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Episciences: A sustainable Economic Model for Diamond Open Access Overlay Journals

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Episciences represents an innovative and sustainable approach to Diamond Open Access (OA) publishing through its overlay journal platform episciences.org. As a pioneer in the overlay journal ecosystem, Episciences demonstrates how diverse funding streams can create a resilient economic foundation for Diamond OA publishing while strengthening the scholarly commons through an academic-led, academic-funded model that is not profit-driven.

Episciences offers a cost-efficient publishing solution by leveraging existing infrastructure and multi-stakeholder support. The overlay journal model eliminates costs associated with traditional publishing by building upon preprint repositories, creating a streamlined workflow that focuses resources on core scholarly communication functions.

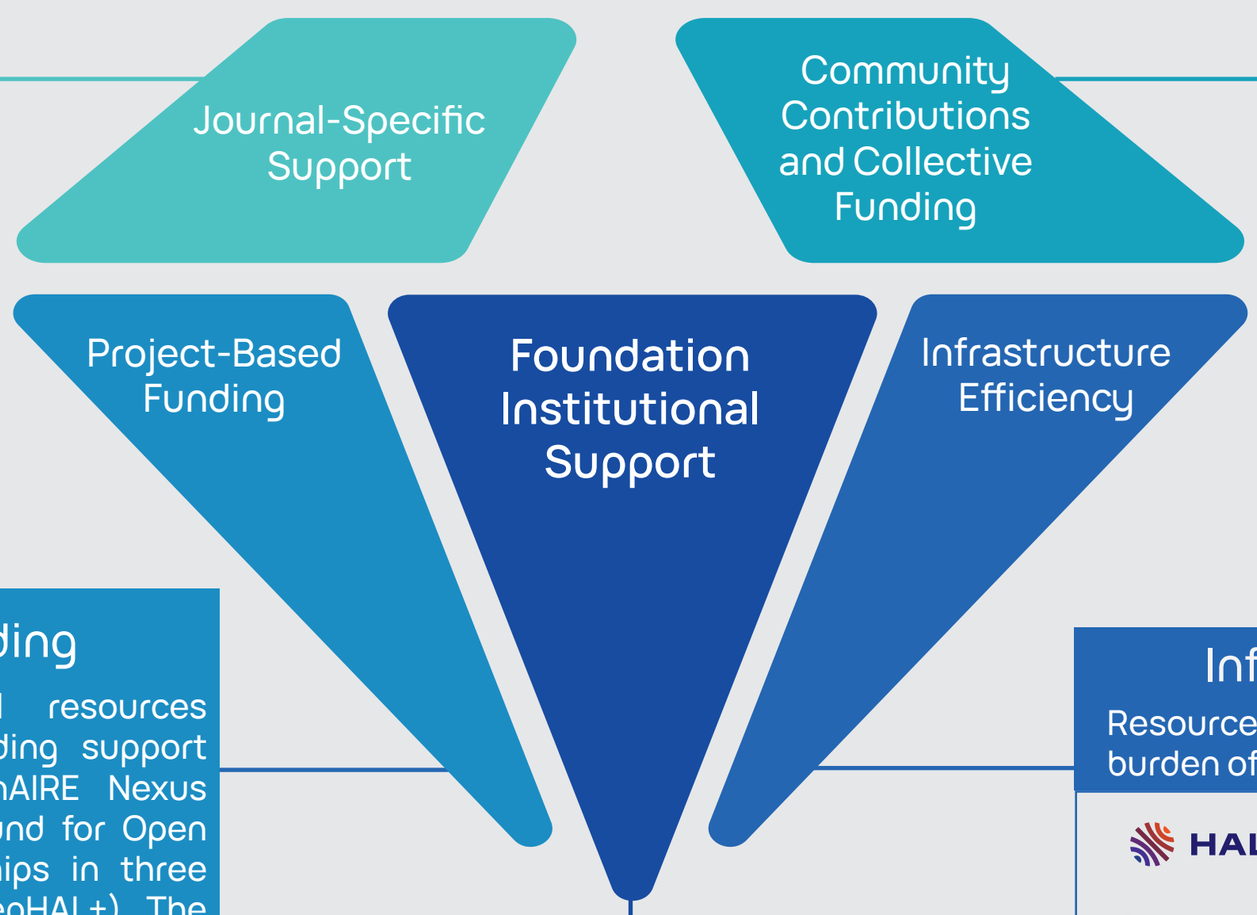
Episciences in figures

40 journals

More than 7,000 articles

More than 12,600 authors

Economic model



Journal-Specific Support

Some journals benefit financial support by Universities through their open science policy (ex: Lorraine University supports *Epiga*).
Another innovative model is the KOALA consortium, which proposes consortial solutions to finance open access without APC. Three Episciences journals benefit from this 2024-2026 program: *Epiga*, *Logical Methods in Computer Science*, *TheoretICS*.

Community Contributions and Collective Funding

The model embraces institutional contributions on both one-time and recurring bases, enabling broad participation in sustaining Diamond OA publishing. The platform's inclusion in the Couperin consortium's campaigns for open science initiatives creates additional pathways for French institutions to support sustainable scholarly communication.

Project-Based Funding

Episciences leverages additional resources through competitive grants, including support from the European Union's OpenAIRE Nexus project and the French National Fund for Open Science (FNSO) through partnerships in three projects (HALOWIN, Édisciences, nepHAL+). The CNRS has also provided dedicated funding for technological enhancements of the platform.

Infrastructure Efficiency

Resource pooling help reduce the economic burden of scholarly publishing.

HAL zenodo arXiv bioRxiv The Dataverse Project Software Heritage medRxiv

Foundational Institutional Support

The platform's core operations are jointly ensured by its supervising bodies (CNRS, Inria, INRAE) and the Ministry of Higher Education and Research. This institutional backing provides essential stability and demonstrates public organizations' commitment to academic-led publishing ecosystems and diamond OA. Additionally, Inria and Institut Fourier provide targeted support for journals in Computer sciences and Mathematics.

Episciences joins the SCOSS family

Episciences' selection for the Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services (SCOSS) funding program represents significant international recognition of our essential role in the open science infrastructure. This crowdfunding mechanism enables libraries and institutions worldwide to contribute to Episciences' sustainability through a transparent, coordinated approach. SCOSS support demonstrates the global scholarly community's commitment to collectively maintaining critical Diamond OA infrastructure beyond national boundaries and traditional funding models.

ESSENTIAL SCOSS INFRASTRUCTURE

This diversified, academic-led funding model ensures that Episciences can provide high-quality publishing services without transferring costs to authors or readers, thereby strengthening the commons in scholarly publishing. It makes knowledge more accessible, equitable, and community-driven, demonstrating that Diamond OA publishing can be economically sustainable when stakeholders across the research ecosystem share responsibility for maintaining essential scholarly communication infrastructure outside of profit-driven publishing models.

EPIsciences overlay journals

CCSD Centre pour la Communication Scientifique Directe

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