

OPERAS: Open Scholarly Communication in the European Research Area for Social Sciences and Humanities



Introduction

OPERAS federates tools, services and resources for open scholarly communication in social sciences and humanities.

Through its network of member institutions and cooperating partners OPERAS addresses scholarly communication needs of European researchers.

Keywords

Infrastructure, research, open access, scholarly communication, training, Arts, Humanities

Summary

OPERAS is an international not-for-profit association, currently in the process of applying for the [ERIC](#) (European Research Infrastructure Consortia) status. It consists of over 50 organisations from 17 European countries active in the field of scholarly communication: research institutions, publishers, libraries, and ICT providers. Its mission is to “to coordinate and federate resources in Europe to efficiently address the scholarly communication needs of European researchers in the field of SSH”. Whereas projects like [DARIAH](#) and [CLARIN](#) focus on the analysis and handling of AHSS data specific to particular disciplines, OPERAS’ scope lies in providing tools and services for the efficient communication of AHSS outputs at various stages of the research workflow, from discovery and collection, to enrichment, interpretation and dissemination.

OPERAS supports various stakeholders in the AHSS to make the transition to digital and open modes of scholarly communication, while remaining attentive to discipline-specific outputs such as monographs and scholarly editions. By federating the tools and services provided by its members, OPERAS aims to facilitate the open dissemination of outputs (e.g. through supporting innovative business models for scholarly publishers), as well as their visibility and discoverability (e.g. by providing one-point access to scattered open AHSS resources through the GOTRIPLE platform).

OPERAS empowers smaller entities like publishers, journal platforms or repositories to create scholarly-led alternatives to large commercial platforms, to prioritise the accessibility of resources for researchers over revenue. Moreover, the consortium stresses the importance of

“bibliodiversity”, i.e. scholarly communication in national languages through local infrastructures, as an important feature of AHSS research, which often achieves a strong local impact when communicated in the vernacular.

OPERAS stakeholders interact in seven [Special Interest Groups](#), dedicated to issues ranging from technical aspects (tools, services, standards) to multilingualism, business models and advocacy. Thus, OPERAS creates a transversal platform to translate the specific needs of AHSS researchers into services supporting the communication of their work. The [services](#) under development by consortium members focus on discovery ([TRIPLE](#)), certification of open access monographs ([DOAB](#)), [metrics](#) on the usage of open publications and providing one access point ([Publishing Service Portal](#)) to the various publishing services of OPERAS members.

Researchers who wish to take advantage of OPERAS services, incorporate novel, digital tools into their dissemination workflows, or simply wish to publish in open-access publications can learn more through [OPERAS events](#), or get in touch with the [national nodes](#). Institutions interested in a more extensive and sustainable cooperation may [join the consortium](#).

Further Resources

- [OPERAS – open scholarly communication in the european research area for social sciences and humanities area through scholarly communication \(operas-eu.org\)](#)
- [Triple – Transforming Research through Innovative Practices for Linked Interdisciplinary Exploration \(gotriple.eu\)](#)
- Maryl M, Błaszczńska M, Szulińska A and Rams P. The case for an inclusive scholarly communication infrastructure for social sciences and humanities [version 1; peer review: 2 approved]. F1000Research 2020, 9:1265 <https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.26545.1>
- Twitter: [@OPERASEU](#)