OPERAS-P

OPERAS and OPERAS Innovation Lab

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Societal Transformations in the Digital Age
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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 871069

What is OPERAS

OPERAS is a **Research Infrastructure** on the **ESFRI Roadmap** supporting open scholarly communication in the **social sciences and humanities (SSH)** in the **European Research Area**. Its mission is to **coordinate and federate** resources in Europe to efficiently address the scholarly communication needs of **European researchers** in the field of SSH.

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Specificity of scholarly communication in SSH

- Lesser need for immediate access to result
- Discipline-specific formats: monograph, scholarly editions
- New scholarly communication genres applied in digital humanities

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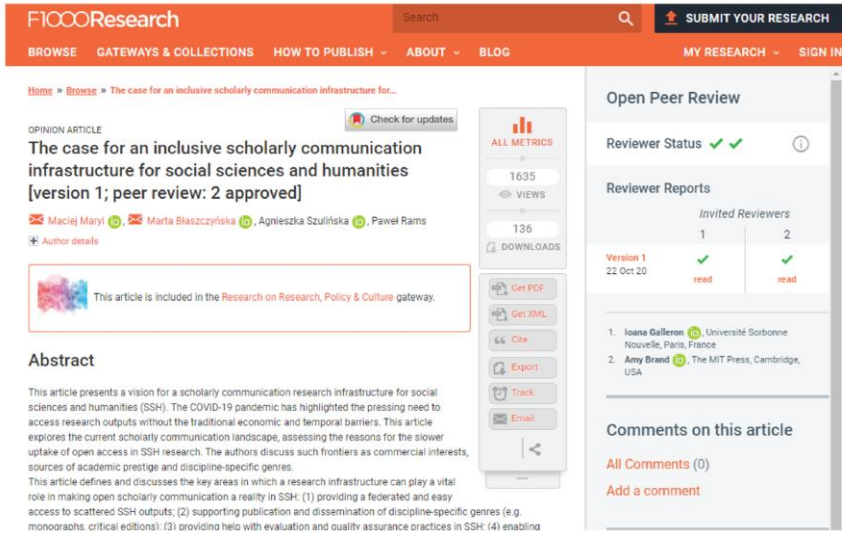
Key areas



- Open Access to outputs
- SSH Outputs
- Evaluation
- Researcher-driven
- Multilingualism
- Various stakeholders

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OPERAS PL

open scholarly communication in the european research area for social sciences and humanities | Polish National Node

- ➔ a **national node** of OPERAS consortium, responsible for disseminating OPERAS tools and services in Poland
- ➔ a **research-driven initiative** responding to actual needs of the SSH community in Poland
- ➔ an **Open Science project** aimed at improving innovative scholarly communication in the Polish SSH community

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OPERAS-PL will:

- **Facilitate communication** between different SSH partners in Poland (researchers, scholarly institutions, publishers, libraries, research infrastructures).
- **Provide a knowledge hub** about research infrastructures, digital tools and OA business models for SSH publications.
- **Share the findings and prototypes of OPERAS Innovation Lab** with Polish audiences.

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National Node Day in Poland on 17th June 2021

One of the main conclusions:

"More information and tutorials about Open Access are needed."

➔ Launch of the **OPERAS-PL newsletter** in July 2021 to respond to this need.

➔ **Operas.pl website** launched in summer 2021.

➔ **Communication campaign on Facebook** run since May 2022.

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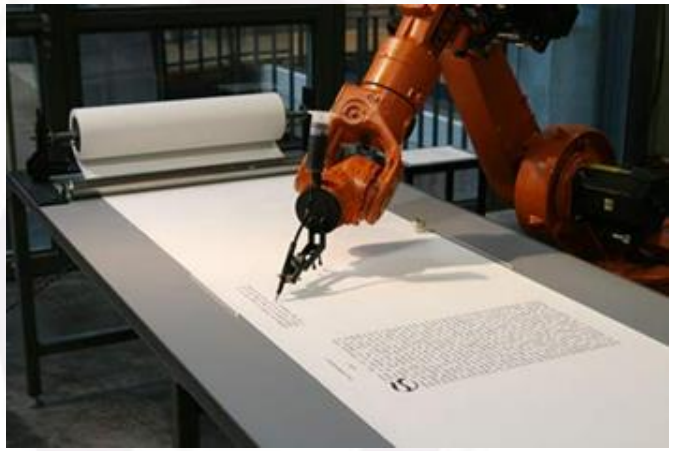
OPERAS Lab

- **to explore current writing practices**
- **to prototype new solutions**
- **to propose new OPERAS services**



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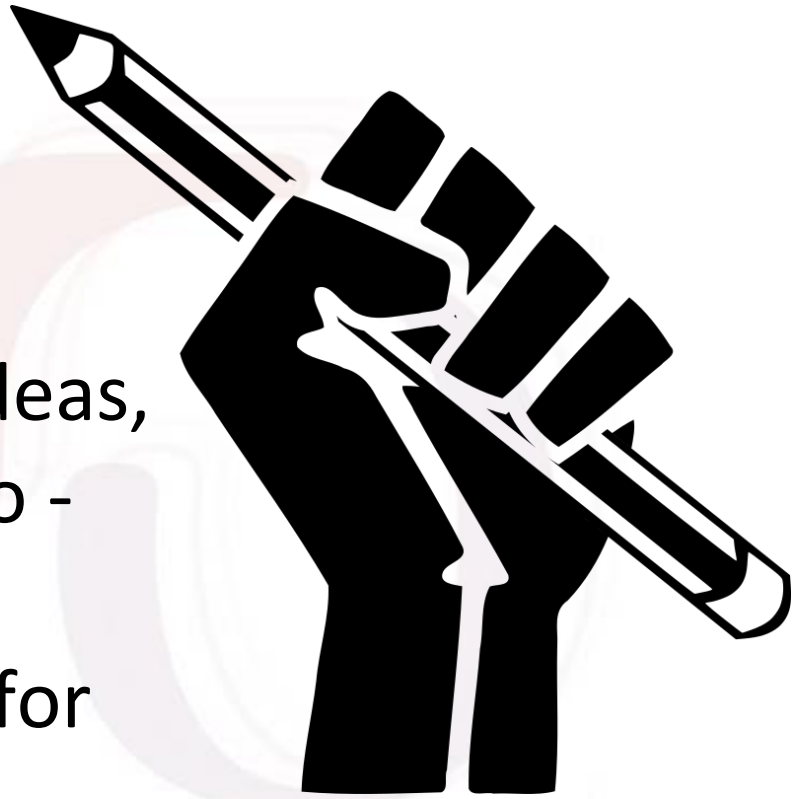
Scholarly writing



Practices regarding the communication of scholarly ideas, focused on - but not limited to - practices, competences, frameworks and tools crucial for creating scholarly works.

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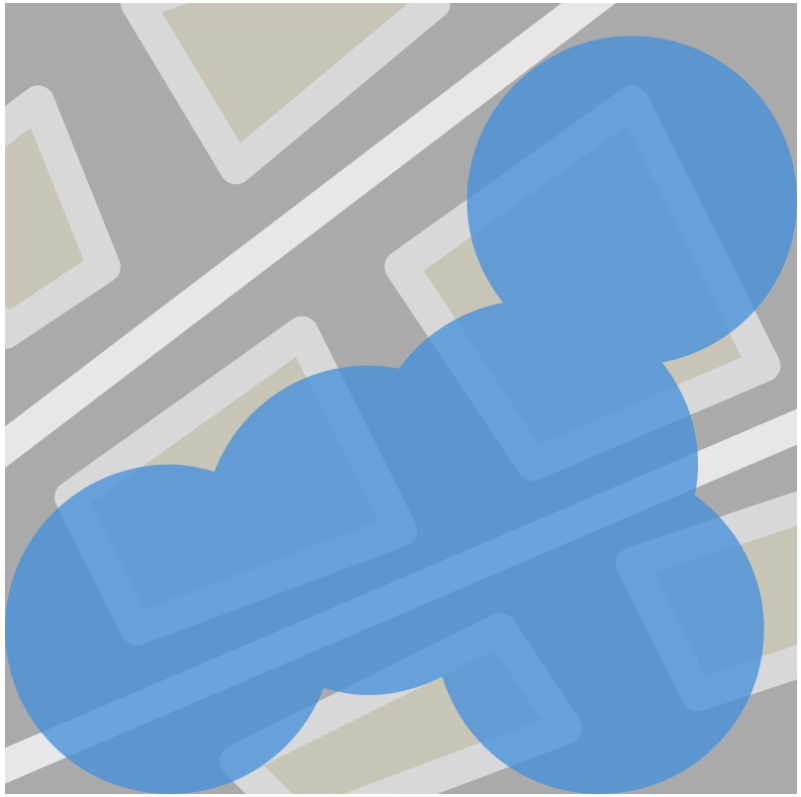
KEY AREAS

- Specificity of SSH
- Writing processes
- Publishing processes
- Innovative vs. traditional forms and genres
- Prestige and power structures
- Open access
- Evaluation
- Research Data
- Peer review practices
- Tools
- Collaboration
- Audiences



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Methodology

- **Literature review**
- **Interviews**
- **Case studies**

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INTERVIEWS

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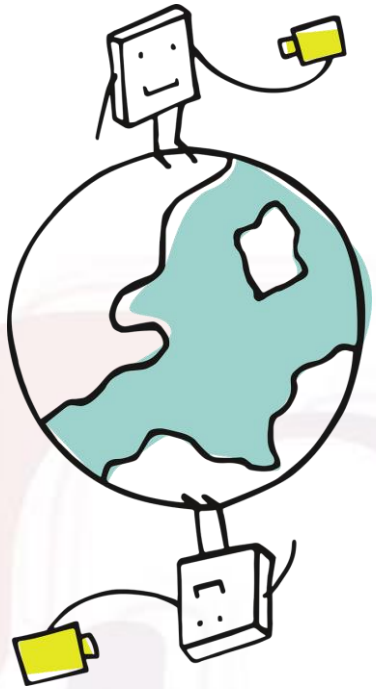
Our interviewees



32 full transcripts - **33 interviewees**

Gender: 19 Male, 14 Female

Disciplines represented: Arts and Media, Biblical/Religious Studies, Cultural Studies, Digital Humanities, Education/Computer Sciences, English Studies, History, Information and Communication Science, Linguistics, Literature and Literary Anthropology, Philosophy, Psychology, Science Studies, Sociology, Other SSH

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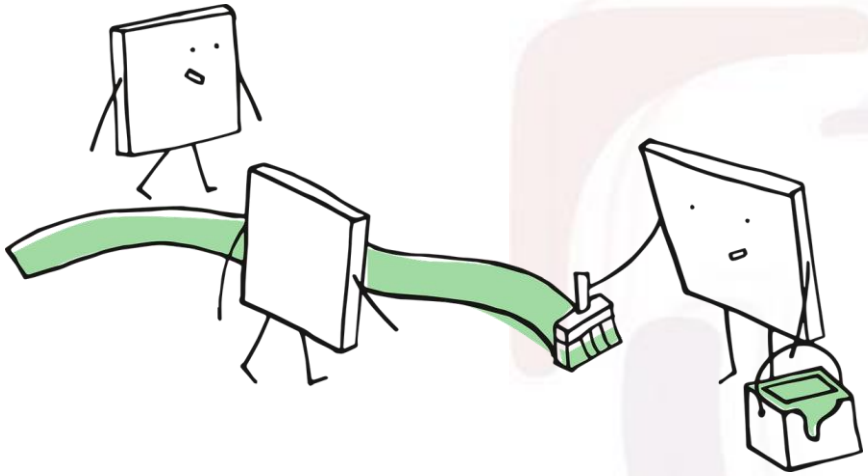
Our interviewees

Career stage: PhD candidate (5), ECR/Post-doc (11), Senior (13), Other (4)



Countries: Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, the UK, the USA

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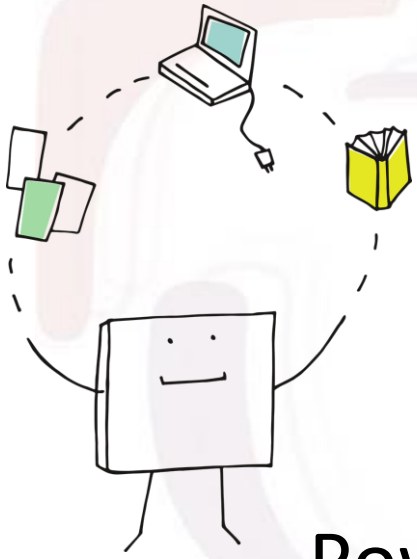
Areas of interest

Innovative forms

Digital tools

Choosing a publication type



Prestige

Incentives and rewards

Audiences

Openness

Power structures

Publishing

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Tools

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Where does writing begin and end?

- Discovering
- Storing
- Annotating
- Ideation
- Drafting
- Editing
- Referencing

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Digital tools and services used by SSH researchers

- **Writing** – Microsoft Word, Atom, Open Office, Google Docs, Scrivener, Pandoc, LibreOffice, Markdown, StackEdit, Jupyter Notebook, iA Writer, Overleaf
- **Data storage and sharing** – Google Drive, Scrivener, Dropbox, Microsoft SharePoint, Next Cloud, OneDrive
- **Presenting results** – Microsoft PowerPoint, Adobe Connect, yEd Graph Editor, Miro, Adobe Acrobat, Padlet
- **Reference and citation management** – Zotero, EndNote, JabRef, Citavi
- **Panning and monitoring** – Asana, Trello, Google Calendar
- **Managing notes** – Evernote, OneNote, Reminders

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Digital tools used by SSH scientists in their work

- **Managing and sharing articles** – Mendeley, Google Scholar, ResearchGate, Academia.edu, Scopus, Web of Science, SciHub
- **Typesetting tool** – LaTex
- **Data processing and analysis tools** – SPSS, Microsoft Excel, nVivo, MaxQda, Atlas.ti, Stylo, CLARIN tools
- **Communication tools** – Zoom, Skype, Microsoft Teams, Google Meets, WhatsApp
- **Programming tools** – GitHub, Python, RStudio, JavaScript, Eclipse, Visual Studio Code
- **Online translation tools** – Google Translate, Dictionarycambridge.org

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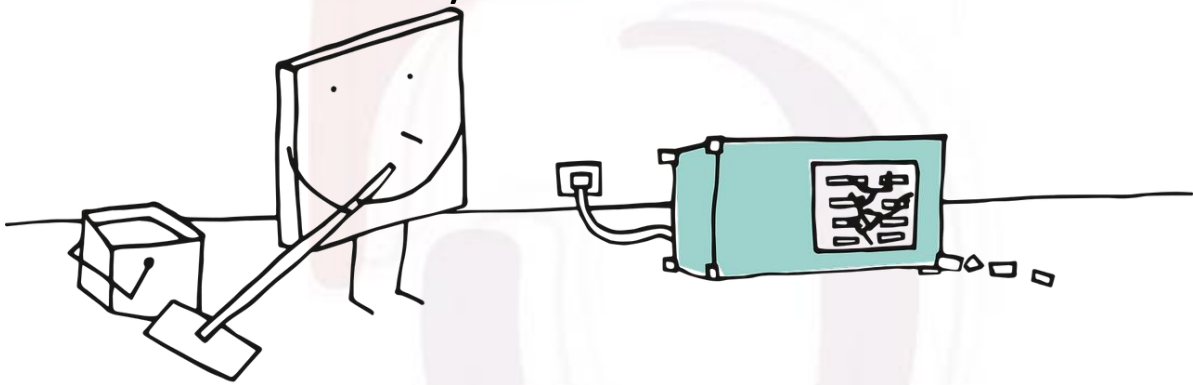
Criteria for choosing the tools

Skills and competencies:

self-learning; learning from research team colleagues, within a project, a university/research unit; trainings organised by universities and the Ministry



Ideas for transferring knowledge about tools:

ad-hoc seminars, including them in the curriculum, podcasts

The digital tools that facilitate work aren't for everyone, the learning process is difficult, especially for more senior researchers.

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Innovative forms and genres

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Innovative forms: understandings

What is innovation?

1. **Access** (OA, shadow libraries)
2. **Form**
   a. **multimedia** (using different media in one work)
   b. **linking or embedding external texts** (data, blog v. twitter, "double" publication)
3. **Audience** (using popular formats to reach the audience)

"I'd like to see more powerful and intelligent ways of connecting research findings and research claims with evidence... I would like to see publication genres that use digital formats, not just as a way to disseminate more broadly but as a way to enhance the process of >reading<"
(M, Senior, Digital Heritage)

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Innovative forms

- **blogs**
- **web-book**, computational essay, living book
- **podcast**
- **videos**, visual commentary
- **slides**
- **social media** (twitter)
- **collaborative text** (e.g. ‘Frankensteinian monograph’)

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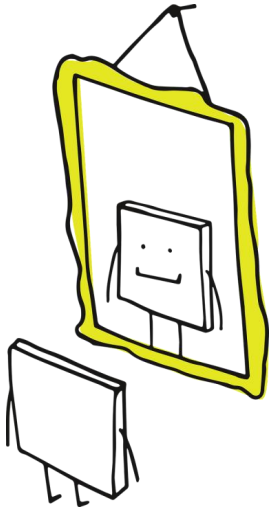
Prestige



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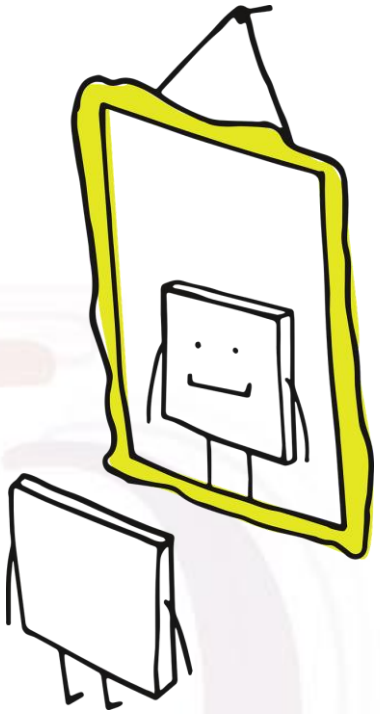
Prestige



Understanding of **what is prestigious** varies.

Monograph is still the queen/king of the SSH:
"*...regardless of the type of scholarship,*
the output is still the monograph
and the journal article"
(M, ECR, Biblical Studies)

Many decisions are made in strict consideration of the **evaluation process**, even sometimes resulting with a move made against one's own values.

Prestige of Open Access is perceived in 3 distinctive ways (no consensus).

Yet, prestige is **more than 'academic points'**.

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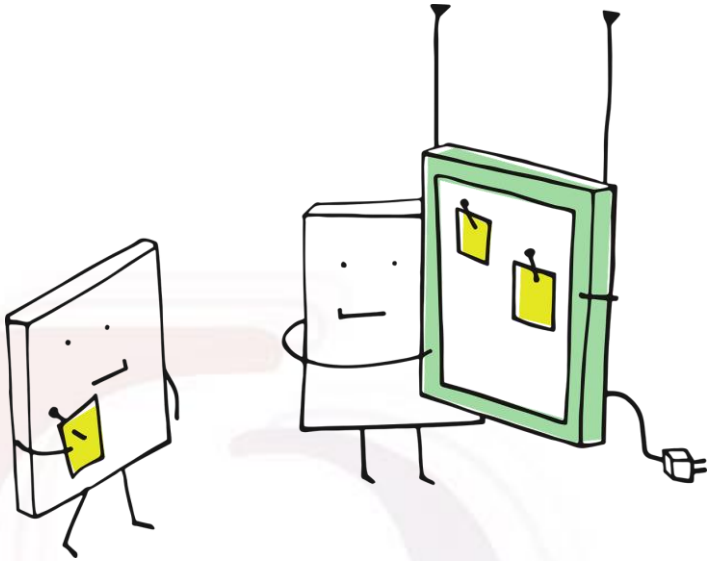
Power structures



Power structures play
a crucial role
in scholarly communication.

Diverse understandings on which group
'holds the most power'
in the academic publishing landscape:

"What funder used to fund is key in shaping what the future of discipline looks like. But that is determined by researchers who conduct the peer review. And they conduct that at different stages in their career, facing different pressures at different points. I think, you know, in some disciplines, there are editors at particular book series, who have huge influence on what is published and shaped the discipline in that space. In other disciplines, it's a journal peer review process that really doesn't have that single point of editorial acquisition or oversight." (M, ECR, Literature)

Early career researchers are defined as the **most vulnerable**.

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