provide a detailed, empirically grounded overview of the current state of OS capacity in Croatia. The survey encompasses a diverse range of scientific disciplines, institutional affiliations, geographic locations, and career stages, with particular attention given to involving doctoral candidates, who ultimately comprised the largest share of respondents. By March 2025, we had collected 449 valid responses, with doctoral candidates and students accounting for 72% of the total. The survey remains open as we continue our efforts to increase participation from senior researchers and members of the Croatian research community living and working abroad.

In this presentation, we focus specifically on awareness, perceptions and self-reported knowledge of OS concepts, and how they correlate with the availability and types of OS education, institutional support, and individual motivations for engaging in OS. Specifically, we quantify the proportion of researchers who have attended OS-related trainings and workshops, and identify the most common formats and providers of such educational activities. We explore researchers' familiarity with key OS practices, including data sharing, pre-registration, open peer review, and the use of preprints, building on previous findings that highlighted both enthusiasm and uncertainties among Croatian scientists regarding these practices (Baždarić et al., 2021).

Beyond educational opportunities, we use and extend the mapping done by Bolkovac et al. (Bolkovac et al., 2025) to cover to which Croatian institutions have established guidelines, support offices, or incentive structures that facilitate OS adoption. These findings are then contextualized and correlated with the survey results. Finally, recognizing that integrating OS into research assessment systems is essential to encourage broader participation (Saenen et al., 2019), we analyze researchers' attitudes towards the evaluation and rewarding of OS practices.

The study's results aim to provide actionable insights for a range of stakeholders, from researchers themselves to research institutions, training providers, and policymakers. Recommendations focus on enhancing OS training programs, improving institutional infrastructures, and addressing identified gaps in researcher support. In doing so, we highlight the potential of OS to serve not only as a framework for openness, but also as a driver of quality improvement in all stages of scientific communication, from data management to publication and peer evaluation. By mapping both the existing resources and unmet needs, our findings seek to contribute to ongoing national and European discussions about fostering a more open and inclusive research culture.

KEYWORDS

Croatia, education, institutional support, knowledge gaps, Open Science, research policy

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Fostering a Culture of Data Citation for High-Quality Research

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ABSTRACT

Research data play a fundamental role in the research process. Yet, they are still not consistently recognised as fully-fledged scholarly outputs and are often not specifically cited. Achieving high-quality research requires not only rigorous methodology and transparent reporting but also the responsible and systematic citation of all research components, including data. Transparency, reproducibility, and accessibility — core values of Open Science and the FAIR principles (Wilkinson et al., 2016) frameworks — are inherently strengthened when data are properly cited.

Proper data citation ensures that data authors receive appropriate credit for their work. It enhances findability and accessibility of datasets, facilitating the verification and replication of research, while also promoting transparency and enabling the reuse of data in new research. Furthermore, proper citation practices are critical for elevating the visibility and impact of data and for recognising data as legitimate scholarly contributions that may be addressed as independent research outputs. Carefully managed, curated and documented data are essential for high-quality research. Recognising the significant work invested in producing and sharing high-quality research data is therefore important when assessing individual research careers and research-performing organisations.

Despite growing recognition of data as a vital component of the research process, current data citation practices remain inconsistent and underdeveloped across disciplines (Yoon et al., 2019; Zhao et al., 2018), although a relative increase has been observed in recent years (Gregory et al., 2023). In many cases, datasets are (re)used without proper citation, and citation formats are inconsistent and lack essential information such as the specific version cited and a persistent identifier. These shortcomings hinder the visibility of data authors, limit the reproducibility of research, and create barriers to scientometric analysis of data sharing and reuse. Addressing these issues is vital for ensuring openness and FAIRness as well as ethical and impactful use of research data.

To support the advancement of data citation, the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA) has established a dedicated Working Group on Data Citation. CESSDA is a European research infrastructure that offers extensive, integrated, and sustainable data services to the social sciences and unites data

archives across Europe. Its mission is to promote social science research results and support national and international research and cooperation. The Working Group on Data Citation has developed practical recommendations to foster a sustainable data citation culture within the social sciences (Bornatici et al., 2025). These recommendations outline the core components of a data citation—authors, title, publication year, version, data publisher, and a persistent identifier—and additional elements that enhance precision and clarity. Even more importantly, the recommendations provide concrete, advised best practices and technical implementations for researchers and strategic institutions. They reflect on the pivotal roles played by research-performing and research-funding organisations, journals and publishers, and data repositories in normalising data citation. From providing technical infrastructure to shaping editorial policies and funding mandates, these stakeholders are instrumental in cultivating a culture of citation that extends beyond the traditional practice of only citing text publications.

Our contribution will present the key elements of these recommendations, targeting researchers, journal editors and publishers, as well as strategic actors involved in research policy and infrastructure, highlighting pathways for widespread adoption. By encouraging researchers to cite data with the same care as they cite literature, we seek to reinforce scientific integrity, improve traceability of findings, enable new indicators for Open Science practices, and elevate the overall quality of research. We invite the broader research community to join us in embedding data citation into publication workflows and evaluation systems, and to help build a scholarly ecosystem where data are fully recognised as central, citable contributions to scientific knowledge.

KEYWORDS

attribution; CESSDA; data citation; research assessment; research data; scholarly communication

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On Open Practices and Quality Standards of Research Data in Dataverse UNIMI (with a Focus on SSH Disciplines)

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ABSTRACT

This contribution explores the University of Milan's promotion of open practices aimed at improving the quality, through standards and control systems, of research data deposited in the institutional open repository, especially in the humanities and social sciences (SSH). Indeed, several problems persist in research data management in these disciplinary areas, starting from the very definition of "research data", (Gualandi et al., 2022; Hofelich et al., 2015), to that of "quality of data" and "open data", often considered more applicable to outputs in the STEM disciplines. Importantly, UNIMI's strong commitment to open data in all disciplinary areas is mirrored by the fact that it has two distinct repositories, one for publications (AIR/IRIS) and one for research data (Dataverse) which can be cross-referenced.

This talk builds on these reflections and outlines some SSH research projects at the University of Milan that are gradually engaging in open sharing and quality management of data through the institutional repository Data@UNIMI (Galimberti, 2024). The merit of these initiatives is not only the commitment of researchers, but also the workflow adopted for the use of the repository: in presenting the renewed quality control system of data and metadata deposited in UNIMI's Dataverse, this contribution highlights the repository's improvements and evolution, particularly in the practice of validating content and quality prior to publication by the data stewards. This validation ensures more thorough monitoring and allows for an higher quality of data made available for open access through the repository, a trend confirmed by the exponential increase in the number of dataset downloads.

The final part of the proposed talk will focus on the multiple actions aimed at raising awareness of open science practices: from the renewal of the website dedicated to the management of research data, to the updating of the trainings available to the academic community. These now include introductory and advanced courses, webinars dedicated to editors and authors of the Milano University Press journals (which are mainly from the SSH), specific paths dedicated to PhDs, and, hands-on workshops. Significantly, the practical workshops are adapted and subdivided by discipline – one for life sciences, one for STEM disciplines, one for the social and political sciences and another for the humanities – in order to enhance data management in the relevant areas, highlight the necessary peculiarities, and promote open access and data quality even in

disciplinary areas that are not data-driven par excellence.

KEYWORDS

Data stewardship, FAIR data management, Open data sharing, Quality of research data, Research data repositories, SSH disciplines.

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Guidelines for Sharing Research Data on Human Participants

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ABSTRACT

Data sharing has become an integral aspect of modern research methodologies, driven by both policy changes from research funding bodies and academic journals, and a growing recognition of its intrinsic benefits within the research community. In this talk, we will present the Guidelines for Sharing Research Data on Human participants, which were created within the COORDINATE project (European Commission, n.d.). This project aimed to build a network of researchers working to improve child wellbeing and to facilitate improved access to longitudinal survey data on child wellbeing.

The social sciences, particularly in comparative and longitudinal studies, have a longstanding tradition of data sharing, supported by infrastructures like CESSDA ERIC. However, persistent barriers, including privacy concerns, participant consent issues, intellectual property rights, resource constraints, fear of being scooped, potential data misuse, perceived lack of interest, data quality concerns, cultural resistance, and limited institutional incentives, continue to impede widespread adoption of data sharing practices. The Guidelines aim to dispel myths surrounding data sharing risks, address researchers' concerns, and provide pragmatic solutions to common challenges.

Each section in the first part of the Guidelines begins with statements expressing reasons not to share data. These statements were identified using different methods and several sources. First, we took the statements about reasons why not to share data from the materials published by the UKDA in the Managing and Sharing Data: Training Resources (Corti, Van den Eynden, Bishop, & Morgan-Brett, 2011), adapted and supplemented these with insights gathered through various interactions between data archive staff and researchers, as well as conversations with colleagues in data archiving domains. Furthermore, we scanned literature about researchers' data sharing attitudes, motivations and behaviours (Houtkoop et al., 2018; Kim and Adler, 2015; Kim and Stanton, 2016; Tenopir et al., 2011; Tenopir et al., 2015) to identify other possible concerns and learn how to organise and present them. These sources often also include some possible answers to identified concerns.

Privacy, confidentiality, and ethical considerations remain central to researchers' hesitation. The guidelines explain how GDPR formalises existing ethical practices

and how confidentiality can coexist with responsible data sharing. Researchers are encouraged to adopt clear, tailored informed consent processes, differentiate between personal and research data, and educate participants on controlled access mechanisms. Strategies for anonymizing quantitative and qualitative data are provided, emphasizing the balance between data protection and research utility. Concerns about publication priority and data misuse are countered by promoting datasets as citable scientific outputs, and encouraging comprehensive documentation and formal access agreements. Institutional and cultural inertia are acknowledged as significant obstacles. The Guidelines call for universities and funding bodies to incentivize and recognize data sharing efforts.

In the second part, the Guidelines stress the necessity of proper data management planning as an essential precursor to effective data sharing. Effective data management not only supports compliance with ethical and legal standards but also significantly contributes to data integrity, facilitating data reuse and research reproducibility. Researchers are advised to adopt comprehensive documentation and metadata standards, thereby mitigating risks associated with data misuse or misinterpretation.

Specific practical steps for data sharing outlined in the Guidelines include defining clear objectives for data sharing, selecting appropriate domain-specific repositories tailored to specific research fields and capable of ensuring rigorous ethical standards, and preparing datasets thoroughly with detailed documentation and metadata. Access controls and appropriate licensing options are discussed, providing researchers with guidance on how to share data responsibly while protecting participants' privacy and data integrity.

A preprint version of the Guidelines is available on Zenodo (Glavica & Halamić, 2025). After receiving feedback from the broader community, including this conference audience, the Guidelines will be published under the CESSDA brand.

KEYWORDS

data sharing; data management; research ethics; informed consent; research integrity

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Services, Taskforces, and Governance of the European Diamond Capacity Hub (EDCH)

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ABSTRACT

In this talk, I will present the services, taskforces, and governance of the European Diamond Capacity Hub (EDCH). I will focus on the way in which the results of the DIAMAS and CRAFT-OA projects are folded into the EDCH, with special attention to the Diamond OA Standard (DOAS), which sets an aspirational quality standard not only for Diamond OA publishers and services providers but now also for journals, in collaboration with DOAJ.

In addition, I will present the goals and activities of the ALMASI project, which is currently investigating nonprofit OA scholarly publishing in Europe, Africa, and Latin America. The goal of ALMASI is to co-design and implement good practices of service provision, improve the technical and scientific quality of nonprofit OA journals and platforms, and encourage the development of institutional and national policies that can financially support nonprofit OA publishing. This project should be seen in the context of the worldwide effort to align Diamond OA publishing in the Global Diamond Open Access Alliance promoted by UNESCO.

KEYWORDS

Diamond OA Standard (DOAS); Diamond OA publishing; European Diamond Capacity Hub

Resources and Guidelines for Diamond OA Publishing

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ABSTRACT

The DIAMAS project has developed a comprehensive set of resources and guidelines to support the quality and sustainability of Diamond Open Access (OA) publishing. It includes a variety of resources specifically tailored to meet the needs of Diamond OA publishers, journal editors, and service providers. This presentation will highlight the key components of the knowledge base, with a special focus on the training platform.

At the core of the resources is the Diamond Open Access Standard (DOAS), a quality framework that sets out required and desired criteria across seven key components of scholarly publishing: (1) Funding; (2) Legal ownership, mission and governance; (3) Open Science; (4) Editorial management, editorial quality, and research integrity; (5) Technical service efficiency; (6) Visibility, communication, marketing, and impact; and (7) Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (EDIB), multilingualism, and gender equity (Consortium of the DIAMAS project, 2024).

To aid the implementation of this core framework, DIAMAS has created:

- Toolsuite (https://toolsuite.diamas.org): A series of short, high-level articles introducing the core components of DOAS, complemented by glossaries, keywords, and frequently asked questions (FAQs). All materials are available in English, Spanish, Croatian and Portuguese (Armengou, Alevizos, et al., 2024).

- Guidelines (https://toolsuite.diamas.org/guidelines): A collection of 18 articles providing practical advice for aligning publishing practices with DOAS criteria. The high-level topics of DOAS are broken down into subtopics that highlight areas where practical guidance is most needed. For example, Open Science is addressed through articles such as Use of open licenses in open access publishing, Self-archiving policy, Availability of research protocols, methods and software, Handling negative research results, Preprints, and Research data sharing policy. Guidelines are available in English, Spanish, Croatian and Portuguese (Armengou, Bowker, et al., 2024).

Recognising complexity in certain areas, additional materials have been developed:

- Financial sustainability resources (https://toolsuite.diamas.org/toolsuite-sustainability): A comprehensive set of resources providing both strategic insights and practical guidance to support the sustainability of Diamond OA publishing. The materials focus on funding models, workforce sustainability, advocacy and collaborative practices, and include guides, templates, case studies and research (Hughes 2025).

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (EDIB) Getting Started Guide, which outlines the core elements of EDIB and offers foundational tools to help editors and publishers create a strategy tailored to their specific context (Bowker, Laakso and Pölönen, 2025).

These resources served as a starting point for developing interactive training materials that address skill gaps identified during the project. The modular training programme, to be released in late May 2025, comprises 13 courses hosted on a dedicated Moodle platform

within the European Diamond Capacity Hub. Designed for self-paced learning, it employs diverse formats including presentations, infographics and checklists, and incorporates interactive elements such as quizzes, self-reflection exercises and flip cards. Training materials can be used as standalone resources or integrated into institutional training efforts. They are released under an open licence and designed for easy localisation and reuse. The primary audience for the training programme includes journal editors and Diamond OA publishers. Still, the materials can be helpful to trainers, institutional leaders, policymakers, funders, and researchers involved in scholarly communication.

The DIAMAS knowledge base reflects the values of the Diamond OA community: collaboration, openness and a commitment to equitable scholarly communication. By providing standards, tools and training materials, the DIAMAS project supports publishers and service providers in enhancing quality and building more sustainable publishing practices.

KEYWORDS

Diamond Open Access publishing, learning resources, DIAMAS project, European Diamond Capacity Hub

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A Diamond and Its European Reflections: The SeDOA Consortium for Diamond Open Access

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ABSTRACT

How can we ensure that Diamond Open Access becomes the definitive standard for scientific publishing? Fortunately, there are many projects pursuing this goal. A number of them are working at the European level, but many focus on the situation in individual countries and the scientific communities there. In this line of national focused initiatives, a new project started on 1 May 2025. The „Service Point for Diamond Open Access", or SeDOA for short. It is a consortium of 15 project partners, all of whom come from the German scientific community. The project is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and will run for two three-year periods.

What sets SeDOA apart is its dual approach. On the one hand, it focuses on the research landscape in Germany, while on the other hand, it sees itself as a Diamond Capacity Center (DCC) and is part of the European and international network for Diamond Open Access. This makes SeDOA an interesting project from a European perspective, as it not only promotes Diamond Open Access but also provides impetus for OA structures at the European level and in other European countries. In the same way, the German research landscape should take up suggestions from other countries and communities. In this sense, SeDOA is an organisation that creates solutions for the communities of practice in Germany, but also takes actively part in the European and international community of Diamond OA.

SeDOA's approach is characterized by its commitment to addressing the entire scientific landscape, rather than just individual disciplines or subject groups. This is reflected in its relatively large consortium of 15 partners, which ensures that as many scientific disciplines as possible are included and represented. The consortium also aims to be active across the entire scientific landscape, reflecting the great diversity in the individual research areas. The diversity also stretches into the infrastructure landscape: In Germany, there are not only OA-infrastructure projects and services at the universities and research institutions, but also at the federal and state level. The Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Universitätsverlage (Working Group of University Publishers), is an infrastructure-partner for OA publishing based at various universities throughout

Germany. They connect and represent different research communities. The researchers themselves need to be our main focus, especially being authors and

editors at the same time. This approach refers to the understanding of Diamond Open Access supporting scholarly led and scholarly owned journals. Overall, SeDOA represents communities of practice to which the consortium is open in all their diversity.

In terms of content, SeDOA is primarily concerned with journals, but also takes into account monographs. From a technological perspective, there is a fundamental openness to different software solutions, such as OJS and Janeway for journals, and OMP and CMS-based approaches (e.g. Drupal) for monographs. The differences already reflect the diversity that has emerged in the different subject areas.

SeDOA will build on the solutions that already exist in the digital publishing landscape in Germany. A central concern is to combine and coordinate the existing resources. The consortium thus acts as a single point of contact that organises the appropriate solutions for needs in the Diamond OA area. While standardization may be a consideration, it will not be the primary focus. Instead, the consortium will prioritize finding a suitable technical solution for identified requests for OA publishing, with quality being the main criterion.

To achieve this, SeDOA will have a technical work package, as well as a work package that provides information on open access publishing to the growing community. Additionally, there will be practice- oriented training unit that educates users of Diamond OA publication workflows and help them to grow. Ideally, this is a dynamic process that contributes to the continuous improvement of workflows in digital publishing.

The dynamics of further development in the Diamond OA area will also be promoted by an innovation lab in the SeDOA project. This will provide solutions for needs that have not yet been satisfactorily addressed, as well as take up inspiration for new ideas from the communities of practice and integrate them into the existing workflows.

The challenges are considerable, even with just the measures described so far. However, the European level should always be considered, as it is an anchor and reference point that ensures that the solutions for the communities of practice can also be scaled to the European level. This applies to the technical solutions, as well as to the training and further education measures. In this context the SeDOA innovation lab needs to be aligned with similar approaches at the European level, such as the innovation lab of the OPERAS research infrastructure.

SeDOA's effort and work will enforce and support the results of the European Diamond Capacity Hub (EDCH) and at the same time add its own part to these outcomes. While it is true that in some respects the work as a Diamond Capacity Centre represents a significant expansion of tasks for SeDOA as a national project, the common results are worth the effort. It is expected that the exchange between the European level, i.e. the EDCH and SeDOA as a DCC, will generate a new dynamic

that will make it easier to establish Diamond OA as a standard internationally, at least in the medium term.

SeDOA is not starting from scratch, as there is a lot of preparatory work and many established connections through various projects (CRAFT-OA, PALOMERA, DIAMAS, etc.) that have been running in advance. SeDOA representatives are now also represented in all EDCH task forces, providing very concrete personal connections between the European level and the consortium in Germany.

Even before the proper start of the SeDOA, the consortium had been addressed by various stakeholders who had voiced their interest in participating in the project and/or using the solutions SeDOA will provide. Although this is a very good sign indeed, SeDOA evidently has to manage expectations in order not to disappoint potential cooperators. A few internal guidelines will help to meet these challenges:

- putting up a decentralised structure, thus bringing the services to the people, not dragging the people to the services;
- though standards are important, for the time being one size does not fit all: all disciplines should be addressed appropriately;
- training opportunities are crucial in order to ensure quality which
- is necessary to enhance the reputation of DOA publications;
- last but not least: some quick results will be necessary, so that SeDOA will be visible and fuel the DOA movement.

All in all, the dual approach of SeDOA working for the German communities of practice and acting as a DCC for Europe offers a special opportunity: the German level can be seen as an example for solutions but also risks, challenges and failure and vice versa for the European level, while at the same time existing solutions and innovations developed at European level can be reused on the national level. SeDOA does not just invite you to watch, but to participate: the reflections of the diamond should be equally visible in Germany and in Europe.

KEYWORDS

Diamond Open Access, Germany, national node, OJS, European Diamond Capacity Hub, Diamond Capacity Center.

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Enhancing Research Quality Through University Press Services

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ABSTRACT

A Diamond open access university press

The University of Milan has for years been committed to supporting open science and its principles of reproducibility, transparency, and accessibility. In its activities and policy implementation, its strategies are informed by international best practices and enriched through participation in networks such as 4eu+, LERU, Operas, and COARA, which foster shared learning and alignment.

In line with the European Commission's Future of Scholarly Communication pillar of Open Science, the University has established Milano University Press, a Diamond Open Access University Press which publishes both books and journals freely accessible to readers and at no cost to authors. Primarily a digital publisher, it is committed to aligning with evolving best practices in Open Science.

A central unit supports journals through a wide range of services, aiming to ensure quality and transparency in scientific research. The journals division manages the infrastructure via OJS, guides new journals through their setup phase, and provides training on the use of the platform. It reviews About sections and Ethical Codes, supports indexing efforts, oversees a centralised copyediting service, and coordinates dissemination activities.

The platform and its role

Since 2008 Riviste Unimi has been a Diamond Open Access platform offering digital publishing services to scholarly journals. In 2020 it became part of Milano University Press, along with the Books section.

At a time when HSS disciplines were still unaccustomed to a form of digital publication, the platform was created to provide these areas with a channel for wide dissemination by respecting and in some cases implementing international best practices. Today the platform also hosts journals from the STM area, enabling both HSS and STM journals to adopt these international best practices in scholarly publishing.

Currently, Milano University Press publishes 70 journals across various disciplines. Each journal has an autonomous editorial board that independently defines

editorial policies, appoints the scientific committee, oversees the peer-review process, manages the approach to copyediting, and maintains relationships with authors and reviewers.

Training and support

Support begins with technical assistance for a potential publisher transfer (if the journal is not newly established), along with training on the use of the OJS software, which underpins our platform, website setup and submission workflow management. During this phase, the Press office provides guidance on key quality standards, Ethical Code writing and the legal framework for the fair use of third-party content in papers (e.g., attributions, quotations, images).

After the initial training, the University Press unit remains continuously available to support the journals in addressing technical, legal, or editorial issues.

Open Science updates

Another key task of the office is to keep editors up to date with the latest developments in scientific publishing and Open Science, while continuously updating requirements for the journals regarding openness and transparency.

One such update occurred when the DOAS guidelines were published by the DIAMAS project in autumn 2024. The office carried out the DOAS Self-assessment tool to evaluate the level of adherence to Open Science standards and, subsequently, it organised a meeting with the journal boards to discuss the results, to explain this new standard for quality publishing, and explore ways to comply with it.

Quality assurance

Following a DOAS self-evaluation, the University Press adopted several initiatives to promote transparency and editorial quality more rigorously across editorial processes, implementing different courses of action.

On its part, it activated several plugins on the OJS platform to address some DOAS criteria (e.g., it enabled the Crossref Open Funder Registry integration for displaying funding data on the article landing page).

It asked journal boards to update their Ethical Codes and/or About sections, to address specific quality requirements such as:

- desk rejections, retraction and erratum procedures (aligning with COPE guidelines);
- plagiarism checks (strongly recommending the use of iThenticate);
- research data archiving (suggesting the use of Dataverse, the University's

research data repository) and data availability statements (requiring authors to submit them along with their papers, especially for science journals);

- copyright policies clearly stating that authors retain rights (to be displayed in the full-text);
- disclosure policies for AI use in papers;
- preprint and postprint policies.

Additionally, another aim for 2025 is to enhance transparency in the composition and tenure procedures of editorial committees while ensuring compliance with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) principles, by extending the University's internal guidelines to all hosted journals.

Monitoring and indexing

The University Press supports journal dissemination through indexing in major databases (e.g., DOAJ), providing tools to monitor website statistics (Matomo), and promoting journal articles via the University Press Mastodon account and other social media channels. This dissemination process involves continuous monitoring, both in terms of assessing metadata quality and tracking the return in terms of platform traffic (evaluating the effectiveness of communications strategies).

Metadata quality control includes DOI resolution checks, validation of exports to indexing services (e.g., DOAJ, OpenAlex), and direct corrections of metadata where necessary.

Copyediting support

Since 2025, the University has been financially supporting the entire University Press – both its books and journals divisions – for the outsourcing of copyediting services, which until last year were the sole responsibility of individual journals.

This change has increased the workload of the journals support office overseeing the outsourcing service, a challenge that can, however, be managed thanks to the fact that the office now comprises three staff members. Despite the additional work, this effort is finally receiving recognition from the University, which now provides financial support for it, allowing editorial boards to save time and, in some cases, reduce previous expenses related to copyediting.

Interoperability

Another course of action taken by the University Press is its progressive integration with open infrastructures involved in scientific research. As mentioned earlier, authors are encouraged to publish their data on Unimi Dataverse in a FAIR way; the press also promotes the publication of preprints on Zenodo and, on the same

platform, the office publishes informative materials on Open Science. We are also registered with the European Diamond Capacity Hub (EDCH).

KEYWORDS

dissemination; editorial services; indexing; metadata; monitoring; training

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Blind Spots in Scholarly Infrastructure: Rethinking the Role of University Journals

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ABSTRACT

University journals (UJs) represent a structurally underrecognised segment of the scholarly publishing ecosystem. In this study, UJs are defined as scholarly periodicals published or managed by higher education institutions (HEIs). The category encompasses a wide range of organizational models: journals may be issued by university presses, libraries, departments, or published in collaboration i.e. with learned societies and commercial publishers, while maintaining institutional ownership.

Prominent examples such as Oxford University Press and Cambridge University Press illustrate how university-affiliated publishers can also function as major global commercial actors. Typically aligned with the academic priorities and research missions of their parent institutions, UJs often provide platforms for disseminating institutional and disciplinary scholarship.

Many operate under open access models, frequently without article processing charges, or at significantly lower rates than for-profit journals, as they are often supported through a combination of institutional funding, research grants, and national or regional infrastructure programmes (Solomon & Björk, 2012). However, some also follow a subscription-based publishing model.

The landscape of UJs is highly uneven across regions: while they represent key publication venues in some countries, they are nearly absent or marginalised in others. Despite their potential, UJs remain underrepresented in scholarly communication research and are frequently excluded from major indexing infrastructures and policy frameworks (Laakso & Pölönen, 2023).

This talk introduces an ongoing research initiative that aims to map, analyze, and ultimately strengthen the role of UJs within the global scholarly communication ecosystem. The project is grounded in a structured literature review (Nazarovets, 2025b, in press), which identified limited international visibility, fragile funding models, editorial and peer-review weaknesses, and infrastructural deficiencies as key challenges affecting UJs across diverse contexts. These findings provided the conceptual foundation for the empirical phases of the project.

The current phase of the study focuses on constructing a global landscape of UJs

using Ulrichsweb as the primary source for identifying journals, with supplementary data from OpenAlex, DOAJ, Scopus, and Web of Science used to assess indexing coverage, metadata completeness, and visibility patterns across regions (with preliminary estimates suggesting approximately 17,000 titles worldwide).

Preliminary results reveal that UJs are often bibliographically invisible: only a small fraction are indexed in Scopus, Web of Science, or DOAJ (which affects the global picture of open access publishing), and platforms like OpenAlex, despite their broader scope, still suffer from incomplete metadata and poor institutional disambiguation (Nazarovets, 2025b). This mapping will serve as the basis for the next phase of the project: a series of empirical case analyzes that examine editorial practices, peer-review standards, technological capacity, and international engagement in selected national and regional contexts.

The project contributes both conceptually and empirically to current debates on knowledge equity and infrastructure plurality by highlighting the role and potential of UJs within the modern academic ecosystem. At the same time, it aims to diagnose and address the structural challenges that prevent many UJs from being recognized as credible, open, and trustworthy venues for scholarly communication. For example, concerns have been raised about a characteristic feature of the editorial process of UJs, which has different cultural, political and institutional causes in different regions, and is known as 'editorial endogamy' – the dominance of editors and authors affiliated with one institution that publishes the journal, which undermines transparency, meritocracy and the internationalization of scholarly publications (Tutuncu, 2024). These findings will inform a set of reform-oriented recommendations aimed at improving the sustainability, legitimacy, and governance of UJs.

The project contributes to scholarly communication scholarship on multiple levels. Conceptually, it offers a data-driven reframing of UJs as a distinct category of non-commercial publishing, with specific risks and responsibilities. Methodologically, it develops a reproducible workflow for identifying and analyzing UJs across fragmented infrastructures. Practically, it proposes recommendations for improving their visibility, quality, and sustainability – targeting editors, institutions, funders, and policy-makers. It acknowledges the valuable contributions of European projects such as DIAMAS and CRAFT-OA, which focus on the institutional open-access publishing landscape. However, this study adopts a broader global perspective, encompassing UJs operating within and beyond open access models.

By providing a granular and comparative analysis of university-based publishing, this study exposes overlooked infrastructural and evaluative gaps that continue to marginalize UJs within global scholarly communication (Shearer, 2020). It argues that quality, openness, and equity in academic publishing cannot be achieved without recognizing and supporting the institutional venues where much non-

commercial research takes place. Addressing these blind spots requires rethinking not only the indexing and funding mechanisms, but also the conceptual place of university journals in current models of research assessment and open science policy.

The study was funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) – project number 541976107, titled "The Role of University Journals in Scholarly Communication in an Academic Publisher Oligopoly Environment."

KEYWORDS

institutional publishing; non-commercial journals; regional disparities; scholarly publishing; university journals; visibility

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Certification and Evaluation of Journals from the Perspective of the National Platform for OA Journals

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ABSTRACT

The Portal of Croatian Scientific and Professional Journals – HRČAK has been operating for nearly two decades as the central national platform for Open Access (OA) journals. With over 550 journals, HRČAK plays a key role in enhancing the visibility, accessibility, and credibility of Croatian scholarly publishing by offering editors a comprehensive infrastructure for managing modern publishing workflows.

In late 2023, a pre-evaluation of journals on HRČAK was conducted, focusing on their alignment with the technical indexing criteria of the Scopus database. The insights gained from this process serve as a foundation for the development of a certification scheme for journals, based on both HRČAK's criteria for inclusion and recommendations (HRČAK, 2024), as well as emerging European standards for Diamond OA publishing.

Of particular relevance are the Diamond OA Standard (DOAS), developed through the DIAMAS project (Consortium of the DIAMAS project, 2024), and the criteria of the Diamond Discovery Hub (DDH), developed within the CRAFT-OA project (Armengou et al., 2024). While DOAS offers a broad and detailed framework for assessing Diamond OA publishers across multiple dimensions—including governance, editorial quality, and infrastructure—DDH provides a more focused set of entry-level criteria aimed at identifying genuine community-owned, fee-free, and Open Access journals. Both initiatives share a common goal: to promote transparency, quality, and sustainability in non-commercial scholarly publishing.

These standards and frameworks will be considered whenever feasible in the development of the certification process, with the goal of encouraging improved editorial and technical practices, greater transparency, and facilitating the potential indexing of Croatian journals in global databases.

This short talk will analyse the outcomes, challenges, and opportunities arising from these evaluation procedures, with particular emphasis on the technical and editorial aspects of meeting the defined standards and criteria.

KEYWORDS

Open Access publishing; Journal evaluation; Diamond standards; Editorial quality standards

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Plugging into Quality: Boosting Diamond OA Journals with OJS Plugins

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ABSTRACT

The scholarly publishing ecosystem is undergoing a transformation, with Diamond Open Access journals emerging as a key model for equitable and sustainable research dissemination. Despite offering high-quality peer-reviewed content freely to both readers and authors, Diamond OA journals often struggle with visibility, discoverability, and perceptions of professionalism. To address these challenges, the EU-funded project CRAFT-OA is developing a suite of Open Journal Systems (OJS) plugins specifically designed to enhance the visibility, interoperability, and professional standing of Diamond journals. These 'OJS Diamond Plugins' are a targeted Key Exploitable Result (KER) within CRAFT-OA, aimed at empowering journal editors and making the Diamond OA landscape more resilient, efficient, and aligned with broader European infrastructures such as the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).

Addressing Key Challenges in Diamond OA

One of the persistent challenges faced by Diamond journals is limited interoperability with key scholarly infrastructure. This lack of alignment often hinders inclusion in metadata aggregators, indexing services, and research catalogues. As a result, many high-quality Diamond journals remain underrecognised within the global research community. CRAFT-OA directly tackles this issue by developing tools that streamline metadata exchange and align publishing workflows with the OpenAIRE Graph and EOSC Interoperability Framework on Research Product Publishing.

The objective of the OJS Diamond Plugins is twofold: to increase the visibility of Diamond OA journals and to simplify editorial workflows, enabling editors to focus on content curation rather than administrative burden. The five plugins developed under CRAFT-OA are designed to work together to address these goals in a modular and reusable way.

Overview of the OJS Diamond Plugins

- OJS Connector for OpenAIRE Graph: This plugin updates the existing OpenAIRE export tool to ensure metadata produced by OJS journals complies with the latest OpenAIRE guidelines. By improving the quality and consistency of

metadata exports, this plugin enhances the visibility and discoverability of Diamond OA journals within the OpenAIRE Graph and beyond.

- EOSC Interoperability Framework Plugin: This plugin ensures that OJS platforms align with the evolving EOSC Interoperability Framework on Research Product Publishing. The goal is to allow OJS journals to more seamlessly integrate into European research infrastructures, improving both their technical standing and their attractiveness to researchers and institutions focused on Open Science.

- OJS plugins for the integration of the OpenAIRE Broker: Using the OpenAIRE Broker service, this plugin allows local OJS systems to ingest feedback and proposals from the OpenAIRE Graph. This creates a valuable feedback loop, enriching records with missing DOIs, project links, ORCID IDs, and open access versions.

- OJS Discoverability Companion (DISCO) plugin: The DISCO plugin addresses the challenge of journal indexing by consolidating and clarifying the diverse requirements of multiple databases and aggregators. Editors often struggle with inconsistent terminology and unclear criteria across different indexes. DISCO streamlines this process by providing a unified inventory of requirements, making it easier to understand and meet indexing standards. This enhances journal visibility, improves workflow efficiency, and increases chances of inclusion in key indexes.

- Plugins to enable JATS XML based interoperability between OJS and Lodel: To support broader interoperability, this set of plugins facilitates metadata exchange between OJS, Lodel, and potentially other platforms (including Janeway). By building on established XML standards such as JATS and TEI, the plugins foster a modular approach to system integration. Comprehensive documentation ensures these tools can be reused and adapted by other platforms in the future.

Advancing Professionalisation Through Technology

Beyond the technical benefits, the OJS Diamond Plugins initiative plays a crucial role in the broader professionalization of Diamond OA journals. Many of these journals are managed by small editorial teams, often at universities or scholarly societies with limited resources. By reducing manual tasks, automating metadata handling, and supporting alignment with infrastructure like EOSC, the plugins allow editors to focus on improving the scholarly quality of their content rather than administrative overhead.

In addition, the project contributes to a shift in perception. Diamond OA journals are frequently undervalued in comparison to commercial or APC-based outlets, not because of content quality, but due to lower visibility and lack of infrastructure support. These plugins help close that gap, offering tools that can significantly enhance how Diamond journals present themselves and interact with the wider

ecosystem.

Ensuring Sustainability and Reusability

A key aspect of the CRAFT-OA approach is ensuring that these tools are not only effective within OJS but also adaptable and sustainable. For each plugin, the project produces comprehensive documentation and implementation guides, enabling other developers and platforms to reuse the results. This approach supports the FAIR principles and contributes to a more robust and interconnected open access landscape.

By developing a set of targeted, standards-based plugins for the widely used OJS platform, the CRAFT-OA project directly addresses the pressing needs of Diamond Open Access journals. The OJS Diamond Plugins aim to enhance interoperability, improve visibility, and streamline editorial workflows. In doing so, they help elevate the standing of Diamond OA journals within the scholarly communication ecosystem, promoting a future where Open Access publishing is not only equitable but also professionally recognised and technically resilient.

KEYWORDS

Diamond open access ; Open Journals System (OJS) ; Diamond journals; Diamond OJS plugins

CRAFT-OA – The OpenAIRE Publisher Dashboard: Empowering Diamond Open Access Publishing Through Transparency and Insights

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ABSTRACT

In the evolving landscape of scholarly communication, Open Science principles call for greater transparency, accessibility, and accountability in research dissemination. Diamond Open Access (OA) publishers play an important role in this transformation. These community-driven initiatives face unique challenges in achieving metadata quality and aligning with Open Science policies. To support this transition, OpenAIRE has developed the Publisher Dashboard – a dedicated service embedded within the OpenAIRE MONITOR platform – under the auspices of the CRAFT-OA project and additional to other deliverables. It enables Institutional Publishing Service Providers and Diamond OA publishing communities to monitor and improve their metadata workflows, assess alignment with Open Science practices, and contribute to a more transparent research ecosystem. The OpenAIRE Publisher Dashboard is a data-driven component of the OpenAIRE MONITOR service, tailored to support Diamond Open Access publishers. It provides actionable insights derived from the OpenAIRE Graph, one of the largest Scientific Knowledge Graphs in the world. The Dashboard allows Diamond Open Access publishers to explore how their content is aggregated, enriched, and exposed in compliance with OpenAIRE Guidelines. While metadata validation is handled at the aggregation level, the quality of this metadata is essential for fully leveraging the functionalities of the Dashboard.

The Publisher Dashboard offers a suite of metrics and indicators designed to provide Diamond OA publishers with actionable insights into their publishing activity and impact. Key features include:

- Umbrella Dashboard Support: In addition to the main publisher dashboard, the service supports individual dashboards for each journal, enabling more granular tracking and self-monitoring of scholarly production.

- Dashboard Analytics: Visual summaries of scholarly publishing activity, including the number of journals published, the journals registered in DOAJ, the volume of peer-reviewed publications, and the scholarly production attributed to Diamond OA journals. It also indicates whether publications appear in repositories, are shared across countries, or are classified under specific Fields of Science (FoS) and assigned Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Funding indicators have also been utilised that highlight grant-supported

publications, such as those resulting from EC-funded projects.

- Coverage Analysis: Insights into how publications from Diamond OA journals are represented across data sources, including those from other countries and national infrastructures.
- Benchmarking Metrics: Comparative metrics across journals within the publisher to assess performance and visibility.

The Publisher Dashboard is being piloted in collaboration with institutional and community-driven Diamond OA publishing platforms as part of the CRAFT-OA and DIAMAS projects. Use cases include:

- Monitoring scholarly production across Diamond OA journals with transparent metrics and indicators.
- Enhancing the discoverability of journal content in OpenAIRE and EOSC portals.
- Identifying gaps in metadata of the aggregated Diamond Open Access publishers
- Enriching the metadata through the enrichment process of the OpenAIRE Graph's production workflow.
- Demonstrating alignment with FAIR principles through quantifiable indicators.

Implementing the Publisher Dashboard has revealed several challenges:

- Metadata Diversity: A wide variation in metadata quality and formats, particularly among small and community-run journals.
- Capacity Gaps: Many Diamond OA publishers need training and support to adopt best practices in metadata management and comply with the OpenAIRE Guidelines so that we have a comprehensive aggregation leading to qualitative metrics and indicators.

To address the above challenges in metadata and assist the aggregation of Diamond Open Access publishers and journals, an OJS platform plugin has been developed as a CRAFT-OA deliverable, to ensure compatibility with the OpenAIRE Guidelines v4.0. Additionally, OpenAIRE supports the aggregation through the JATS XML metadata schema.

These insights have informed the development of support materials, community engagement strategies, and the co-design of features that reflect publishers' real-world needs.

The OpenAIRE Publisher Dashboard supports Diamond OA publishers in understanding the visibility and reach of their scholarly output and contributing to

a more open and equitable scholarly ecosystem. By providing qualitative metrics and indicators derived from properly aggregated metadata, the Dashboard enables Diamond OA publishers to view the range of their scholarly production and understand how their journals are positioned within the broader publishing landscape. It will be delivered alongside the broader outcomes of the CRAFT-OA project, including functional OJS plugins and the Diamond Discovery Hub, providing a comprehensive suite of services to enhance Diamond OA publishing infrastructures. Furthermore, the Publisher Dashboard will be part of the Tools and Services offered by the European Diamond Capacity Hub, supporting long-term sustainability and collaboration within the Diamond OA ecosystem.

KEYWORDS

CRAFT-OA Project, Diamond Open Access, Open Science Infrastructure, OpenAIRE MONITOR, Publisher Dashboard, Scholarly Publishing Metrics

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The OpenAIRE Graph's Quality Framework and Its Impact on Scholarly Communication

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ABSTRACT

In today's Open Science landscape, quality in research can be assessed through transparency, reproducibility, findability, and impact. Maintaining high-quality research metadata is essential for effective scholarly communication [1] ensuring the FAIR principles to be implemented. The OpenAIRE Graph [2] is a comprehensive research infrastructure that contributes to this effort, processing more than 400 million research-related records monthly, including over 290 million scientific publications, 82 million datasets, and one million software entries. Beyond mere metadata aggregation, the OpenAIRE Graph transforms heterogeneous metadata into an interconnected research ecosystem, creating meaningful links between research outputs, researchers, organizations, and funding bodies to enhance research assessment. This interconnected ecosystem enables comprehensive citation tracking, usage analysis, and research impact assessment, providing valuable insights for the scholarly community.

This presentation examines the complex quality enhancement mechanisms for scholarly data in the OpenAIRE Graph and the practical applications that establish it as one of the world's largest and most comprehensive scholarly knowledge graphs.

A cornerstone of OpenAIRE's data quality framework is its comprehensive entity identification and deduplication system. This process begins with precise author identification through ORCID validation, cross-referencing author information with the official registry. When no cross-reference with an author's ORCID profile is found, the ORCID information found in the metadata is retained, but marked as not validated. For other entities, OpenAIRE employs a sophisticated hybrid deduplication pipeline that combines automated algorithms with expert human curation [3]. For research products (publications, datasets, and software), an automated algorithm identifies and merges duplicate entities while preserving all valuable connections between research outputs. Data sources undergo additional expert verification of algorithm-proposed matches and manual searching for additional matches, with over 8,000 data sources curated to date. For organizational metadata, OpenAIRE has developed the OpenOrgs service, which leverages a network of over 100 experts across 40 countries who have successfully curated more than 100,000 organizations, addressing challenges such as multilingual name variations, diverse identifier systems, and complex institutional

hierarchies. This careful curation has significantly improved both the accuracy and coverage of organizational affiliations. In the representative record obtained via deduplication, the provenance of the information is retained for all the duplicates, ensuring transparency and traceability of the information.

Going beyond deduplication, the OpenAIRE Graph implements enrichment processes to enhance its metadata quality and analytical capabilities. Advanced text mining algorithms process full-text publications to extract additional metadata and identify relationships between research entities that might not be immediately apparent. The system also integrates with specialized external tools to provide comprehensive impact measurements: Bip! Finder [4] analyzes citations, popularity, and community importance, while Usage Counts [5] measures views and downloads from provider web pages and other registered services. The SciNoBo classifier [6] categorizes research according to Fields of Science and maps contributions to UN Sustainable Development Goals. These impacts, together with the indicators, are presented in OpenAIRE Monitor [8], which is designed to have an overview vision to National, Funders, Institutions, and Research Infrastructures on research activities and links with Open Science.

A further enrichment of the Graph is given by its propagation process that leverages on information already present in the graph to add new properties to the results or new relations. Together, these enrichment processes transform the Graph into a dynamic, interconnected research ecosystem that significantly improves both the discoverability of research and the accuracy of impact assessments.

The OpenAIRE Graph builds on these quality enhancement mechanisms to deliver concrete benefits to the research community. Research institutions can use the enriched metadata and advanced analytics to comprehensively assess their impact by tracking citations and research influence, measuring funding efficiency by connecting grants to high-impact research, and using bibliometric indicators for strategic planning and funding applications. The Graph also maps global research collaborations, revealing patterns in international partnerships and research trends. Its Fields of Science classification system helps institutions track interdisciplinary research and identify collaboration opportunities. Compliance monitoring represents another crucial feature, with robust tools for tracking adherence to Open Science policies such as Plan S, Horizon Europe, or national requirements. The system delivers detailed analytics on open access publication patterns, APC expenditure, and policy compliance rates. Furthermore, the Graph's classification system enables measurement and evaluation of research outputs' contributions to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), facilitating institutional alignment of research strategies with global sustainability objectives. By combining metadata enrichment, deduplication and full provenance tracking, the OpenAIRE Graph provides a high standard of data quality and integrity, and is a transparent and trustworthy foundation for scholarly communication. It can be used by stakeholders to make informed decisions, track

research impact, and ensure compliance with Open Science principles.

The presentation will review the main OpenAIRE Graph features discussed above and provide guidance on using its public APIs ([7]), which have been recently updated for better access to the Graph's extensive resources. Participants will receive reference materials on how to use the APIs, including query examples for common tasks such as retrieving publication metadata, tracking research impact, and monitoring open science compliance. Additionally, we will showcase our customised dashboards that allow institutions to create targeted visualizations and reports tailored to their specific needs using the Graph's comprehensive dataset.

Whether through APIs or dashboards, researchers and institutions can harness the Graph to inform evidence-based decision-making in research assessment, policy development, and funding impact analysis. With ongoing commitment to metadata quality, the OpenAIRE Graph serves as a cornerstone infrastructure for the global research community, driving the advancement of open, transparent, and efficient scholarly communication.

KEYWORDS

data quality ; knowledge graphs ; metadata ; open science ; scholarly communication

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Federating Scientific Communities for Open Discovery: The LUMEN Data Mesh Framework

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SHORT TALK PRESENTATION

ABSTRACT

Open science is transforming scholarly communication by promoting openness, transparency, and reuse. Yet to fully realize its benefits, the scholarly ecosystem must overcome fragmentation and disciplinary silos that hinder the discoverability, quality, and reusability of research outputs. Infrastructures that are either overly centralized or rigidly standardized often fail to reflect the diversity of scientific practices and data types, especially across smaller or specialized communities. Monolithic repositories, large-scale aggregators, or top-down metadata catalogs may aggregate content, but rarely support meaningful cross-domain interoperability or flexible reuse that respects domain-specific formats, vocabularies, and workflows.

At LUMEN [1], we introduce the LUMEN Data Mesh: a novel solution to this problem that operationalizes the Data Mesh paradigm [2] for open science. Rather than imposing a central infrastructure or fixed data model, LUMEN establishes a federated, community-governed network in which research communities retain autonomy over their data platforms while exposing their outputs – datasets, software, publications, semantic artefacts, and author profiles – as standardized, reusable Data Products. These products are described and governed through Data Contracts, ensuring consistent structure, semantics, quality, and access conditions. The model aligns with the FAIR principles and EOSC recommendations while remaining lightweight and adaptable, allowing legacy infrastructures to onboard incrementally by publishing Data Contracts and exposing standard interfaces such as APIs, SPARQL endpoints, or harvesting protocols.

The LUMEN architecture is built on three integrated layers. At the base lies the Federated Communities Ecosystem, where each discipline (e.g., Social Sciences, Earth System, Mathematics, Molecular Dynamics) operates its own platform and retains ownership of its data and curation practices. Communities define their own discovery environments, apply domain-specific metadata schemas, and publish FAIR-aligned Data Products without abandoning local workflows. These nodes connect to the mesh by complying with shared eligibility criteria, including the publication of ODCS-compliant Data Contracts [3] and exposing standard interfaces (REST APIs, OAI-PMH, SPARQL endpoints, etc.).

At the second layer, the Shared Data Platform offers cross-domain services such

as a White Label discovery platform inspired by GoTriple [4], a FAIR Semantic Artefact Management Space, a Meta-Search engine, an AI-powered chatbot for research assistance, and metrics dashboards. These tools promote semantic interoperability, metadata harmonization, and intelligent knowledge discovery across the federation, while reducing technical burden on individual communities.

The third layer, Federated Governance, orchestrates the rules of the ecosystem. Composed of representatives from each community, it validates Data Contracts, defines federation policies, and ensures compliance with FAIR, open licensing, and EOSC service expectations.

This federated design contrasts sharply with traditional interoperability models. While inspired by existing models such as the EOSC Interoperability Framework (EOSC-IF), the RDA Metadata Working Group, and SKG-IF [5], the LUMEN federated design pushes further by applying these principles across community-owned platforms. Instead of standardizing every dataset under a single schema or repository, LUMEN enables semantic decoupling with alignment: communities use their own ontologies but converge through a shared metamodel and mappings. This balance between autonomy and alignment allows innovation at the local level while preserving global coherence. It fosters diversity in representation, yet ensures discoverability and reuse through machine-actionable, rich metadata.

Beyond its architectural originality, the LUMEN Data Mesh offers a concrete response to persistent challenges in scholarly communication. By formalizing Data Products – datasets, software, publications, semantic artefacts, and author profiles – through structured contracts, it sets clear expectations on structure, semantics, availability, and curation. These contracts operationalize the FAIR principles [6], enabling a shift from ad-hoc metadata to machine-actionable, reusable outputs. Shared validation mechanisms and metadata harmonization foster semantic coherence and cross-domain quality assurance, while federated discovery ensures that all outputs are indexed in a mesh-wide catalog enriched by semantic services – boosting their visibility and reuse across disciplines.

At its core, LUMEN is not a platform but a participatory framework for federated infrastructure. Communities retain control over their services while benefiting from shared tools and governance. Though sustainability depends on continued engagement and resources, LUMEN mitigates this through flexible onboarding, shared components, and distributed maintenance. It offers a resilient, inclusive model that lowers technical barriers, supports multilingual practices, and fosters equity. By combining decentralized ownership with shared protocols and creating a framework aligned with institutional strategies for reproducibility and open science training [7], the LUMEN Data Mesh lays the foundation for scalable, interoperable, and collaborative open science infrastructure.

KEYWORDS

Data Contracts; Data Mesh; Data Products; EOSC Integration; FAIR Data; Federated Governance

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POSTER
PRESENTATIONS

Participatory Open Science Policy-Making in Finland: Developing the First National Citizen Science Policy

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ABSTRACT

The poster highlights the key results from a case study examining the development of Finland's first national policy on citizen science. This case study explores the participatory policy- making process, focusing on the development of the Recommendation for Citizen Science (2022) using stakeholder theory, a concept of participatory policymaking that emphasises the importance of engaging stakeholders in the policy development process (Lemke & Harris-Wai, 2015).

The policy initiative, part of a policy publications series by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies, was driven by the Ministry of Education and Culture's mandate to promote open science. The National Open Science and Research Coordination is responsible for drafting open science policies and recommendations in Finland, aiming to align with the strategic principles outlined in the Finnish Declaration for Open Science and Research (2020). The National Coordination is an inclusive network of Finnish open science experts, divided into four expert panels, led by a steering group and supported by a secretariat operating in the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies. Citizen science is becoming a widely used scientific method that involves the engagement of individuals outside of academia in scientific research activities, contributing to data collection, analysis, and various other stages of the research process (Hicks et al., 2019). The policy development process was initiated to address the need for a comprehensive framework supporting citizen science activities in Finland.

A collaborative approach was employed, involving diverse stakeholders such as academic institutions, researchers, research funders, and citizen scientists. The Citizen Science Working Group, which was part of the National Coordination, conducted background research and facilitated stakeholder consultations, employing an iterative drafting process that included multiple rounds of feedback and public commentary to ensure transparency and inclusivity.

Data collection began at the end of 2020 with a questionnaire targeting citizen science practitioners and potential practitioners to map challenges and obstacles. The survey, conducted in February 2021, received 152 responses and

highlighted significant gaps in institutional support for citizen science, including the absence of formal guidelines, training, and visibility in funding mechanisms. These findings informed the policy recommendations, which emphasise enhancing researcher freedom, providing structured training, and integrating citizen science into mainstream research practices.

This case study illustrates the strengths and limitations of participatory policy-making in science by examining the policy-making process using stakeholder theory. The poster presents key findings and shows how survey responses informed successive drafts.

While the approach enhanced the policy's responsiveness to stakeholder needs, it also revealed challenges in awareness and inclusivity. The findings underscore the importance of fostering inclusive and iterative processes that engage a broader spectrum of stakeholders. The Finnish model's emphasis on national-level engagement and collaboration offers valuable lessons for global efforts in participatory science policy development.

KEYWORDS

citizen science; open science policy; participatory policy-making; stakeholder engagement; Finland

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Open Science, Rights Retention and SPR in Slovenian Legal Order

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ABSTRACT

Slovenia has adopted a comprehensive strategic and political framework for Open Science to align with broader European trends. First, with the National Strategy of Open Access to Scientific Publications and Research Data in Slovenia 2015–2020 (Slo. Nacionalna strategija odprtega dostopa do znanstvenih objav in raziskovalnih podatkov v Sloveniji 2015-2020), and later with the Resolution on the Slovenian Scientific Research and Innovation Strategy 2030 (Slo. Resolucija o znanstvenoraziskovalni in inovacijski strategiji Slovenije 2030; hereinafter: ReZrIS30).

In addition to the strategic and political framework, Slovenia has many top-down legislative and non-legislative enablers for open science. The most important is the Scientific Research and Innovation Activities Act (Slo. Zakon o znanstvenoraziskovalni in inovacijski dejavnosti; hereinafter: ZZrID), adopted in 2021, which was the first to introduce a top-down Rights Retention requirement. This requirement was later elaborated on and complemented by the governmental Decree on the Implementation of Scientific Research in Accordance with the Principles of Open Science (Slo. Uredba o izvajanju znanstvenoraziskovalnega dela v skladu z načeli odprte znanosti; hereinafter: Decree on Open Science). This further details the framework and obligations for Rights Retention, as well as other aspects of Open Science.

The Slovenian Scientific Research and Innovation Activity Act (ZZrID) mandates Rights Retention, a crucial mechanism for ensuring that publicly funded research remains openly accessible. The concept of Rights Retention is further detailed in the Decree on Open Science. Compliance with Rights Retention obligations functions not only as an enabler, but also as an incentive for Open Science principles, reinforcing their uptake through financial conditions tied to research funding eligibility and legally prescribed sanctions for non-compliance.

At present the amendment proposal of the ZZrID, proposed by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, aims to implement Secondary Publishing Rights into Article 41 of ZZrID. The inclusion of Secondary Publishing Rights aligns with recommendations and encouragement from the EU Council Conclusions on high-quality, transparent, open, trustworthy, and equitable academic publishing. If adopted, this measure would likewise serve as an

incentive for Open Science principles, insofar as it not only strengthens legal certainty for researchers and institutions engaging in open dissemination of knowledge, but also introduces financial and legal consequences. This includes the explicit stipulation that any contractual provision preventing researchers from publishing or making available to the public the results of the research in a public open access repository shall be null and void. This proposed amendment would provide an additional legal instrument to strengthen open access to, and reuse of, publicly funded research outputs. Similar provisions have already been adopted in countries such as Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, France, Belgium, and Austria, highlighting Slovenia's commitment to aligning with best practices in Open Science. The proposed amendment to ZZrID is still in the process of adoption and is currently under parliamentary consideration.

The presentation will present legislation in place that supports rights retention and explain how it functions in practice and highlight why introduction of the SPR will be a crucial step forward to ease administrative burdens for researchers and increase legal certainty.

KEYWORDS

Open Science Policies, Right Retention, Secondary Publication Rights

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FEMLEAD Virtual Learning Lab: Advancing Inclusive Gender Methodologies in Open Science and STEM

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ABSTRACT

The FEMLEAD project (Fostering FEMale participation and LEADership in open science initiatives) is a three-year Erasmus+ cooperation partnership (KA220-HED) aimed at transforming how higher education institutions (HEIs) address gender inequality and open science (OS) integration in research and innovation systems. Bringing together a multidisciplinary consortium of academic and non-academic partners – including Université de Montpellier (France), Citizens in Power (Cyprus), University of Zagreb (Croatia), Institute for Methods Innovation (Ireland/USA), and Babeș-Bolyai University (Romania) – FEMLEAD responds to long-standing disparities in STEM fields by foregrounding women's participation, leadership, and visibility within the evolving landscape of open science (FEMLEAD, 2025).

The initiative builds on the recognition that persistent gender gaps – exacerbated for minority women – continue to limit diversity in research leadership, innovation pipelines, and OS participation across the European Research Area (ERA). Recent policy frameworks, such as the European Commission's Gender Equality Strategy 2020–2025 (European Commission, 2021), underscore the importance of structural, institutional, and cultural transformations that support gender-balanced research environments. Similarly, the Open Science Policy Platform Final Report (European Commission, 2020) and the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science (UNESCO, 2021) both emphasize the democratisation of science, transparency, and inclusiveness as essential conditions for systemic change.

At the heart of FEMLEAD lies the Virtual Learning Lab (VLL), a digital, co-creative learning environment designed to embed inclusive gender methodologies within open science practices and STEM-related higher education. Developed under Work Package 2, the VLL serves as both a training infrastructure and a strategic change mechanism for HEIs. It operationalises four key OS dimensions – open knowledge, open infrastructure, engagement with societal actors, and dialogue with other knowledge systems – into actionable training modules and participatory policy tools.

The VLL's design is grounded in participatory methodologies informed by intersectionality and systems thinking. During the project's first phase, comprehensive institutional mapping was conducted to analyse current gender

equality and OS policies across partner institutions. In parallel, qualitative consultations were carried out with more than 200 stakeholders – female researchers, students, HEI staff, policy actors, and grassroots organisations – across partner countries. These consultations identified key gaps, barriers, and aspirations, particularly around retention, access to leadership opportunities, work-life balance, recognition, and participation in OS and STEM initiatives. These voices now shape the pedagogical content and structural design of the VLL.

The first module, Transforming Higher Education Institutions, currently nearing completion, introduces core themes including gender-responsive institutional transformation, inclusive leadership, mentorship practices, and the promotion of diverse role models in STEM. Drawing on evidence from feminist pedagogy and inclusive design frameworks, this module emphasizes critical reflection, co-creation, and peer learning. Its digital format includes asynchronous e- learning, interactive case studies, and participatory evaluation tools designed to support flexible engagement – especially for those with caregiving responsibilities or from under-resourced settings.

A distinguishing feature of the VLL is its alignment with the project's broader multi-stakeholder implementation model. Modules are not only designed for HEI students and researchers but also for administrative staff, policy makers, and societal actors. This reflects FEMLEAD's commitment to institutional transformation beyond individual skill-building. By providing tools for monitoring gender indicators, assessing policy implementation, and facilitating institutional dialogue, the VLL becomes a vehicle for both capacity-building and organisational change.

The implementation of the VLL is situated within a broader framework that includes three complementary work packages. Work Package 3 focuses on OS implementations: it facilitates the participation of 50 female HEI researchers and students in 15 STEM-OS projects, alongside three OS fairs and five Info Days across partner institutions, reaching over 1600 participants. These activities reinforce the applied value of VLL training and provide spaces for showcasing women- led initiatives and research outputs. Simultaneously, Work Package 4 organises five multi- stakeholder policy labs, through which Gender Equality Action Plans and institutional policy recommendations are co-developed. These outputs will feed back into the VLL, ensuring that it remains a dynamic and reflexive platform.

The theoretical rationale for FEMLEAD rests on an understanding of science as a socio-technical system in which epistemological, institutional, and cultural norms intersect. Gender disparities in research, particularly in STEM, are not solely the result of individual biases or isolated institutional policies but reflect broader structural inequalities. Open science, with its commitment to transparency, participation, and equity, provides a normative and practical framework through which these inequities can be addressed – if implemented with an intersectional lens (UNESCO, 2021).

However, as the European Commission (2020) warns, the promises of OS cannot

be realised without critically examining the infrastructures, incentives, and access modalities that underpin it. The VLL thus acts as a scaffold for such critical engagement, fostering learning environments that are not only open but also intentionally inclusive. In doing so, it contributes to the transformation of research cultures from within, aligning with feminist theories of change that emphasize the redistribution of power, visibility, and recognition (European Commission, 2021).

By the project's end in 2027, FEMLEAD envisions a sustainable digital infrastructure that will remain in use and further developed by partner HEIs and beyond. It aims to contribute to long- term transformations in how universities understand and implement gender equality in research and education. The VLL will be accessible in multiple languages and integrated into institutional learning management systems, ensuring broad reach and adaptability. The broader impact of FEMLEAD extends to policy dialogue, curriculum development, citizen engagement, and institutional benchmarking. Through its focus on OS and gender, it addresses key European priorities related to inclusion, civic participation, and excellence in research and innovation. By fostering the leadership of women – particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds – in shaping future research agendas, the project contributes to the diversification of science and to more just and equitable knowledge production.

KEYWORDS

gender equality; higher education; open science; STEM, virtual learning lab

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Science Communication and Social Media Engagement Among Croatian Researchers: Insights from a National Survey

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ABSTRACT

Effective science communication is essential for fostering public trust in research, ensuring informed decision-making, and strengthening the relationship between science and society.

A recent study conducted through the Eurodoc network of associations representing early-career researchers and doctoral candidates in Europe (Berezko et al., 2021) surveyed researchers across the continent and addressed aspects of science communication and outreach, but failed to adequately represent the Croatian academic context.

This study explores how Croatian researchers engage in science communication practices and social media engagement based on a dual approach combining self-reported survey data and content analysis of institutional communication practices. It is part of a broader preregistered study on Open Science (Hoić et al., 2024), with this contribution focusing on perceptions and practices related to science communication and outreach.

As of March 2025, 449 researchers from various disciplines and career stages participated in the national survey. Participants provided information on their use of social media platforms (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn) for professional purposes, their views on the role of science communication in research, and their engagement in outreach activities.

While the majority of respondents emphasize the importance of communicating science to the public (88.5%) and believe researchers should present their work clearly on personal or institutional websites (81.2%), 72.4% disagree that Croatian researchers currently communicate science adequately.

Regarding social media use, 76.1% of participants have a Facebook profile, 63.0% LinkedIn, and 60.0% ResearchGate. However, only 27.4% use ResearchGate, 19.6%

LinkedIn, and 9.1% Facebook to promote their research. Use of X (formerly Twitter) for this purpose remains limited (7.0%), despite being one of the most visible platforms for science communication internationally.

These findings resonate with prior international studies; for instance, (Collins et al., 2016) found that while many scientists use social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and blogs, the frequency of using these platforms specifically for public outreach and science communication remains relatively low. This trend also reflects broader challenges within academia: Canfield et al. (2020) identified significant barriers to participating in outreach, including limited time, lack of institutional support, and concerns about professional credibility; while Johnson et al., (2013) showed that science outreach has traditionally been perceived as a low-status task, often undertaken by graduate students and early-career faculty, predominantly women.

To complement the survey data, we will conduct a content analysis of the official social media accounts of Croatian universities and research institutions, assessing their activity levels, types of content shared, and audience engagement metrics. By comparing these institutional practices with the self-reported behaviours and attitudes captured in our survey, we aim to identify correlations between organizational communication strategies and individual researchers' engagement in science communication.

Together, this study should provide a more complete picture of science communication perceptions and practices among Croatian researchers and inform efforts to improve both individual and institutional engagement with the public.

KEYWORDS

Croatia, Outreach, Science communication, Social media, Public engagement

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The Role of an Academic Library in Publishing: The Case of the Journal Tourism and Hospitality management – Past, Present, and Future

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ABSTRACT

Journal Tourism and Hospitality Management (THM) is an international, multidisciplinary, open access journal dedicated to advancing research in all fields of the tourism and hospitality industry. It has been published since June 1995 by the Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management, University of Rijeka.

Originally launched as a national academic journal, it served as a platform for research in tourism and hospitality with a particular focus on Southeast Europe. Over time, the journal expanded its scope, language policy, and editorial structure to meet international academic standards. In its early years, it accepted articles in both Croatian and English, but since 2005, English has become the sole language of publication.

Over the past five years (2020–2024), the journal has increased the number of published articles annually and currently publishes more than 40 peer-reviewed articles per year, authored by contributors from a wide range of countries and institutions, demonstrating both international reach and scholarly consistency. It also fosters dialogue among researchers, scholars, practitioners, and professionals in the field.

Today, THM adheres to COPE standards and applies a double-blind peer-review process to ensure academic integrity and transparency. The journal was included in the Scopus database in 2013 under the subject area 'Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality Management' (Q3). In 2024, it was also indexed under 'Geography, Planning and Development' (Q3) category. In 2017 the journal was accepted into the Web of Science – Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) (Hospitality, Leisure, Sport & Tourism Q3) after four years of applying.

The journal underwent a significant transformation in 2023, marked by a redesigned visual identity and the adoption of APA citation style, signalling a new phase of editorial modernisation and strategic repositioning. As of 2024, the journal is no longer printed in physical form and is published exclusively online.

The Library of the Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management plays an essential role in maintaining the journal's scholarly and technical standards. Its responsibilities include reviewing references and ensuring adherence to the

journal's citation style, managing DOI assignment and activation via CrossRef, submitting article metadata and full texts to indexing services (Hrčak, EBSCO, DOAJ, SSRN), preparing and delivering RDF (Resource Description Framework) metadata to RePEc after each issue is published, and communicating regularly with major indexing databases (Web of Science, Scopus, EconLit, CABI, CABELL, ProQuest) to ensure accuracy and visibility.

The library continuously monitors the indexing status and citation metrics of the journal, verifies data accuracy, and follows changes in database rankings and journal quartiles. Through its proactive involvement, the library significantly contributes to the journal's long-term visibility, discoverability, and sustainability. Several of the library's suggestions regarding the journal's visibility and quality have been accepted and implemented over the years: assigning DOIs to older issues, including database widgets (Scopus SJR, Web of Science JCR) on the journal's website, and translating and implementing the APA citation style. In 2024, the library employee assigned to the journal was officially listed in journal's impressum under the role of 'production administrator', which previously wasn't the case. Close cooperation between journal editors and the library is integral to further advances for the journal.

In 2025, Tourism and Hospitality Management proudly celebrates its 30th anniversary, marking three decades of continuous publication. Since its establishment, the journal has evolved into a respected international platform for academic and professional dialogue in tourism and hospitality.

Looking ahead, the journal aims to further strengthen its international positioning by enhancing editorial policies, expanding its global reviewer network, and encouraging interdisciplinary contributions. It also plans to align its publishing standards with the criteria of international journal rankings and is preparing to apply for inclusion in the Academic Journal Guide (AJG / ABS list) and the Australian Business Deans Council (ABDC) Journal Quality List by 2027. Inclusion in these prestigious rankings is strategically important for increasing academic recognition, attracting high-quality submissions, and supporting the development of tourism and hospitality research globally.

KEYWORDS

library services; publishing; open access; journal

Ukraine's Open Science Transformation: Resilience and Innovation During Wartime

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State Scientific and Technical Library of Ukraine

ABSTRACT

The Open Access and Open Science movement is fundamentally transforming the global research landscape and scientific communication by promoting transparency and openness in research processes and outcomes. This transformation fosters reproducibility and reuse, accelerates scientific discovery, reduces collaborative barriers, and prevents unnecessary research duplication. Data sharing has emerged as a crucial driving force shaping the direction of science worldwide across all disciplines. For Ukraine, embracing this movement represents more than academic modernisation – it is essential for integrating Ukrainian science into the global community, fostering international collaboration, and enhancing the societal impact assessment of science across economy, healthcare, defence, and other critical sectors. This integration becomes particularly vital during wartime and in addressing post-war reconstruction needs.

Despite challenging wartime conditions, financial constraints, resource limitations, and the destruction of university infrastructure, Ukraine's scientific sector demonstrates remarkable continuity and growth. Research activities persist across more than 350 universities and over 100 research institutions. Ukrainian scientists maintain substantial scholarly output, publishing over 80,000 scientific papers annually in 1,700 Ukrainian scientific journals and more than 4,000 papers in publications indexed by Scopus and Web of Science.

Ukraine has implemented several groundbreaking policy initiatives that position it as a leader in open science implementation during times of crisis:

- The National Open Science Plan (2022) represents Ukraine's most significant policy milestone, establishing mandatory open science principles and research data management (RDM) requirements for all state-funded research projects. This comprehensive framework requires applicants to demonstrate compliance with FAIR principles, particularly emphasizing data interoperability and reuse capabilities.

- Integration with Higher Education Assessment (2025) marks a transformative step where the national assessment methodology for higher education institutions now includes mandatory FAIR data requirements, creating systemic incentives for institutional compliance and cultural change.

Ukrainian institutions have established robust open science infrastructure that rivals many established European systems:

- 136 open access repositories providing comprehensive coverage across disciplines
- Over 90% of Ukrainian scholarly journals operating under open access models, with 10- 15% following diamond open access principles
- National Repository of Academic Texts (in development since 2016) serving as a centralised platform for Ukrainian scholarly output.

The State Scientific and Technical Library of Ukraine has emerged as the country's primary open science catalyst, spearheading multiple transformative initiatives:

- Active participation in international open science networks and partnerships
- Development of shared roadmaps defining strategic steps toward research information openness
- Leadership in proper data management protocol implementation.

Major Two-Year Project (2025-2026) launched by the Library addresses critical capacity-building needs through: targeted policy development for diverse stakeholders (researchers, data stewards, librarians, publishers, university administrators); creation of comprehensive guidelines and implementation instructions; development of monitoring methodologies for assessing open access effectiveness and FAIR data compliance; planning and implementation of the National Scientific Data Repository of Ukraine incorporating international best practices and standards.

Ukraine's open science initiatives demonstrate remarkable alignment with European Research Area integration requirements, showing strategic foresight in European integration preparation. This alignment is evident in several key areas:

- Policy Synchronisation: Ukraine's National Open Science Plan mirrors policy frameworks implemented across EU member states, particularly those adopted by countries like Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania during their integration periods.
- Infrastructure Development: The establishment of 136+ repositories and high open access journal adoption rates (90%+) exceed benchmarks achieved by several EU candidate countries during similar development phases.
- Institutional Capacity Building: Ukraine's systematic approach to training data stewards, librarians, and administrators parallels successful programmes implemented in countries like Slovenia and Croatia during their pre-accession periods.

Ukraine's approach demonstrates several unique innovations that could inform EU-wide best practices:

- Crisis-Period Implementation: Ukraine proves that open science advancement is possible even amid extreme disruption, providing valuable lessons for maintaining research continuity during crises.

- Rapid Policy Integration: The simultaneous implementation of open science requirements alongside higher education assessment represents an accelerated approach that could serve as a model for other transitioning countries.

- Wartime Collaboration Enhancement: Ukrainian initiatives specifically address how open science principles can enhance international collaboration during national crises, offering insights for future EU crisis response mechanisms.

Despite significant progress, Ukraine faces substantial challenges common to many EU candidate countries:

- Limited FAIR Principles Awareness: Many researchers remain unfamiliar with FAIR principles and their significance, requiring comprehensive educational initiatives.

- Tool and Standard Implementation: Limited knowledge and implementation of assessment tools, software solutions, and standards for FAIR data compliance persist across institutions.

- Institutional Capacity Variations: Only 12 universities currently maintain comprehensive open science policies, services, and infrastructure, highlighting the need for broader institutional development.

Other systemic barriers:

- Academic Evaluation Systems: Traditional emphasis on publications and citations continues to limit incentives for data sharing, dataset creation, and broader societal impact pursuit.

- Resource Allocation: Researchers often perceive data sharing and RDM requirements as additional burdens without direct research benefits, necessitating better incentive alignment.

- Infrastructure Gaps: Many institutions lack experience and skills needed for effective research data management support for their research teams.

Ukrainian policymakers and institutions have developed comprehensive approaches to address these challenges:

- Comprehensive Training Programs: Training initiatives involving multiple

stakeholders targeting researchers, administrators, and support staff.

- Incentive Realignment: Integration of open science metrics into academic evaluation and funding criteria.
- Collaborative Infrastructure Development: Shared resource development to address institutional capacity limitations.

Ukraine's open science transformation represents a unique case study in academic modernisation during crisis while maintaining the European integration trajectory. The country's initiatives provide valuable insights for:

- Crisis Resilience: Demonstrating how open science principles can enhance research continuity and international collaboration during disruption
- Accelerated Implementation: Showing how comprehensive policy frameworks can drive rapid cultural and institutional change
- European Integration: Illustrating how open science advancement can serve as a bridge to European Research Area participation

As Ukraine continues developing its open science ecosystem, the experience offers important lessons for EU expansion policy and support mechanisms for candidate countries facing similar challenges. Ukraine's scientific community has transformed potential crisis into an opportunity for innovation, advancing open science principles despite unprecedented challenges. The combination of strategic policy implementation, robust infrastructure development, and international alignment positions Ukraine as both a beneficiary and contributor to global open science advancement.

The ongoing State Scientific and Technical Library project and related initiatives represent not only national development but potential models for a crisis-period open science implementation that could inform European and global best practices. Ukraine's experience demonstrates that commitment to openness, transparency, and collaboration can not only survive but thrive even in the most challenging circumstances.

KEYWORDS

Open Science, Research Data Management, Ukraine, Russian-Ukrainian War, European Research Area, EU Integration, Crisis Resilience, FAIR Principles, Diamond

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Unlocking Research Potential: Enhancing Knowledge Transfer through Open Science and Intellectual Property Management

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ABSTRACT

Reliable research solutions are essential for addressing today's challenges and upgrading the European research and innovation landscape. In this context, the European Research Area Policy Agendas (2022-2024 and 2025-2027; European Commission 2022, 2025) emphasise Open Science (OS) and knowledge valorisation, thereby opening the eyes of research-performing organisations to create effective value (for academia, industry and society) from their research work by strategically exploiting their intellectual assets through the optimal alignment of Open Science practices and Intellectual Property (IP) management.

The poster presents the progress of the Horizon Europe WIDERA project IP4OS (Unpacking the possibilities of Intellectual Properties for Open Science) and aims to (1) raise awareness of innovative knowledge valorisation strategies via a complementary interplay of IP and OS and (2) invite conference participants to engage with IP4Os after the conference.

Part (1): The poster emphasises that both IP and OS aim to promote knowledge transfer and can support each other to enhance the communication and exploitation of research. We will demonstrate this by presenting the openly accessible IP4OS' Synergy Framework, offering recommendations grounded in legal practices and real-world examples where IP management has been effectively integrated into open research workflows. The framework empowers researchers and institutions to navigate IP while supporting effective knowledge transfer through adequate openness and sharing. By diving into the Synergy Framework, conference participants will enhance their understanding of IP-OS interplay as a key step towards building sustainable, FAIR-aligned knowledge ecosystems in Europe and fostering knowledge transfer through broader access to and sharing of research works coupled with information on ownership, responsibilities, and reuse options.

With this approach institutions can support researchers promoting collaborative settings in the interplay of academia and industry to enhance innovation, transparency, and societal impact in research while complying with legal and ethical standards.

Part (2): By inviting conference participants and their institutions to get involved in the project's capacity and community building activities after the conference (such as training, Open Innovation Challenges or adding their IP-OS practices to the Synergy Framework and European Knowledge Valorisation Platform) this contribution adds value to the conference by offering clear benefits and sustainable involvement in the project's initiatives and networks. Practical QR-codes will lead participants to these initiatives.

KEYWORDS

Intellectual Property, IP4OS, knowledge transfer, Open Science, scholarly communication, valorisation

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Diamond Discovery Hub: Where Community-Owned Research Shines

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ABSTRACT

Diamond Open Access (OA) refers to an equitable model of scholarly publishing that charges no fees to authors or readers and in which the content-related elements of publication are owned and controlled by the scholarly communities." (European Diamond Capacity Hub)

We propose a poster presenting the Diamond Discovery Hub (DDH), an online platform developed by the CRAFT-OA (Creating a Robust Accessible Federated Technology for Open Access) project. The DDH contributes to the visibility and recognition of Diamond Open Access publications and the community behind them. It verifies and publicly lists European Diamond Open Access journals and enables data uptake into other indexes and aggregators. Although developed specifically for the European research community, documentation on the platform's technical infrastructure will be available to global Diamond OA stakeholders who wish to build a similar service in their regions.

Standardising terminology leads to trust in the research community: When a journal is labelled as "Diamond Open Access", it means more than being cost-free for authors and readers. Journals must meet six community-determined Diamond Open Access criteria (Armengou et al. 2024) to be included in the Diamond Discovery Hub. This standardised verification process and public display of Diamond OA journals will build trust around the term "Diamond" both within and beyond the Diamond community, ensuring that as the Diamond Open Access publishing model grows, it continues to embrace the core values of the community, including autonomy, freedom, care, collegiality, collaboration, equality, diversity, inclusion, integrity, ethics, openness, and transparency.

Visibility leads to discoverability and recognition: When a journal is listed in the Diamond Discovery Hub (DDH), it can potentially also be listed in other indexes and aggregators (such as DOAJ, disciplinary indexes, and the EOSC), if they use the available option of importing the data from the DDH. This is an important step that helps smaller, Institutional Publishing Services ensure the same recognition and acknowledgement (for their authors, publications, and publication channels) as commercial OA publishers, who are often more technically and organizationally adept. Because Diamond OA publications tend to be more linguistically diverse, the DDH also helps improve the overall availability of multilingual scientific

knowledge in European languages, which is crucial for reaching decision-makers, professionals, and the general public.

KEYWORDS

Diamond OA; Diamond Open Access; Open Access; Science Communication

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From Policy to Practice: The Rise of Data Management Plans in Croatian Institutional Repositories

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ABSTRACT

This poster presents an overview of how the Croatian research community has responded to the Croatian Science Foundation's (HRZZ) 2022 mandate requiring Data Management Plans (DMPs). Using data from the national repository infrastructure – DABAR between 2020 and 2024, we examine trends in the creation and deposition of DMPs to institutional repositories.

The analysis shows an increase in DMP deposits, growing from just 12 in 2020 to 549 by early 2024. The largest jump occurred in 2023, with submissions rising from 95 in 2022 to 214. This reflects the growing influence of HRZZ's policy, as all but one DMP were related to HRZZfunded projects. Approximately 50% of submitted DMPs are openly accessible, though levels of openness vary.

These findings highlight the role of funder mandates and national infrastructure in promoting research data management practices. While the increase in DMP submissions is encouraging, a broader cultural shift toward comprehensive research data management and FAIR data principles is still developing. A national RDM strategy and integration of data management into research evaluation could further support these efforts.

KEYWORDS

Croatian Science Foundation; Dabar platform; Data Management Plans; FAIR principles; Research Data Management

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HR-CLARIN Research Infrastructure and Open Science Repository

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ABSTRACT

One of the biggest challenges for any researcher is keeping up with the large amount of research data and results and selecting the relevant from the less relevant or completely useless data. Research infrastructures, thanks to their full commitment to open science, provide their communities with access to available resources, maximising the possibilities of finding, retrieving, interoperability and reusing data. Research infrastructures are considered to be centres of knowledge and innovation and are one of the fundamental pillars of the European Research Area. According to the Research Infrastructure Development Roadmap in the Republic of Croatia 2023–2027 published by the Ministry of Science and Education, research infrastructures "provide unique knowledge, expertise, comprehensive resources and services to research communities to conduct research and stimulate the development of innovation. They include scientific equipment or sets of instruments, knowledge-based resources such as collections, archives or scientific data infrastructures, computing systems, communication networks and other infrastructure of a unique nature." (Roadmap, 2023:1)

They should also be open to external users, as they require, attract and retain high-quality researchers. According to the Ministry's Plan they are key to achieving excellence in research and innovation. Croatian research infrastructures should promote the use of the FAIR principles for research data, enable open and transparent access to infrastructure for all relevant stakeholders under equal conditions, strengthen international cooperation and the visibility of Croatian scientists and their success in international projects, encourage excellence in science, and consolidate research communities at the national level.

CLARIN ERIC, a research infrastructure for language resources and technology is creating and maintaining an infrastructure to support the sharing, use and sustainability of language data and tools for researchers in the humanities and social sciences. It has grown into a network of 25 member and observer third-party countries, with 70 CLARIN centres, over 900,000 records in its repositories, and an immeasurable number of contributors, users, and trainers. One of the members of the CLARIN research infrastructure is HR-CLARIN, a Croatian research infrastructure that provides language resources, technologies and expertise, as well as knowledge transfer to researchers in the humanities and social sciences , with a focus on Croatian language resources and tools. It also develops and stores

language resources for other languages, e.g. Latin and Old- Church Slavonic.

Building a community of users and engaging with them mainly takes place through the activities of Croatina – CLARIN's Knowledge Center (K-Center) for the Croatian language, which was founded in 2024 and involves two institutions that are both members of the national consortium HR-CLARIN: the Institute of Linguistics of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb (FFZG) and the Institute of the Croatian Language (IHJ). Croatina provides relevant knowledge about the Croatian language and promotes the use of language technologies for the Croatian language, offers users with support via a helpdesk providing relevant information on topics related to the Croatian language, and advises users on building and storing their own language resources.

The backbone of HR-CLARIN is a repository for storing language resources whose structure strongly supports open science. Once the HR-CLARIN repository was established, it opened up access to the storage and sharing of language resources for Croatian scholars. In terms of a software solution, the HR-CLARIN is the first CLARIN repository launched on Lindat DSpace v7. Users can store their language resources in the repository, with each language resource receiving a unique persistent identifier (PID) and it is recommended to include it in the citation of used language resources. Since the citation of data sources is still an unresolved issue within the Croatian scientific community, CLARIN also offers recommendations for best practice citation using persistent identifiers so that, on the one hand, the work of the authors of the data is adequately validated, and on the other hand, the dataset used is uniquely identified for the purpose of ensuring the reproducibility of research. Digital datasets are not, like publications, fixed entities. They can change over time and experience several versions, for example, if the authors decide to upgrade or expand their language resource. The persistent identifier system ensures that the version used will always be available, while at the same time drawing users' attention to possible newer versions. Finally, if for some reason the location of the resource changes, persistent identifiers ensure that the user will always be directed to the current location of the resource. Users can also search for and access available resources in a manner that respects the licensing terms specified by the resource author. Croatian language resources stored in the HR-CLARIN repository are directly included in the European federation of CLARIN ERIC repositories and are visible and, depending on the chosen license, accessible to all authenticated researchers and/or the wider interested public.

KEYWORDS

academic publishing; journal evaluation; journal ranking; Open Access; predatory journals; research integrity

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Wikipedia and Disinformation: A Case of Homeland War in the Republic of Croatia

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ABSTRACT

By opening science to a larger number of users, i.e., by practising Open Science, the effects of science itself are multiplied. Research becomes accessible to more people, which, combined with the use of adequate channels for dissemination, can lead to the popularization of researched areas and consequently raise the level of public knowledge on a specific topic (Vlašiček & Flis, 2021). Thus, today with broadband internet and ubiquitous information access, the popularisation of science on digital platforms is extremely important to protect the cognitive experience of existing and new societal phenomena from malicious influences. Of course, manipulation of information is also possible in science, but it is significantly hampered by the fundamental principles of science such as transparency, verifiability, and argumentation when publishing information about the phenomena it deals with.

To understand disinformation campaigns, it is necessary to distinguish misinformation, which abounds in today's information space, from disinformation. The fundamental difference lies in the purpose, or goal. Namely, misinformation is not necessarily created to mislead the user; it can be the result of ignorance, incompetence, or simply the fabrication of unverified content. In contrast, disinformation represents deliberately sent false or partially false information with the intent to mislead the user (Tuđman, 2003). The role of science is extremely significant in all domains of human society, and its actions can be a factor of both stability and instability. The aim of this poster is to show the potential for directed action of open science in the fight against disinformation to protect the corpus of public knowledge by using verified information platforms. As an example of the disputable use of verified and scientifically confirmed information, we can point to the multilingual, freely accessible internet encyclopaedia Wikipedia, which is susceptible to malicious influences, although most of its content represents accurate data (McDowell & Vetter, 2020). This encyclopaedia is the most widespread service for information about the "unknown," and although partially regulated, it does not represent a fully regulated information platform.

There is a known example where the Croatian Wikipedia was shown to be biased in shaping content, particularly concerning political and military topics, including the theme of the Homeland War (Car & Šobota, 2023). A disinformation campaign is extremely difficult to prove because intent must be detected; however, a certain

lack of transparency was observed, to which the administrators themselves reacted by employing so-called "Fact checkers." Wikimedia published a report on this activity titled: "The Croatian Wikipedia Case: Encyclopedia of Knowledge or Encyclopedia for the Nation?" (Wikipedia.org, 2021) The digitization, updating, and popularization of national encyclopedic material, with an emphasis on the Croatian Encyclopedia, would reduce the influence of occasionally unverified platforms in this field and enable the reception of verified knowledge. Furthermore, projects like the "Digitization of materials from the Homeland War" and the declassification, i.e., public accessibility, of parts thereof would create a basis for upgrading existing knowledge based on facts and authentic sources, thereby reducing the possibility of information manipulation (Balog Vojak & Šinkić, 2013).

The contribution of open science principles would certainly include preventive activities such as educating public service staff through workshops and training on how to detect and identify potential threats in the information space. The goal of this approach is, of course, not for scientists to become "fact evaluators," but for open science to become a reference point for shaping opinions about phenomena through increased accessibility, while unverified informational content on various media platforms would be approached with a higher level of critical thinking. Thus, science would represent a partial barrier to the penetration of disinformation into the corpus of public knowledge.

KEYWORDS

disinformation; open science; public knowledge; Wikipedia; Homeland War

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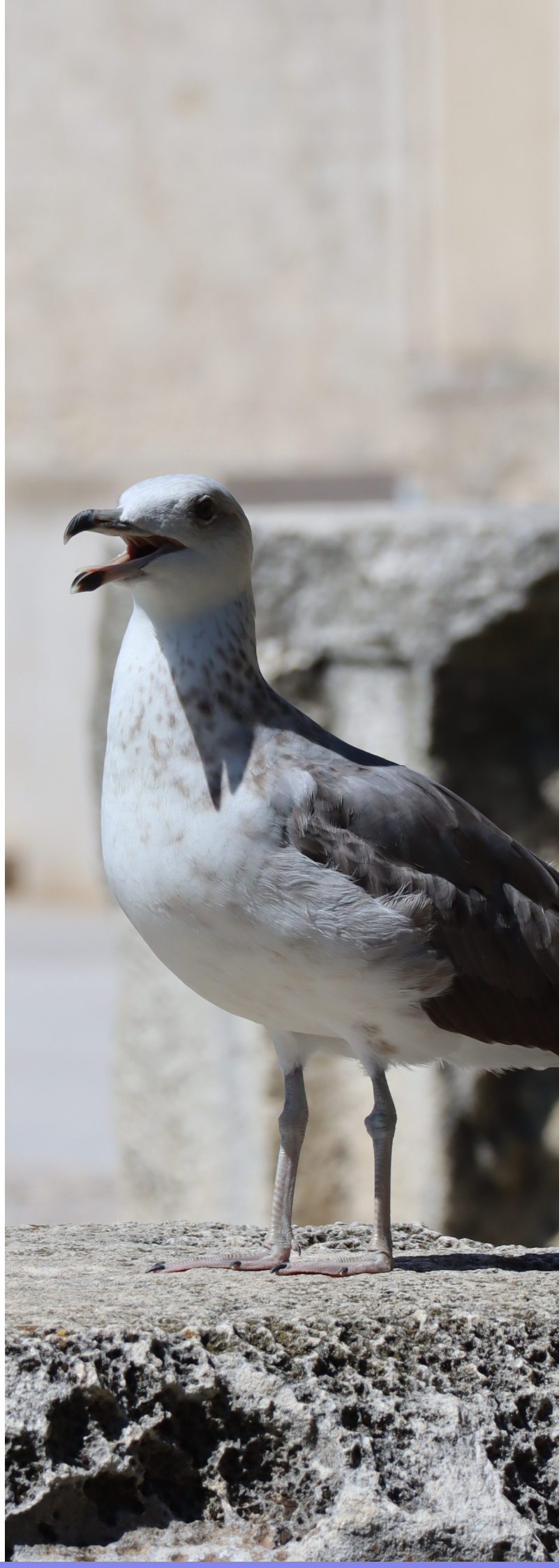

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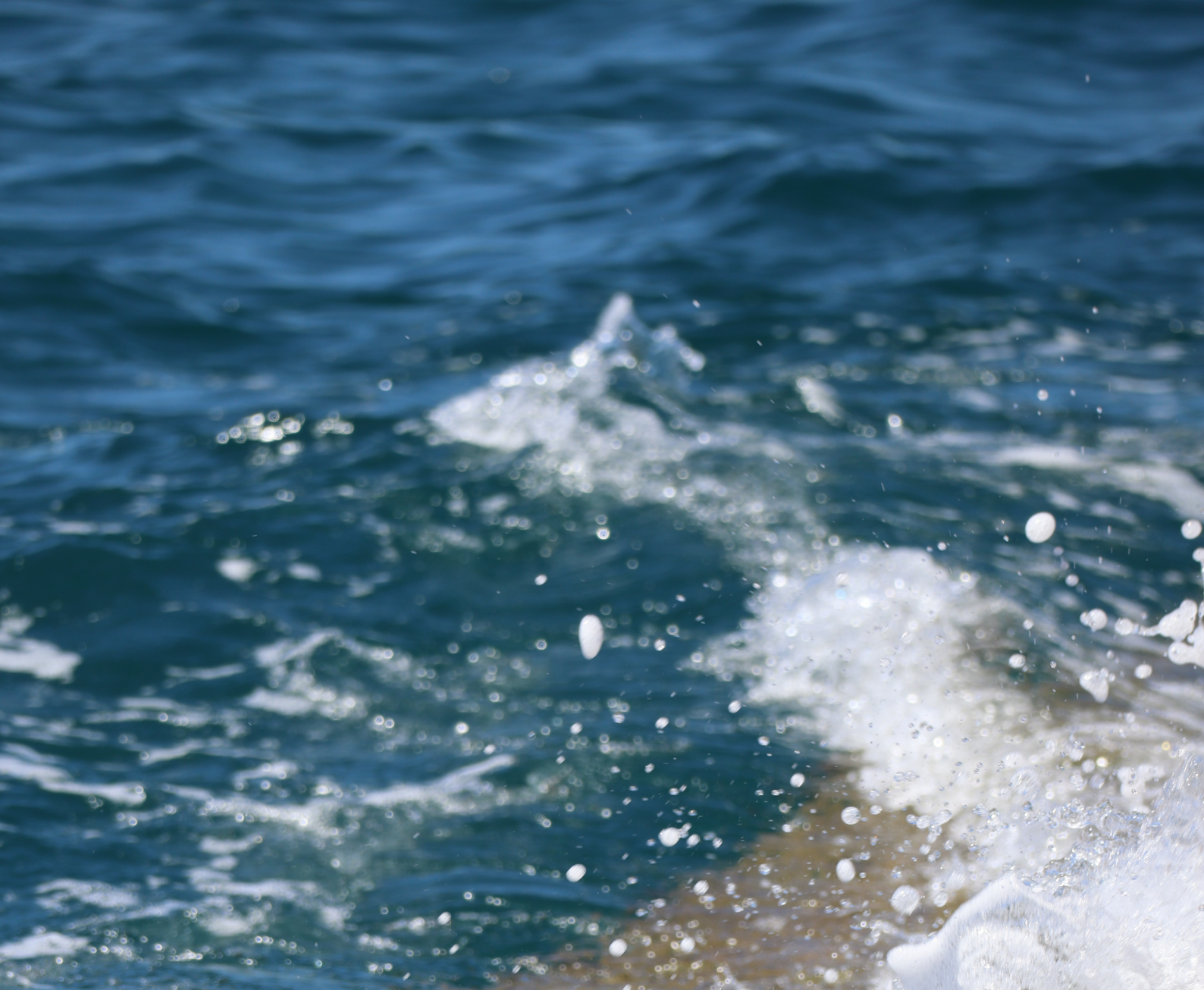

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