



open scholarly communication in the european
research area for social sciences and humanities

OPERAS Fact Sheet

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Definition and Mission

OPERAS is the Research Infrastructure 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.

Vision

OPERAS' aim is to make Open Science a reality for research in the SSH and achieve a scholarly communication system where knowledge produced in the SSH benefits researchers, academics, students and more generally the whole society across Europe and worldwide, without barriers.

Value Proposition: Why OPERAS is needed

The European landscape of scholarly communication in the SSH is currently patchy, fragmented and not organized enough to be efficient, particularly to address the challenge of transitioning to Open Science. This is due to several factors, such as the small size of resource providers, the historical underfunding and lack of sustainability in this area, the variety of technical skills and resources across the community. The nature of the SSH disciplines also adds specific challenges which are not correctly addressed at scale, such as the diversity of publication languages, the entrenchment in diverse cultural backgrounds and the need for specific forms of scholarly communication (monographs, critical editions, and edited bibliographies, amongst others).

By fulfilling its mission, OPERAS provides the research community with the missing brick it needs to find, access, create, edit, disseminate and easily and efficiently validate SSH outputs across Europe. In one word, OPERAS unlocks scholarly communication resources and enables the whole field to reinvent itself in the new Open Science paradigm.

What OPERAS is not

OPERAS is not an e-infrastructure: e-infrastructures such as GEANT, EGI, PRACE, OpenAIRE, and EUDAT provide underlying digital services across all disciplines. They are “discipline-neutral” and not linked to the peculiarities of research practices in a specific discipline. OPERAS

addresses the needs of researchers only in the SSH, according to their specific practices.

OPERAS currently cooperates with EGI and OpenAIRE.

OPERAS is not a Research Infrastructure specifically dedicated to research data in the SSH such as DARIAH, CLARIN, ESS, SHARE, CESSDA, and E-RHIS. Because the management of research data can be very specific to the different disciplines (data in arts and in demography are not the same), they need specific infrastructures to support their management. On the contrary, scholarly communication and publication needs are quite similar across the SSH disciplines, with slight variations that can be addressed altogether by a dedicated infrastructure.

OPERAS currently cooperates with DARIAH, CESSDA and CLARIN.

OPERAS is not only a network such as ENRESSH, GO FAIR, EASSH, AEUP. Networks mainly foster and support collaboration between the members of a community. Even though OPERAS also provides support in that area, it does moreover deliver services to the whole community and takes responsibility to develop and operate those services as an infrastructure.

OPERAS currently cooperates with ENRESSH, EASSH, AEUP and GO FAIR

OPERAS is not a single-sited infrastructure such as HL-HLC and ESS, but a distributed infrastructure which is the logical consequence of its coordinating mission. Led by two French infrastructures, OPERAS is however fully European with its 56 members from 17 countries and the commitment of its Core Members from France, UK, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Greece, Croatia, Slovenia and Portugal, who establish OPERAS' strategy.

Finally, OPERAS is the European Research Infrastructure dedicated to open scholarly communication in the social sciences and humanities.

How OPERAS works

Service provision

OPERAS is currently in its preparation phase, developing a catalog of different scholarly communication services at European level, addressing the specific needs of the research community identified in the previous Horizon 2020 EU OPERAS projects OPERAS-D and HIRMEOS.

Despite their diversity, OPERAS' services are designed according to the same pattern that originates in its federating overall mission: they pool, aggregate, or federate existing resources from across Europe to deliver to European researchers a single access point from where they can benefit from the full range of the resources rather than being limited to the local ones. With the development of its services, OPERAS will build a transnational access to scholarly communication resources available to researchers across the European Research Area and integrate its service into the EOSC marketplace as soon as they are ready

Below is the current list of services at different stages of development:

In production

Research for Society

Based on hypotheses.org platform

Provided by OpenEdition (FR)

<https://hypotheses.org>

The Research for Society Service is designed to be an interactive platform between SSH researchers and the society at large. Developing the practices of academic blogging, the hypotheses.org platform already offers to SSH researchers the ability to build an open conversation with socio-economic actors, more particularly regarding the societal challenges. Currently, Hypotheses.org allows for communication practices in support of a wide range of interactions with the society, from science popularization (<https://sms.hypotheses.org/>) to intensively collaborative projects (<https://places.hypotheses.org>).

In its future stages of development, the service will provide, thanks to project funding, more support to intensive collaboration projects, with additional resources such as collaborative tools, funding opportunities, and a matchmaking service to foster and support the desire to collaborate on citizen science projects.

In Beta

Certification

Based on Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB) platform

Provided by DOAB Stichting (NL)

The Certification Service has been developed thanks to the Horizon 2020 EU HIRMEOS project. It is operated by DOAB, which collects the variety of peer reviewing practices from hundreds of monograph publishing houses, categorizes them, and provides a single access point to the list of certified peer reviewed monographs available in Open Access in the world. The Certification Service operates as a quality insurance service for the benefit of readers and the service providers working with them, such as the libraries.

The Certification Service currently operates as a beta service. Its full release is planned for 2021. The Certification Service is integrated in the EOSC Market Place : <https://marketplace.eosc-portal.eu/services/operas-certification-doab>

Metrics

Provided by Ubiquity Press (UK), Open Book Publishers (UK), KU Research (AU)

The Metrics Service has been developed thanks to the HIRMEOS project. It is jointly operated by Ubiquity Press, Open Book Publishers and KU Research and collects usage and impact metrics related to Open Access monographs from many different sources and allows for their access, display and analysis from a single access point.

The Metrics Service currently operates as a beta service. Its full release is planned for 2021.

In development

Discovery

Based on Isidore platform

Provided by Huma-Num (FR)

The Discovery Service is currently under development thanks to the Horizon 2020 EU [TRIPLE project](#). It is operated by Huma-Num and will provide European Researchers a single point to discover SSH open scholarly resources such as data, publications, and other researchers and projects which are currently scattered across local repositories. The Discovery Service allows for the discovery of resources in different languages from a variety of sources across multiple

countries.

The Discovery Service is currently under development. Its operation is planned for 2023.

Publishing Service Portal

Provided by UniTO (IT) and Lexis SRL (IT)

The Publishing Service Portal (PSP) is currently under development thanks to the OPERAS-P project. The PSP will be operated by the University of Torino and Lexis Compagnia Editoriale. PSP collects the publishing and scholarly communication services that OPERAS members offer in OPERAS marketplace and gives access to their description from a single access portal. The PSP will be composed of two parts: a presentation of the services as a catalog, and a wizard that walks researchers through a series of questions towards the service offering that best fits their needs.

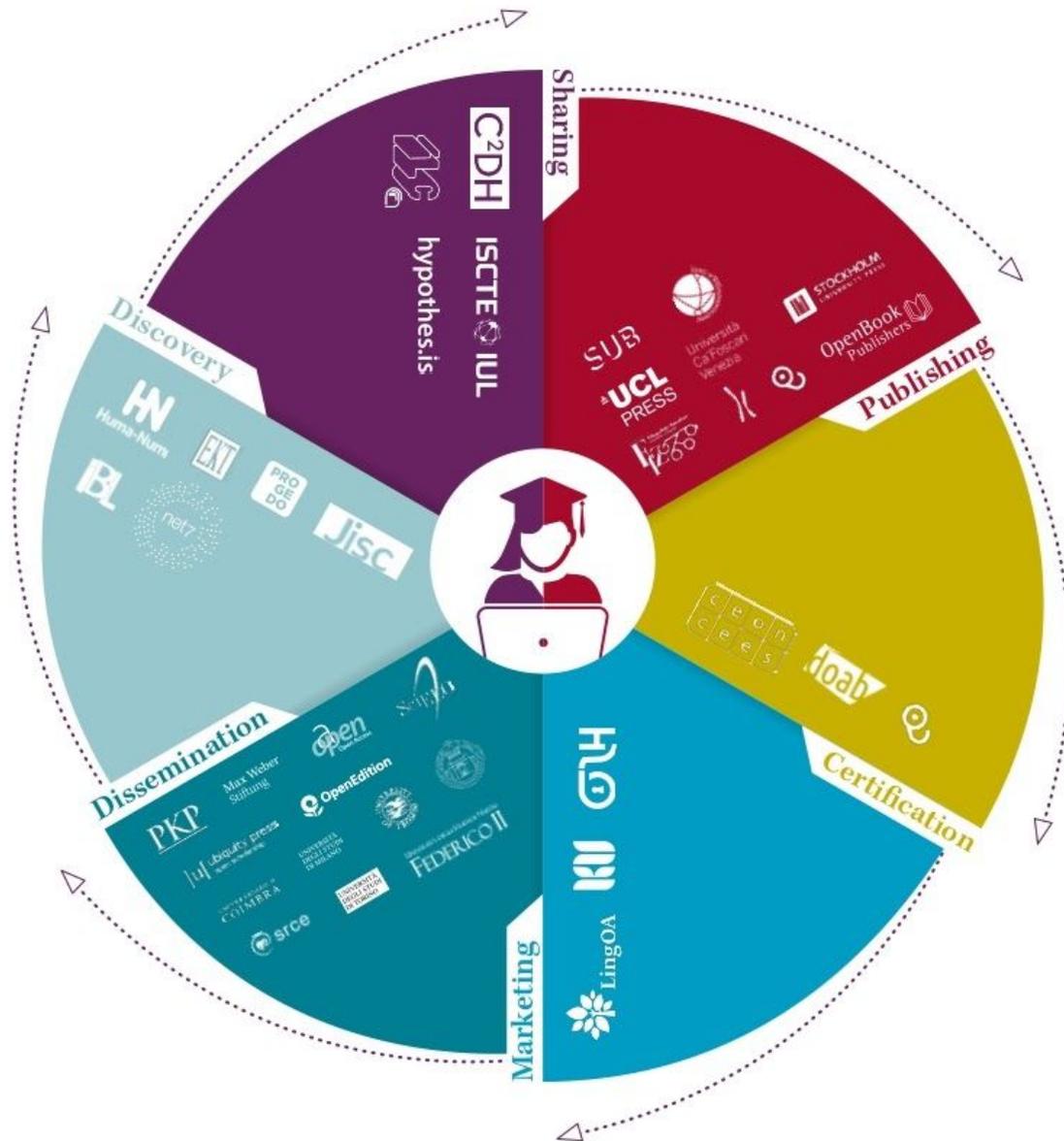
The PSP beta release is planned for 2022.

Future Services

Other services, such as a platform to support translation, a single access point to book reviews, a support service to publishing tools users, or a federated annotation service, are under consideration. OPERAS' catalog of services is designed to be evolutive and complemented in the future by new services that will be identified by the research community as essential to them, validated by the OPERAS Core Group, operated by one of OPERAS' members, and funded for development and operation by OPERAS' funding stakeholders.

Federated Services : towards the EOSC marketplace

As a distributed infrastructure, OPERAS relies on underpinning scholarly communication services provided by its nodes at local or national level. The distribution of the services alongside researchers needs have been modeled through the scholarly communication life-cycle



The building of a transnational access to those federated services through the development of a training program, a single check-in service, and the Publishing Service Portal is one of the main objectives of OPERAS work in its preparation and construction phases. As a consequence, OPERAS will support its members to have their services included in the EOSC marketplace.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The OPERAS SIGs are where the OPERAS community gathers around specific topics to exchange knowledge and prepare future projects together, which can lead to the development of new services. In 2017, the OPERAS Working Groups have published six White Papers that fed the Horizon 2020 EU OPERAS-P project, and particularly the project tasks on innovation in digital publishing.

List of the OPERAS White Papers

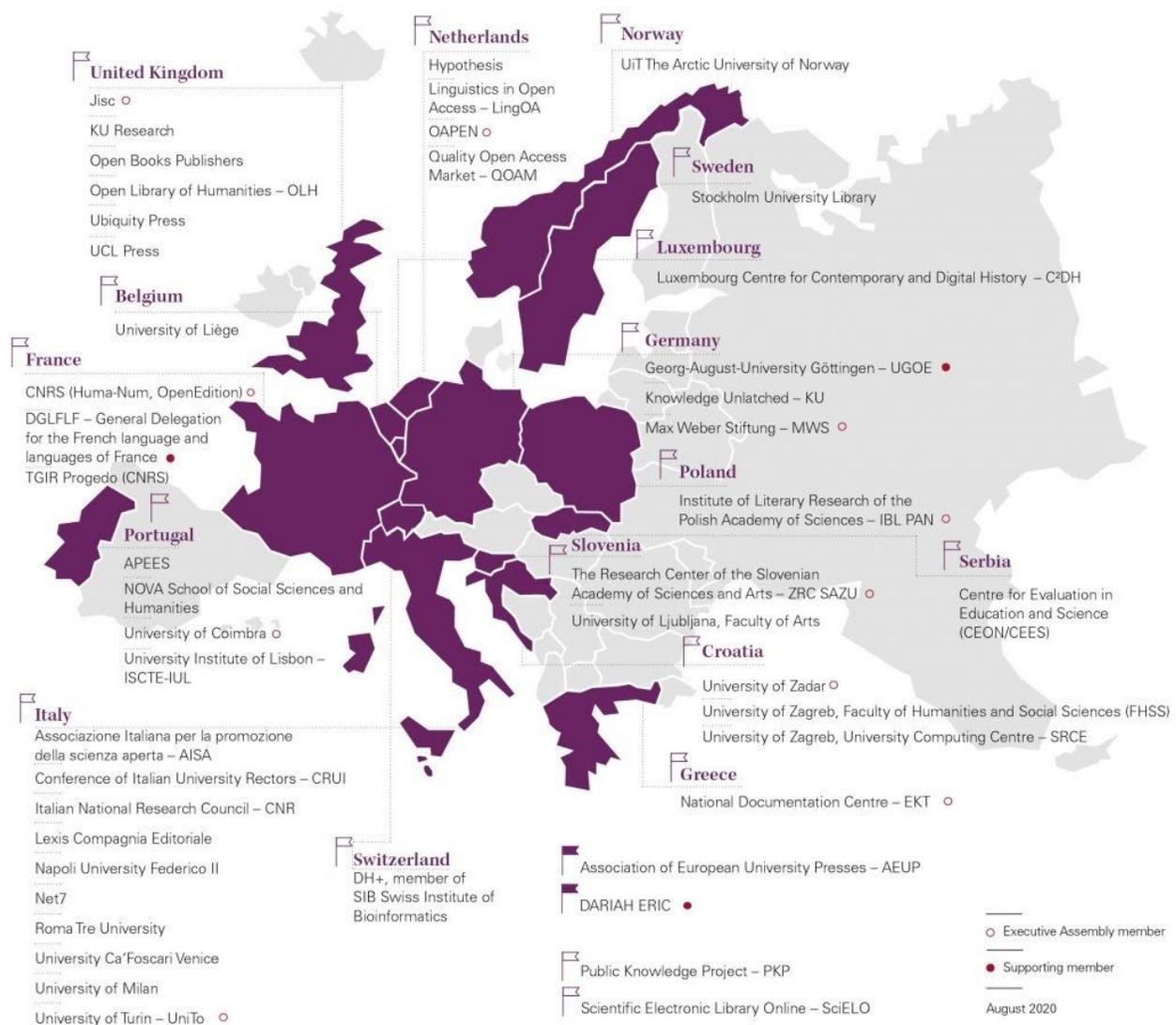
1. Advocacy: doi: 10.5281/zenodo.1324035
2. Common Standards: White Paper doi: 10.5281/zenodo.1324065
3. Multilingualism: doi: 10.5281/zenodo.1324025
4. Open Access Business Models: doi: 10.5281/zenodo.1323707
5. Platforms and Services: doi: 10.5281/zenodo.1324058
6. Tools Research and Development: doi: 10.5281/zenodo.1324109

OPERAS Community - Who we are

Members

The OPERAS community currently gathers 56 members from 17 countries. OPERAS is open to all sorts of organizations, public or private, for profit or not-for-profit, without discrimination. The conditions to join OPERAS are for an organization to be engaged in open scholarly communication in the SSH and to have signed the OPERAS rules of engagement, which define the minimal requirements and the necessary commitments for OPERAS.

The OPERAS community is composed of organizations operating on SSH scholarly communication at several levels:



OPERAS Core members

10 organizations in Europe have agreed to steer OPERAS on its path to maturity, act as a national node, and coordinate one or several Special Interest Groups.

Below is the list of the Core members:

(DE) Max Weber Stiftung

MWS is one of the leading agencies supporting German research in the humanities abroad. It is a legal entity closely linked to the German Federal Government located in Bonn. It comprises ten humanities research institutes around the world, which provide a bridge function between the host nations and Germany and play an important role in the international science scene. Being a multi-polar network, the institutes collaborate in the promotion of the internationalization of science. The foundation's goal is to promote research with a focus on history, culture, economic and social sciences in selected countries and a mutual understanding between Germany and the host countries.

(FR) CNRS OpenEdition and Huma-Num

OpenEdition is a comprehensive infrastructure for electronic publishing in the humanities and social sciences, created and operated by OpenEdition Center. It brings together complementary platforms dedicated to journals (OpenEdition Journals), books series (OpenEdition Books), research blogs (Hypotheses) and academic announcements (Calenda). In 2019, OpenEdition received more than 6.5 million visits per month from all around the world. OpenEdition's mission is to encourage the development of high-level electronic publishing on an international scale. OpenEdition was born from a very simple idea: the various actors in academic publishing were being drowned out by the vast ocean of the web and their efforts were being dispersed. Grouped around a central federating platform (OpenEdition) and specialized platforms (OpenEdition Journals, OpenEdition Books, Calenda, Hypothèses), other economies of scale are possible. A critical mass of content, technologies and skills means OpenEdition's role is not limited to publishing academic documents online, but also offering training in new publishing practices, to reaching out internationally, to developing a sustainable economic model and to implementing regular technological innovations.

Huma-Num is a very large research infrastructure which aims to facilitate the digital turn in Humanities and Social Sciences. To perform its missions, Huma-Num's organization is based on two pillars:

- consortia, funded by Huma-Num, which are composed of research projects and teams sharing common scientific interests;
- a unique technological device, provided on a national scale and based on a vast network of partners.

This infrastructure offers a variety of platforms and tools to store (HumaNum-Box), process (shared toolbox), share (NAKALA) and link (ISIDORE) research data. Huma-Num is entrusted with France's participation in two European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERIC): DARIAH (Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities) and CLARIN (Common Language Resources and Technologies Infrastructure). It is also involved in other European projects (H2020) and different international initiatives.

(GR) National Documentation Centre

Founded in 1980, EKT was formerly part of the National Hellenic Research Foundation (EIE). Since 2019, EKT is a legal entity with a public service mission governed by private law and supervised by Ministry of Digital Governance. EKT operates as a knowledge provider for policy makers, the research community and other stakeholders. Its core mission is to collect, aggregate and preserve digital content from selected and highly credible sources, caring for proper documentation to increase content dissemination and reuse from a variety of users. Also, EKT takes part in the formulation of the national strategy for Open Science and Open Access. EKT is officially engaged in the field of Statistics and Policy Monitoring. As a National Authority of the European Statistical System, it impartially collects, analyses and makes available statistics and accurate information relating to the Greek Research and Innovation System, actors and outputs. Transforming data to meaningful information, EKT provides valuable knowledge for the support of evidence-based decision and policy making. Committed to the promotion of innovation, as National Contact Point for European Research and Innovation Programmes, and Coordinator of the Enterprise Europe Network-Hellas, EKT supports research teams and enterprises to access EU funding and develop innovative products and services. EKT's e-infrastructures for research place particular focus to the needs of SSH researchers (e.g. the e-publishing services, services for a single access point to the metadata of all digitized cultural material in Greece, SaaS repository services etc.).

(HR) University of Zadar

For more than a decade the Department of Information Sciences at the University of Zadar has been very active in promoting the idea of free and unrestricted access to research results and academic works. The staff members are involved in a number of national infrastructure projects like HRCAK (Portal of Croatian scientific journals) and CROSBI (Croatian scientific bibliography), their international projects and initiatives like in OpenAIRE, an EC-funded initiative with 50 partners which aims to support the Open Access policy of the European Commission via a technical infrastructure, and TD COST Action TD1306 New Frontiers of Peer Review (PEERE).

The University of Zadar encourages its academics to publish their research in open access. All journals published by different University departments are freely available on the web. The University Library has established an institutional repository on the national digital archive and repository DABAR and in the meantime offers advice and support for students, teachers and researchers in helping them publish their works under free access conditions.

(IT) University of Turin

UniTo is one of the most ancient and prestigious Italian Universities. Hosting about 70.000 students, 4.000 academic and technical staff, 800 post-doctoral students, it promotes culture and produces research, innovation, training and employment. It is today one of the largest Italian universities, open to international research, projects and training. It has been at the forefront in Open Access projects, enacting in 2013 its Open Access policy, among the first universities in Italy. The university runs an Institutional Repository (AperTO) and two publishing platforms (SIRIO@UniTO and Collane@UniTO) for Open Access journals and books. The Rector is strongly supportive of an Open Science approach.

(NL) OAPEN

OAPEN is dedicated to Open Access to scholarly monographs. The foundation operates two platforms: the OAPEN Library, a platform for hosting, dissemination and preservation of open access books, and the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB), a discovery service for Open Access books. OAPEN was launched in 2008 as a 30-month targeted project co-funded by the EU in its eContentplus-program. The project was conducted by University Presses from 6 countries, coordinated in the Netherlands by Amsterdam University Press (AUP) and supported by the University of Amsterdam (Uva) and the University of Leiden (UL). The project was continued in 2011 as the OAPEN Foundation, founded by AUP, UL, University Library of Utrecht University (UU), Netherlands Academy of Sciences (KNAW), National Library of the Netherlands (KB) and AUP. These institutes act as Participants in the foundation. The Foundation received financial support from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). Support from above mentioned participants and NWO was renewed in 2014.

(PL) The Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IBL PAN)

The Publishing House of IBL PAN was established in 1990 and since then has published more than 500 titles. The books published by the Institute are addressed to both specialists – like

literary scholars, critics, Polish philology teachers – and people interested in the wider humanities. We also publish three scientific journals which are available in open access after a year from publication date. We are planning to disseminate our books in cooperation with OpenEdition. IBL PAN manages two electronic platforms for dissemination of research results and scholarly communication: New Panorama of Polish Literature and Polish Studies Newsletter – a joint undertaking of over twenty departments of Polish philology at Polish universities. At the moment they are both available in Polish only but we plan to expand.

(PT) University of Coimbra

UC Digitalis is a global project of the University of Coimbra for the collection, valuation and dissemination of digital contents. It aims to place knowledge transfer dynamics at the service of economic, social and cultural development, thereby intensifying the University's links with the community at national and international level. It is particularly distinctive of UC Digitalis that it is designed to promote and boost the editorial status of the science produced in the Portuguese-speaking world. It hosts the digital libraries ALMA MATER, POMBALINA and IMPACTUM, comprising almost 25,000 documents (mainly books, book chapters and articles).

(SL) The Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts

ZRC SAZU consists of 18 research units or institutes throughout Slovenia. It has more than 300 employees, roughly 250 of whom are researchers. ZRC SAZU conducts basic research across a range of fields, including natural, earth, and spatial sciences, and the social sciences and humanities. In terms of applied research, the expertise of the ZRC SAZU institutes has, among others, direct application in lexicography and the creation of Slovenian monolingual dictionaries. The Založba ZRC / ZRC Publishing House, a constituent part of ZRC SAZU, publishes more than 50 book series and fourteen journals. Most of the journals and books are available in an open access format.

(UK) Jisc

Jisc is a not-for-profit providing the UK's national research and education network, Janet, and technology solutions for its members – colleges, universities and research centres. It is funded by the UK higher and further education and research funding bodies and member institutions.

Jisc does three main things for its members:

- Operates and develops the super-fast and secure Janet Network and its built-in cyber security protection.
- Helps save time and money by negotiating sector-wide deals with IT vendors and commercial publishers.
- Provides trusted advice and practical assistance on digital technology.

Jisc's vision is for the UK to be the most digitally advanced education and research nation in the world.

From OPERAS Network to OPERAS AISBL

The OPERAS community has been incorporated on the 20th of November 2019 as an international association under Belgian Law, allowing for a stronger governance and the establishment of stronger lines of responsibility in the community. The main components of the OPERAS community will be maintained under new names and complemented with new regulation bodies:

- Working Groups become Special Interest Groups within an Assembly of the Commons gathering all OPERAS members.
- The Core Group becomes the Executive Assembly and continues to drive OPERAS' development.

New governing bodies are:

- The General Assembly, gathering the countries represented in the Executive Assembly, and international organizations, supporting OPERAS, will approve OPERAS' strategic plan and budget.
- The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STEAC), gathering scholars from different countries and disciplines, will advise the Executive Assembly.