Building our Open Access Future: Empowering libraries to find solutions to sustaining community-led open infrastructures

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A world *without* open infrastructures

"Imagine a world where thousands of peer-reviewed journals, books, datasets, and other research output are no longer available online, a world without persistent identifiers, registries, and standards for data exchange, where technical development priorities are not in alignment with community values, and where the creation of standards is not community-driven." SCOSS 2024

DOAJ: Directory of Open Access Journals

1

Unique extensive index of diverse peer-reviewed open access journals

2

Wider mission to raise the profile, visibility and impact of quality OA journals in all languages, disciplines and regions

3

All journals that apply must meet our rigorous criteria (an unofficial gold standard for OA publishing)

DOAJ

The community uses DOAJ as a source of trusted journals

... as a requirement in Open Access policies

... for their users by integrating our metadata into their library systems

... to help researchers find trusted venues to publish

How do DOAJ (& other infrastructures) use the funding we receive?

To maintain and develop technical infrastructure

In human expertise and effort (to save you time)

To collaborate on initiatives to improve the system

To ensure their sustainability

DOAJ

DOAJ relies on the support of over 600 libraries worldwide. This means that…

we can focus on meeting the needs of the community, not shareholders

we can make our core services and data freely available to all

your values (diversity, openness, inclusion) drive the index and its content

our metadata is open and reused across other services and collaborations

DOAJ

Challenges for libraries in supporting infrastructures

Squeezed budgets with competing demands

Absence of enabling strategy

Finance or procurement restrictions

Research culture with competing pressures and need for academic buy-in

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What are the consequences for open infrastructures if libraries don't support?

We cannot maintain the quality of our services

We spend more time (and money) on fundraising, not on our core mission

It becomes more difficult to plan (and invest) in our services

Our long-term sustainability is threatened

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What are your challenges?

All responses to your question will be shown here

Each response can be up to 200 characters long

Turn on voting in Interactivity to let participants vote for their favorites

What if we can't solve this problem?

Increasing domination by a decreasing number of commercial actors

A lack of diversity in the system could stifle innovation

A scholarly communication system built solely on competition rather than cooperation

Potential lack of interoperability, accountability and transparency

Our budgets will continue to be squeezed

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Potential solutions

Lobby senior university leaders:

Collaborate to create an enabling institutional strategy for open research

Share the eye-watering figures on what's being spent to facilitate OA publishing

Support efforts to improve research culture – bring attention to initiatives such as COARA and push for incentives that reward researchers for open research practices.
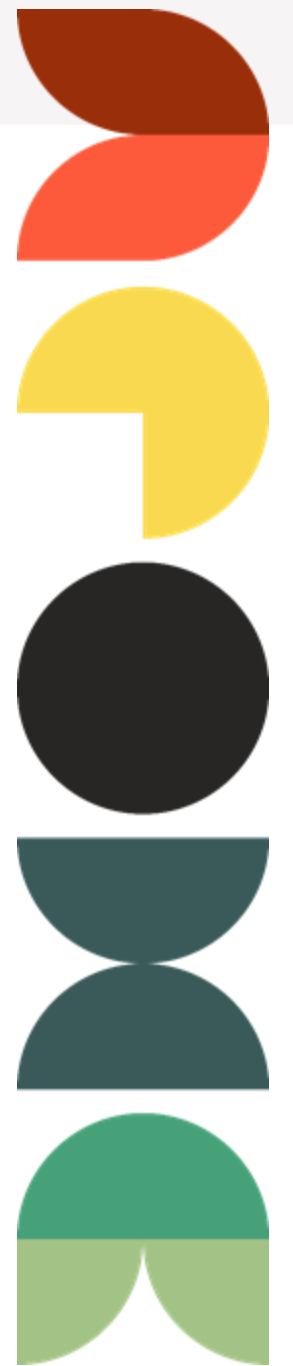
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Potential solutions

- Double our efforts with advocacy to our academic communities, highlighting success stories.

- Find the Open Research champions from across all disciplines and build a community of practice to amplify the message.

- Work across institutions to increase capacity, build reputation and influence, eg Open Institutional Publishing Association (OIPA).

- Remove friction where possible to increase uptake of open research practices, eg rights retention.

- Build a consensus that supporting open infrastructure is essential, not a 'nice to have'.

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What infrastructures can do to enable institutional support

- Contract to deliver specific developments or functionality, e.g. reclassifying DOAJ with a German Consortium, or the OA Journals Toolkit with Jisc in the UK

- Deeper collaboration based on national support, e.g. Royal Danish Library

- Being flexible with procurement and invoicing

- Contributions are more than just financial - you can support through board membership and volunteering

DOAJ

Mentimeter

What strategies have worked for you?

1 response

Hello

Call to action

- Focus on our shared values and goals - see infrastructures as an extension of the library
- Lobby senior university leadership to ensure they understand the importance of open infrastructure
- Move from transaction to investment
- Develop a Library-wide vision for open research which will guide/steer prioritisation and processes
- Look for ways to actively engage - boards, groups, responding to consultations
- Bring in finance and procurement offices so they understand the wider context
- Share the responsibility of finding solutions to this joint problem

Thank you!

References:
SCOSS: https://scoss.org/imagining-a-world-without-open-infrastructures/

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