

OPERAS and OPERAS Innovation Lab

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Societal Transformations in the Digital Age
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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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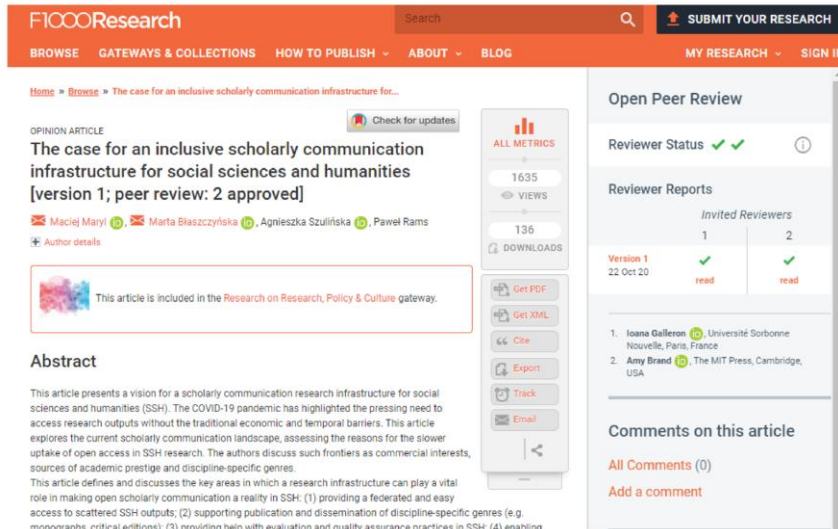
Specificity of scholarly communication in SSH

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



Key areas

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



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OPINION ARTICLE

The case for an inclusive scholarly communication infrastructure for social sciences and humanities [version 1; peer review: 2 approved]

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This article is included in the [Research on Research, Policy & Culture gateway](#).

Abstract

This article presents a vision for a scholarly communication research infrastructure for social sciences and humanities (SSH). The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the pressing need to access research outputs without the traditional economic and temporal barriers. This article explores the current scholarly communication landscape, assessing the reasons for the slower uptake of open access in SSH research. The authors discuss such frontiers as commercial interests, sources of academic prestige and discipline-specific genres. This article defines and discusses the key areas in which a research infrastructure can play a vital role in making open scholarly communication a reality in SSH: (1) providing a federated and easy access to scattered SSH outputs; (2) supporting publication and dissemination of discipline-specific genres (e.g. monographs, critical editions); (3) providing help with evaluation and quality assurance practices in SSH; (4) enabling

Open Peer Review

Reviewer Status ✓✓ ⓘ

Reviewer Reports

	Invited Reviewers
	1 2
Version 1 22 Oct 20	✓ read ✓ read

- [Ioana Gullerou](#) [Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France](#)
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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.



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.



OPERAS Lab

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



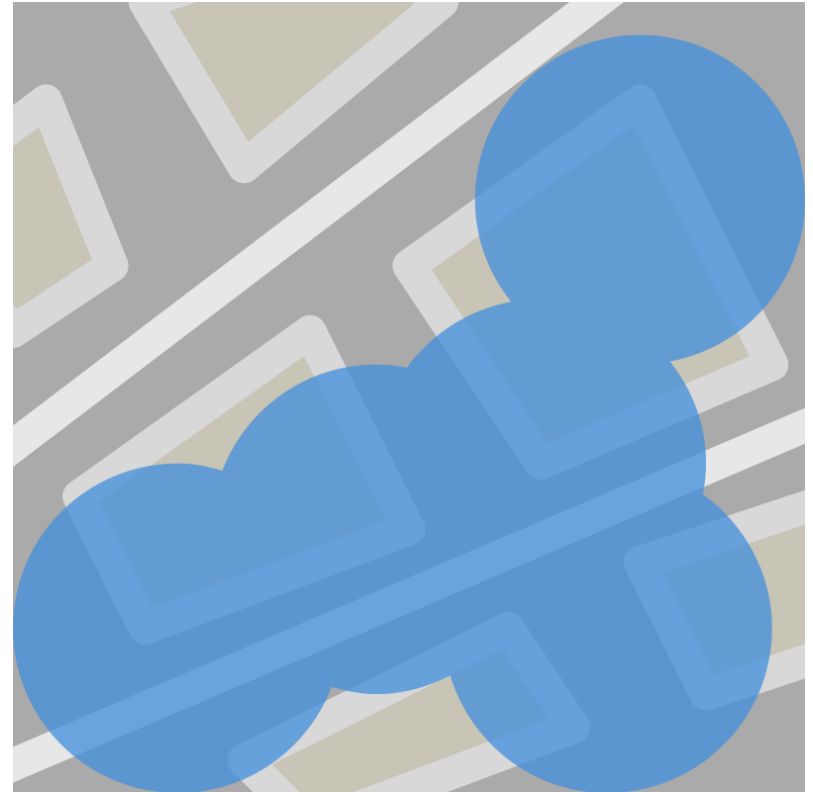
Scholarly writing

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



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



Methodology

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





INTERVIEWS



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Our interviewees

32 full transcripts - **33 interviewees**

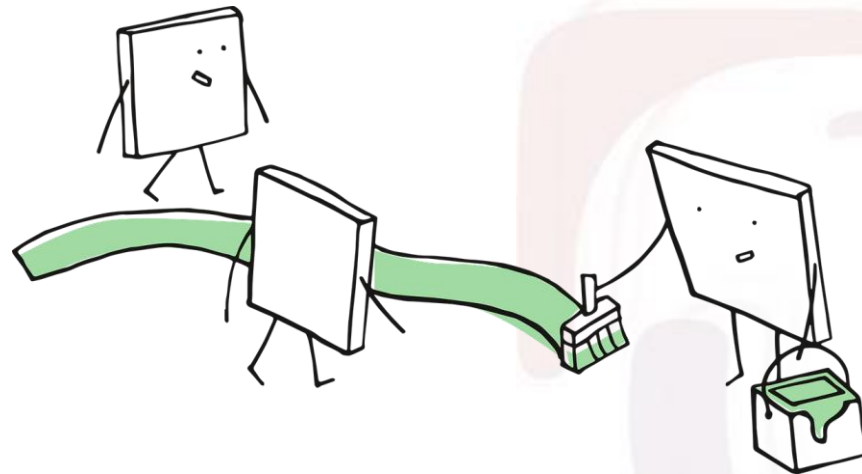
Gender: 19 Male, 14 Female

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



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



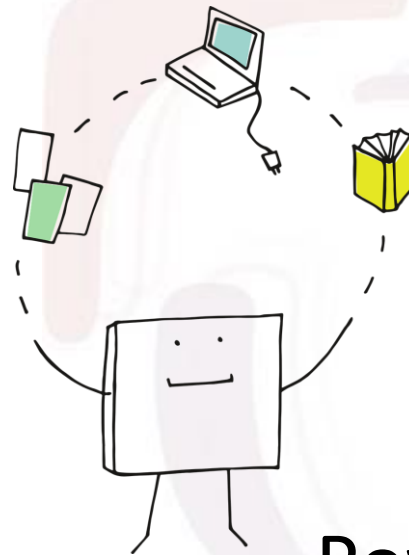


Areas of interest

Innovative forms

Digital tools

Choosing a publication type



Prestige

Incentives and rewards

Audiences

Openness

Power

structures

Publishing



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Tools

OPERAS-P

word cloud containing terms related to research and writing tools:

- tool
- write
- work
- publish
- paper
- process
- idea
- time
- journal
- publication
- year
- lot
- start
- find
- make
- article
- research
- text
- learn
- Google
- people
- project
- platform
- editor
- read
- sort
- digital
- Word
- Zotero



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Where does writing begin and end?

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





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





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



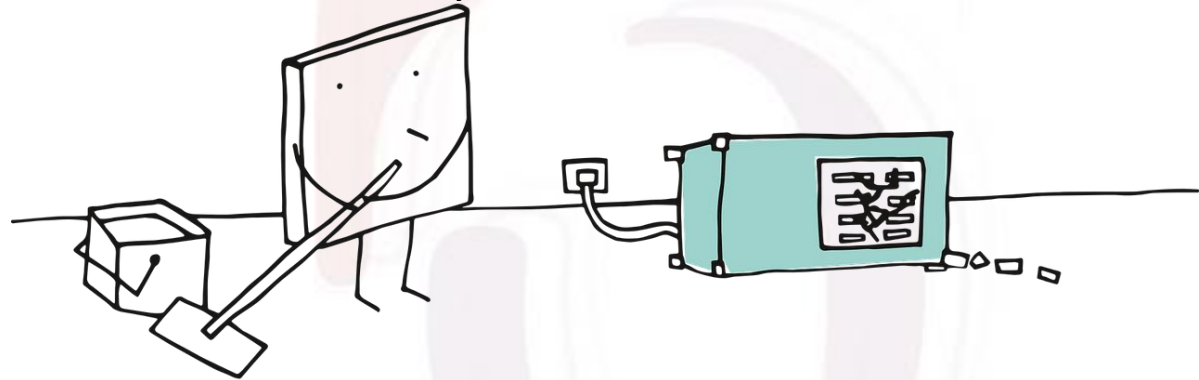
Criteria for choosing the tools

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.



Innovative forms and genres



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)



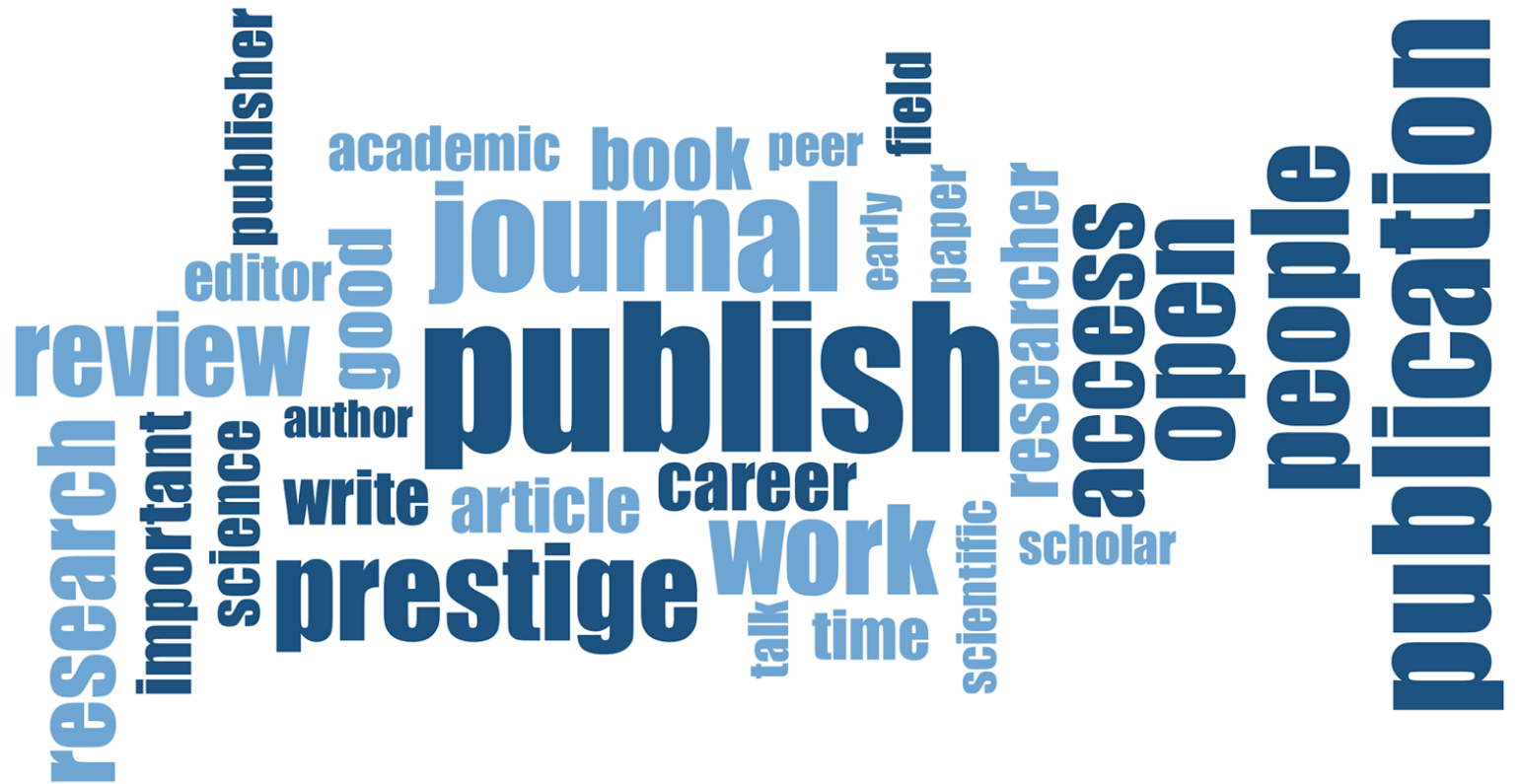
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Innovative forms

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



Prestige



A word cloud of various terms related to academic publishing and research. The words are arranged in a roughly circular shape, with 'publish' and 'publication' being the largest and most prominent. Other large words include 'research', 'journal', 'work', 'prestige', 'access', 'open', 'people', 'review', 'important', 'science', 'write', 'article', 'career', 'scholar', 'researcher', 'paper', 'field', 'peer', 'book', 'academic', 'good', 'editor', 'publisher', 'author', 'talk', 'time', 'scientific', 'early', 'journal', 'work', 'prestige', 'access', 'open', 'people', 'publication'. The words are in various shades of blue and purple, with some in a lighter font and others in a darker, bolder font.



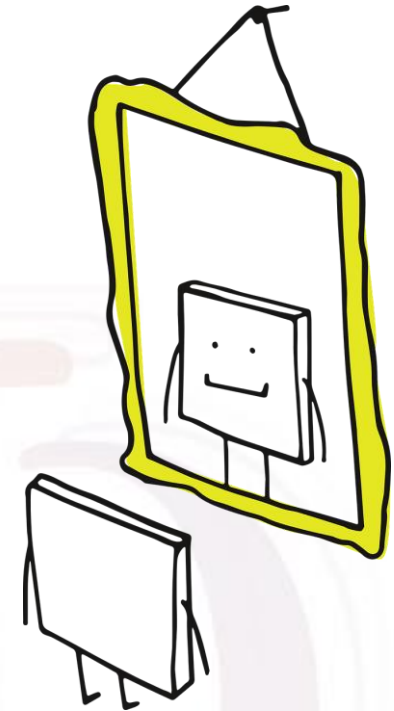
Prestige

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'**.

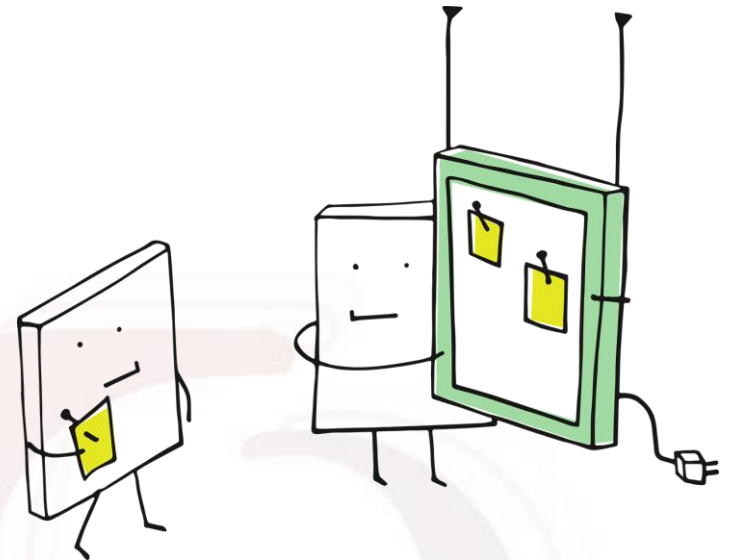


Power structures

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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