

Dear readers,

Welcome to the third edition of the OPERAS newsletter. The OPERAS newsletter is disseminated regularly every 2–3 months and keeps you updated about developments in the OPERAS distributed research infrastructure, particularly about the project OPERAS-D.

The OPERAS Design Study, which includes a landscape study, a technical mapping, the results of the usage survey and an ESFRI landscape study, is now available (doi: [10.5281/zenodo.1009544](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1009544)).

The OPERAS working groups have started preparing white papers on advocacy, tools (R&D), standards, business models, best practices, multilingualism, and platforms and services. The white papers will be presented at OPERAS' first conference (31 May - 1 June 2018) on the topic of „Open Scholarly Communication in Europe. Addressing the coordination problem“, organized by the National Documentation Centre (EKT/NHRF).

OPERAS wishes you a merry Christmas and a happy new year 2018!

Elisabeth Heinemann
Max Weber Foundation – German Humanities Institutes Abroad (MWS)

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1. OPERAS Design Study

The OPERAS Design Study is now available at operas-eu.org/design-study (doi: [10.5281/zenodo.1009544](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1009544)).

The OPERAS Design Study is the outcome of the OPERAS-D project. The main part of the OPERAS Design Study is comprised of four studies that explore the landscape of OPERAS' field of activity, establish the technical mapping of the OPERAS consortium, present a survey on users' needs concerning scientific communication and academic publishing, and finally foresee the development of the governance scheme and business model of the future infrastructure within the ESFRI framework.

The study's main findings are:

- The need to consider scholarly communication as the heart of scientific research and not as one of its outputs, particularly in SSH;
- the fragmentation of the field;
- and the need and the conditions for integration at European level.

The coordinator of OPERAS, Pierre Mounier (OpenEdition), has presented a poster of the OPERAS Design Study at the [Digital Infrastructures for Research 2017](#) in Brussels. You can find the poster here: operas-eu.org/1036.

2. Survey: Participate and Receive Books from OpenEdition Books

The OPERAS consortium has launched new surveys to gather more detailed information on the usage and needs regarding open scholarly communication, in particular in the Social Sciences and Humanities. The surveys are addressed at publishers, librarians and funders. They collect information and suggestions about practices, standards, enhanced features and new integrated services.

Your responses and comments will help us to define the future infrastructure OPERAS. As a holiday gift, we present you at the end of the survey with 5 books to choose from the [Digital Humanities category on OpenEdition Books](#). The surveys are open until 31 December 2017.

Please choose a link below to access the survey:

Publishers: <https://survey.openedition.org/index.php/863618>

Librarians: <https://survey.openedition.org/index.php/735829>

Funders: <https://survey.openedition.org/index.php/578782>

The surveys are only available in English and will take about 20 minutes. If you would like to complete the survey via phone, you can contact Arnaud Gingold (arnaud.gingold@openedition.org).

3. News from the OPERAS Consortium

OPERAS has signed the [SPARC Europe Open Letter](#) directed at the EU's Legal Affairs Committee. The letter protests against the planned reform of the EU copyright directive and urges for the removal of proposals that would restrict access to research.

[OpenMethods: Highlighting Digital Humanities Methods and Tools](#) metablog website has been launched by Humanities at Scale in cooperation with OPERAS as a new DARIAH initiative. OpenMethods aims at highlighting curated content in the field of Digital Humanities Methods and Tools.

Knowledge Exchange has published a first-of-a-kind report that is the biggest landscape study on the conditions and potentials for Open Access books yet: [A landscape study on open access and monographs: Policies, funding and publishing in eight European countries](#). The report maps Finland, Netherlands, UK, France, Denmark, Germany, Norway and Austria; asking questions such as "Are books included in national Open Access policies?," "What kind of funding streams supporting open access monographs exist?," and "What variety of publishing models for Open Access monographs can be located?." The study shows that even though monographs are not included in the main Open Access policies, they will find their way into the public debate over the next few years. The report was authored, among others, by OPERAS members OAPEN and KU Research.

OPERAS partner Ubiquity Press has announced that they are expanding their commitment to open access by providing [hosted repositories](#). They will pilot two full-featured repository systems from January 2018: Hyku, community-developed as a turnkey Samvera application, and Invenio, developed by CERN.

Maciej Maryl (IBL PAN) has presented OPERAS at the annual meeting of the [ALLEA E-Humanities Working Group](#), which is identifying and raising awareness for priorities and concerns of the Digital Humanities, and has talked about possible liaisons.

The OPERAS working groups have started developing white papers for mid-2018. The groups work on advocacy, tools (R&D), standards, business models, best practices, multilingualism, and platforms and services.

4. Project News from OPERAS-D

3 new partners have joined OPERAS since August.

- [Hypothesis](#), a non-profit software company focusing on enabling humans to reason more effectively together through a shared, collaborative discussion layer over all knowledge.
- [Lexis Compagnia Editoriale](#), an Italian company active since 1988, providing advanced publishing services to a variety of private and public customers, with a focus on digital technologies and processes.
- [University of Zagreb, University Computing Centre \(SRCE\)](#), the main computing centre, the coordinator and central Croatian institution for development and maintenance of the modern research and educational e-infrastructure.

OPERAS now counts 34 partners with expertise from 11 European countries.

The Second OPERAS Validation Workshop took place on 19 June 2017. The OPERAS consortium has presented and validated the draft exploitation plan and the draft of the network building report.

5. Save the Date

- **13-14 February 2018** – Pierre Mounier (OpenEdition) will present at the University Press Redux Conference 2018 at the Knowledge Centre at the British Library, London.
- **24 April 2018** – The OPERAS Final Validation Workshop will take place at [Max Weber Stiftung \(MWS\)](#) in Bonn.
- **31 May - 1 June 2018** – OPERAS will hold its first conference on the topic of „Open Scholarly Communication in Europe. Addressing the coordination problem“. The conference is organized by the [National Documentation Centre \(EKT/NHRF\)](#).

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No731031