



Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services May 2018 update

Presentation at the OPERAS Conference:
Open Scholarly Communication in Europe. Addressing
the Coordination Challenge
31 May – 1 June 2018, Athens
Lars Bjørnshauge, DOAJ

SCOSS as such is not responsible for the content of this
presentation, but credits to Vanessa Proudman, SPARC Europe

The context

- ✱ More policies and mandates = more dependence on a stable infrastructure
- ✱ The new roles for research funders, universities and libraries in terms of funding infrastructure
- ✱ Leadership and coordination needed towards securing a scholarly commons

Useful services has left the public domain

* Publisher diversification

- Mendeley, Publons, SSRN, Bepress
- Altmetric, Figshare, Overleaf, Symplectic

* Controlled by a small number of commercial players; locked-in; limited choice and influence on policy, priorities, pricing, development etc.

Short background for SCOSS

- ✱ Work funded by Knowledge Exchange about sustainability for OA services
 - Final report published early 2016: “Putting down roots: Securing the future of open access policies”
 - Main conclusion: ” Successful implementation of OA policies and mandates are dependent on a number of non-commercial, compliance-enabling services used by researchers and institutions...”

...and then

- ✱ SPARC Europe arranged a meeting for international organisations to do work to secure the sustainability of OA services
- ✱ Which eventually resulted in the creation of SCOSS - Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services

Some models for crowd funding:

- ✱ SCOAP3
- ✱ Knowledge Unlatched
- ✱ Open Library of Humanities
- ✱ DOAJ
- ✱ ...

In the US - the 2.5% commitment

**Every academic library
should commit to contribute 2.5%
of its total budget**

**to support the common infrastructure needed
to create the open scholarly comms**

both cash and in-kind

175 million US dollars

Science in the Open

The online home of Cameron Neylon

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Principles for Open Scholarly Infrastructures

23 FEBRUARY 2015

14 COMMENTS

Cite as "Bilder G, Lin J, Neylon C (2015) Principles for Open Scholarly Infrastructures" retrieved [date], <http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.1314859>

infrastructure ['ɪnfəstrʌktʃə] (noun) – the basic physical and organization buildings, roads, power supplies) needed for the operation of a society
American Dictionary

Everything we have gained by opening content and data will be under threat if we allow the enclosure of scholarly infrastructures. We propose a set of principles by which Open Infrastructures for the research community could be run and sustained. – Geoffrey Bilder, Jennifer Lin, C

Over the past decade, we have made real progress to further ensure the availability of data that supports research claims. This work is far from complete. We believe that data about the research process itself deserves exactly the same level of respect and care. The scholarly community does not own or control most of this information. For example, we could have built or taken on the infrastructure to collect bibliographic data and citations but that task was left to private enterprise. Similarly, today the metadata generated in scholarly online discussions are increasingly held by private enterprises. They do not answer to any community board. They have no obligations to continue to provide services at their current rates, particularly when that rate is zero.

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Everything we have gained by opening content and data will be under threat if we allow the enclosure of scholarly infrastructures

business model citation communication Creative Commons
data commons data feeds data formats data model
e-notebook ELN ethics Fb4Sci
Friendfeed funding identity LaBLog Meeting
metadata open-science-charter open-source open
access open data open
notebook science open

Key stakeholders

- ✱ Libraries
- ✱ Consortia
- ✱ Government
- ✱ Research Funders
- ✱ Researchers
- ✱ Other schol comms support organisations
- ✱ Others, incl. service providers

Libraries sharing infrastructure

- ✧ Shared cataloguing
- ✧ Shared collections
- ✧ Shared services

- ✧ Funding scholarly communication infrastructures in short and mid-term interest!?

SCOSS vision

“An infrastructure of freely available open science services funded by policymakers and stakeholders, committing to provide sustainable funding for the operations and development of key services”

SCOSS goal

Helping sustain the infrastructure to support the implementation of Open Science



SCOSS is

An Open Science community that evaluates
OS services to

ultimately encourage the de-centralised
international crowd-funding of
essential infrastructure



SCOSS DEVELOPMENT GROUP

EUA

IFLA

ERC

COAR

Science Europe

SPARC

Australasian Open Access Strategy Group (AOASG)

LIBER

SPARC Europe

EIFL

Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL)

SCOSS approach 1/2

- ✱ Developed by significant players in the research, Open Science & library community
- ✱ Forming a consolidated voice from trusted stakeholders and representatives of the international Open Science community
- ✱ Establishes a system to **identify and evaluate** OS services & **recommend** them for **funding**

SCOSS approach 2/2

- ✱ Creates a framework to increase efficiency for investors & addresses community needs
- ✱ Helps provide more transparency on costs and funding needs to enable the fair remuneration to sustain them
- ✱ Unspecific to any discipline / OA or OS area
- ✱ Strives to keep service sales & marketing costs down

The development process

- ✱ Knowledge Exchange: Sustainability of OA services
 - [Putting Down Roots, Securing the Future of Open Access Policies](#)
- ✱ Terms of Reference & The Case
- ✱ Coalition-building
- ✱ Governance
- ✱ A pilot begins: Feb 2017

Governance

SCOSS Executive Group

Appointed by Board; manages processes & comms

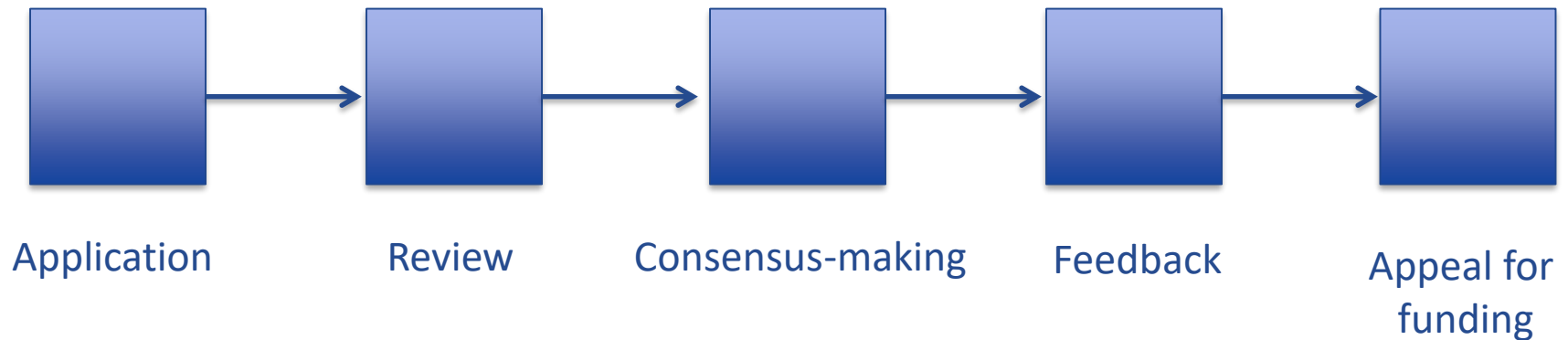
SCOSS Board

SCOSS member representatives; decision-making body

SCOSS Advisory Group

Advisory; evaluates applications; makes recommendations to the Board; maintains the registry of OA & OS services

The process of applying for funding



SHERPA/RoMEO

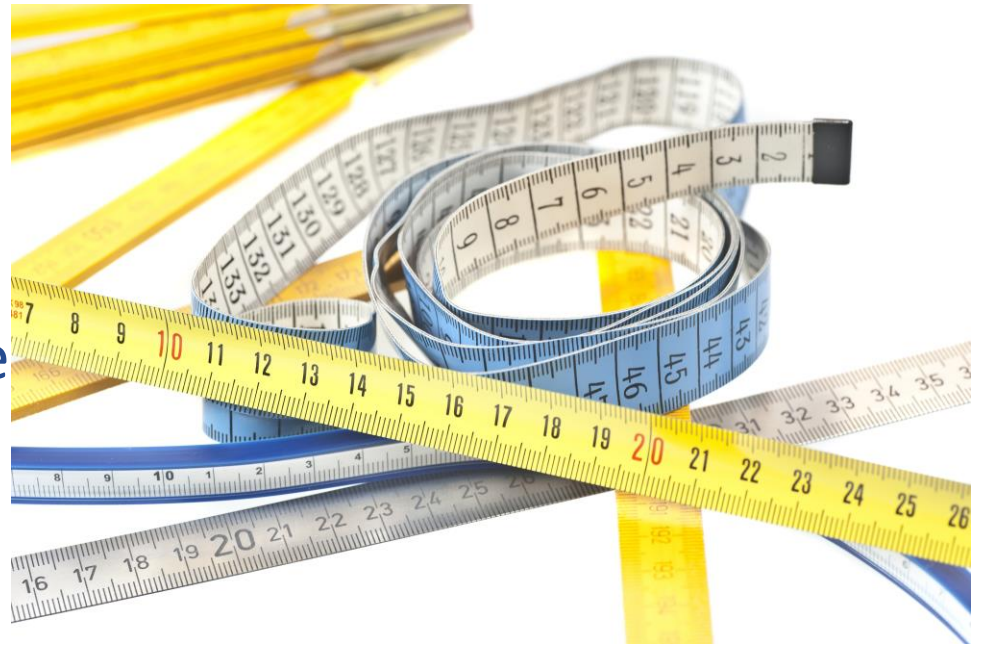
DOAJ

The evaluation procedure

- ✧ Evaluation criteria
- ✧ Evaluators
- ✧ 5 point scale
- ✧ Reaching consensus
- ✧ Feedback to applicants
- ✧ Reviewing the evaluation procedure

Evaluation criteria

- ✓ General: scope, intentions, Neylon principles
- ✓ Value proposition
- ✓ Technical details
- ✓ Costs
- ✓ Governance
- ✓ Sustainability measure
- ✓ Foresight
- ✓ Score



Costs

- ✱ Approved financial report of the prev. year, incl. income and expenses
- ✱ An organisational budget for 2 years
 - Expenses
 - Number of FT, staff expenses and roles
 - IT expenses
 - Misc, i.e travel & Other
 - Income
 - Amount of secured funding
 - Expected funding

SCOSS **pilot**: Feb 2017 -

- ✳ Invitations to apply: DOAJ & SHERPA/RoMEO
- ✳ Evaluation of proposals
- ✳ Evaluation consensus meetings
- ✳ Funding model discussion
- ✳ Final approval from SCOSS member orgs
- ✳ Appeal for funding – Nov 2017
- ✳ Appeals for funding by the services

SCOSS funding model I

- ✱ based on what the coalition estimates it needs to reach the targets of each service across the three years
- ✱ may be reduced based on # of contributors or on the annual figures of each service

SCOSS funding model II

- ✱ Large organisations: €4 000 p.a. for 3yrs
- ✱ Small organisations: €2 000 p.a. for 3yrs
- ✱ Other: €500 +/-
- ✱ Funders: €8 000 p.a. for 3yrs
- ✱ A 25% discount for consortia of 10 or more
- ✱ Transactions between the service provider and organisations

SCOSS support for the selected services

* Capacity-building / engagement

- Moving the thinking about funding OSI in the international library / research community
- Liaison with the international community: OASPA, ICOLC, IFLA, ARL, OPERAS, etc.

* Monitoring

- Provision of a funding monitoring tool

SCOSS support for the selected services

✧ Dissemination

- Documentation: potential funders / consortia
- SCOSS website and newsletter
- Active dissemination amongst members

✧ Troubleshooting

- Services
- Potential funders

SCOSS progress (30 April 2018)

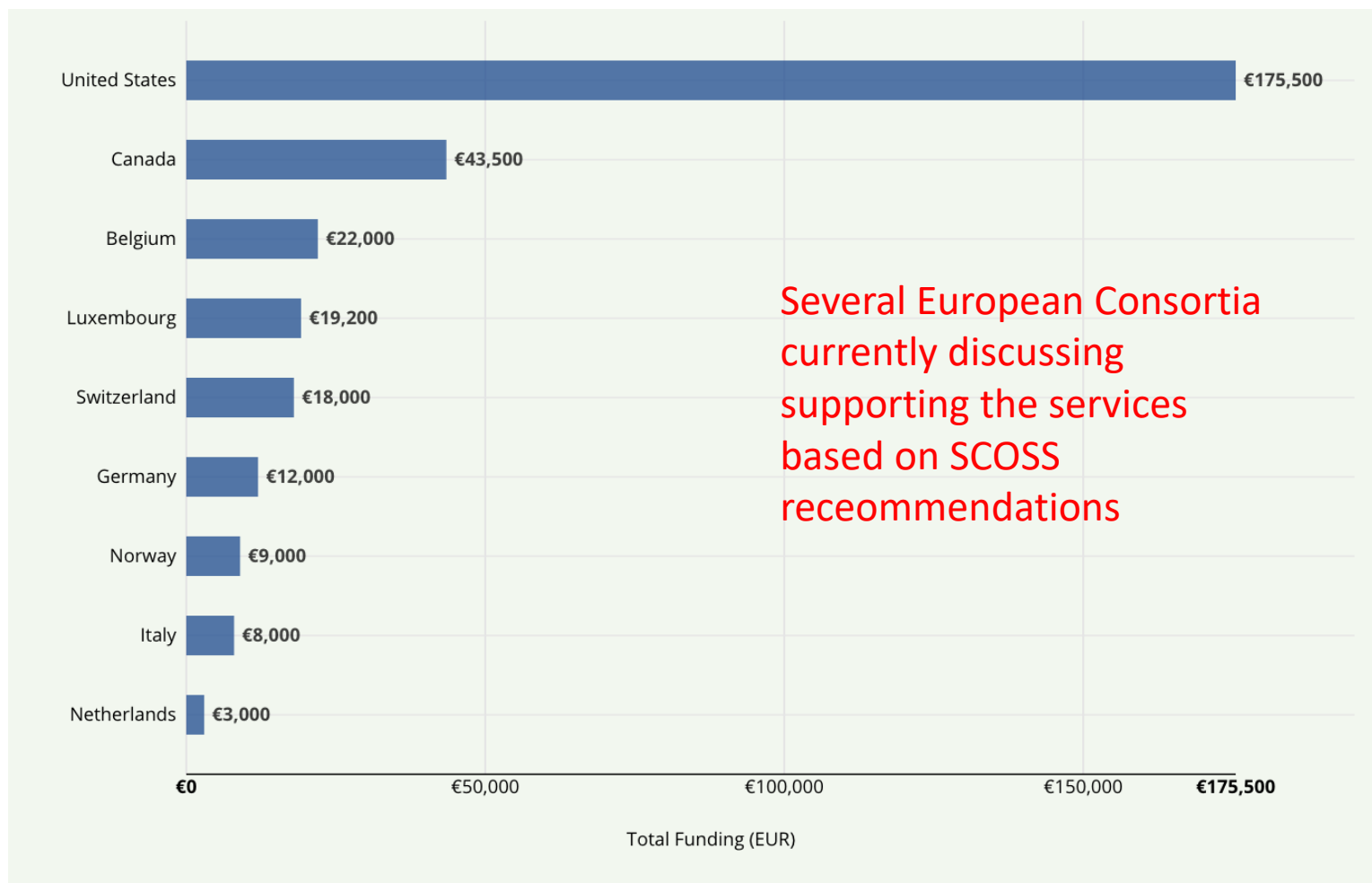
- ✱ 39 funders (incl. 1 consortium - Luxembourg)
- ✱ € 358,200 raised
- ✱ NEW:
 - NZ / AUS committed to an estimated €145k
At least 20 universities committed
 - Discussion with >10 consortia

Funding progress DOAJ 30.04.18



Note: Excluding AUS & NZ

Funding progress DOAJ 30.04.18



Dissemination

- ✳ Presentation at IATUL 2018, OPERAS 2018, LIBER 2018
- ✳ SCOSS website: www.scoss.org
- ✳ SCOSS poster
- ✳ SCOSS Newsletter
- ✳ The Case for SCOSS



The screenshot shows the SCOSS website with the following content:

- The Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services (SCOSS)**
- Facilitating funding to ensure the long-term sustainability of the world's Open Science infrastructure*
- Navigation links: [About SCOSS](#) | [How it Works](#) | [Who Should Apply](#) | [Latest News](#)
- Text: "We are a growing network of global institutions committed to helping secure the future of Open Access."
- Text: "Will you join us?"
- Buttons: "Join" and "SCOSS Home"
- Link: "Download the SCOSS Application Form"
- Logos of member institutions: National Library of Medicine, Ghent University, Princeton University, VUB, University of Bordeaux, MIT, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, UNT, Purdue University, Penn, Laval, Yale University, and Tufts.

The poster on the right is titled "The case for jointly funding Open Science Services" and includes the following text:

1. The Issue

Worldwide, universities, research funders and governments are consistently issuing policies to promote better open access to research publications and data. The scholarly communication community has come to depend on many of them when implementing their own Open Access and Open Science goals, e.g. the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) or SHERPA/ReMEO that records publisher copyright and self-archiving policies.

However, currently several of the Open Science services are funded on an unsustainable, localised and temporary basis. Despite their success, they are frequently under financial constraints and pressures to economise. With no alternative sustainable model in place, stakeholders are less likely to be able to build services into long-term strategic solutions for local OA and OS implementation. Numerous research support services have already been bought up by publishers such as Springer and Elsevier as a result with obvious consequences. Without an alternative sustainable funding model being brought into operation, and one led by the users themselves, the risk is that the services would have to fundamentally change their operation, in scope, coverage, accuracy or responsiveness; be forced into charging at the point of use or raising some other pay-wall; be bought up by a commercial

Next steps

- ✱ Following up on international membership
- ✱ Funder outreach
- ✱ Making the case for a significant grant
- ✱ Evaluating the pilot
 - the funding obtained
 - the funding model
 - other impact
- ✱ Invite service providers for the next appeal (2019??)

Challenges

* Collective funding challenges

- Increasing demands on (library) budgets
- Open Science policy and priorities & funding
- The collective action problem
- Choosing the best funding model

* SCOSS-specific challenges

- Pricing
- Pilot status
- Global membership!
- Evaluating success

Funding Open Infrastructure models

- ✧ Central organisation pooling funding
- ✧ Decentralised, crowd-funded and relaying funding to recommended services
- ✧ Grant plus crowd-funding
- ✧ Grant funding
- ✧ Other

Take away message

- ✱ Organisations, institutions who say they want to see Open Access and Open Science come to reality must realize, that they have a responsibility to provide funding to make essential OA/OS infrastructure services sustainable and to secure them to be in the public domain!!
- ✱ This requires coordination led by a broad international coalition!
- ✱ This is what SCOSS is all about!

Links

✱ www.scoss.org

✱ www.doaj.org/scoss

✱ Lars Bjørnshauge: lars@doaj.org