

<https://investinopen.org/>

# Invest In Open Infrastructure

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Our goal is to obtain stable and consistent funding from across the globe to sustain open science infrastructure

# Signs of the times

**MySpace server migration** - loss of all content, 2003-2015

**Altmetric, Bepress, Github, Mendeley, Publons, Figshare, SSRN**  
purchased by large commercial publishers and companies

**Lyrasis and DuraSpace** merger by July 1, 2019

**Sweden and UC consortium break Elsevier contract**

**OA2020 and harder negotiations on big deals** – repurposing journal  
subscription budgets

**Reports on publisher diversification**

# Times, they are a changing!

**Research Consortia break Elsevier contracts (Sweden, Uni. California)**

**Plan S** - Funders assert influence

**SCOSS** - The Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services

**OPERAS** - European research infra for open schol comms in SSH

**Global Biodata Coalition** – funders to sustain open access to core data resources

**European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)** - a cloud for research data in Europe

**AmeliCA** - Open Knowledge for Latin America and the Global South

# The funding context

**Funding for open infrastructure is under pressure:**

A **small number of foundations** fund open infrastructure today.  
Even that number is **dwindling** as programs are shuttered.

To date, the focus has been on providing **seed funding rather than operational funding**

*At the same time that the opportunity and need for open infrastructure is greatest, the sources of funding are on the decline*

# The scholarly infrastructure context: What we know

**New policy mandates** means more dependency on OS infrastructure

Scores of projects come to an end, prove their worth, but have  
**concerns with maintaining operational costs**

**Boom in innovation & diversity**, but numerous “**siloed**” projects  
with unco-ordinated funding, function, goals....

**Commercial acquisitions** of key infrastructure

**Platforms, tools & systems** critical to the full research lifecycle are  
increasingly **vulnerable** to exclusive commercial provision

# The scholarly infrastructure context: What we don't know

Who are the **players**? What are their **motivations**?

Who are the **critical nodes** upon many depend?

Whose **interests** are being served, and what is left out?

What does the **landscape** look like now, and what have we created?

What does a **healthy ecosystem** look like?

How much does it **cost**, and how much should it **cost**?

How are we going to **pay for it**?

# The risk of inaction

**Imbalance** between academy-owned and commercial infrastructure  
(Privatization of Public knowledge)

**Siloed behavior** in a networked, interdependent world  
(Loss of national / international competitiveness)

**Increasing waste** and redundancy  
(Loss of resources & credibility)

**Inability to serve** as effective stewards of the scholarly & cultural record  
(Loss of relevance, integrity & trust in our knowledge institutions)

# Invest in Open Infrastructure

## IOI

# IOI: Who are we?

We are an **international group of organisations**, coalitions, and like-minded efforts that **share mutual goals** and in most cases have already been working towards similar objectives. We are **coming together under IOI** to coordinate and align our efforts



# IOI Steering Committee

Ginny Barbour  
Queensland Univ of Tech

Arianna Becerril  
Univ Autonoma, Mexico

Leslie Chan  
University of Toronto

Raym Crow  
SPARC US

Heather Joseph  
SPARC US

David Lewis  
Indiana Univ, emeritus

Pierre Mounier  
Open Edition, OPERAS

Cameron Neylon  
Curtin University

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Danielle Robinson  
Code for Science and Society

Mike Roy  
Middlebury College

Katherine Skinner  
Educopia

Greg Tananbaum  
Open Research Funders Group

Ewiva Weinraub  
Northwestern University

Dan Whaley  
Hypothesis

Maurice York  
Univ of Michigan

# The desired end state

- ❖ Fully formed, end-to-end, open, **community controlled infrastructure** to support all aspects of science and scholarship, from research and experimentation through publishing, dissemination, discovery, and preservation
- ❖ Sufficient funding to **support the evolution, maintenance, operation** and support of this infrastructure
- ❖ Sufficient funding to **support the innovation** required for new infrastructure as needs and technologies change
- ❖ **Funding from a mix of sources**, including scholarly and research institutions (through libraries, research offices, and other budgets), government agencies and private foundations. All supporting open projects that themselves have a mix of sustainability strategies.

# Strategy — Collective Action at Scale

- **Embracing a global consciousness**  
A structured “network of communities and alliances”  
(Align towards interdependence)
- **Enabling a coherence approach**  
Structural elements to ensure interoperability & integration  
(Relate the parts to the whole)
- **Enacting sustainable fiscal stewardship**  
Reinvesting & being responsible with limited resources  
(Pool the risk & manage investment)

# IOI's Two Functions

## **Assess and Recommend**

Provide a Framework to regularly survey the landscape of open scholarly infrastructure with respect to its functionality, usage, health and financial needs and make funding recommendations for that infrastructure

## **Co-ordinate Funds**

Following the recommendations of the Framework, explore how to co-ordinate financial resources from institutions, agencies and foundations, to increase the overall amount and impact of funding available to emerging and critical infrastructure

## 3 key areas of focus currently

1. Developing the concept, and testing it out
2. Community- and relationship-building with existing global infrastructure initiatives, projects, you
3. Research

# Research underway

## 1. **Census of Scholarly Communication Infrastructure**

Purpose: to map the range of infrastructure that comprises the system of scholarly communication (*Launched Feb 2019*)

## 2. **Survey of Library Investments in Scholarly Communication Infrastructure**

Purpose: Survey of colleges and universities to understand their current investment practices in this infrastructure (*Launching June 2019*)

Principal Investigators: Mike Roy, David W. Lewis

Consultants: Educopia Institute, TrueBearing Consulting

Generously funded by: The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

# The Next Six Months

1. Developing and implementing a **governance model** to support action on global open infrastructure with **transparent processes**
2. **Engaging** community feedback - request for comments from and invite others to join.
3. Developing **global representation** on the leadership/committee
4. Engaging with funders and stakeholders to **build a robust strategy** that supports open infrastructure long term
5. Developing a planning grant to **hire staff and develop strategy** of this group, focused on open infrastructure

# Invest in Open Infrastructure

## IOI

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