Invest In Open Infrastructure

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT

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IOI

Outline for today's conversation:

Context: Why IOI

IOI Mission and Vision

IOI Work Underway

The Niche For Action

Open Questions and Conversation

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Signs of the times

In just the last few months...

Plan S - Funders assert influence

Research Consortia break Elsevier contracts (Germany, Sweden, Univ. of California) - make knowledge open

GLOALL - Global Alliance of Open Access Platforms (UNESCO)

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

AmeliCA - Open Knowledge for Latin America and the Global South

The scholarly infrastructure context

Commercial acquisitions of key infrastructure
Question of control/ownership of scholarly infrastructure in the spotlight

Increasing control of the knowledge production circuit: from content licensing to preprints, analytics, workflow, and decision-support companies

Restrictions on the rise:

restrictions on where, when or how to deposit

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

Numerous **"siloed" projects** that may or may not work with each other, with inconsistent funding, function, goals….

The scholarly infrastructure context

Significant gaps in understanding:

Who are the **players**? What are their **motivations**?
Whose **interests** are being served, and what is left out?
What does the **landscape** look like now, and what have we created?
Which landscape do we want for our **next-generation scientific communication system**?

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

The risk of inaction

Who controls knowledge? What is saved?
Who gets to see what, and on what terms? Who decides?

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)

Answering the call to action

Open, Community-controlled Infrastructure to Support
Open Access to Knowledge in the Public Interest

There are many **examples of working efforts** to point to & learn from

We have an **opportunity to rethink** community investing strategies -
Funding agencies & institutions are looking beyond one-offs

There is a **narrow window** to construct & support
a comprehensive framework for **collective action**
to impact the broader ecosystem **at global scale**

IOI's Beginnings

In April of 2018,
a host of international non-profit organizations
interested/involved in providing open source infrastructure,
tools and services to support open,
community-controlled scholarly infrastructure
self-organized to develop a
"Joint Roadmap for Open Science Tools" (**JROST**).

IOI's Beginnings

The initial effort focused on
facilitating technical collaboration and interoperability
across projects, a subset of the group began to meet regularly to
explore constructing a large-scale, collaborative,
global funding model
to support and sustain this infrastructure.

The result is **"Invest in Open" (IOI)**.

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IOI: Who are we?

We are an **international group of organizations**,
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

Strategy — Collective Action at Scale

A different model, based in different thinking

- **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 - Desired Future State

- Coherent, **end-to-end, open, community controlled infrastructure** to support the full life cycle of science and scholarship

- 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 or sources**, including scholarly and research institutions (through libraries, research offices, and other budgets), government agencies, and private foundations

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

Coordinate Funds

Following the recommendations of the Framework, coordinate financial resources from institutions, agencies and foundations, to increase the overall amount and impact of funding available to emerging and critical infrastructure

IOI - What we're doing

- Formation Process: governance, funding, staffing, etc
- Research
  - Census (Mapping, JROST)
  - Library Survey (Mapping)
- Seeking input, forming connections, and building relationships with existing global infrastructure initiatives and projects

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)*

What the Census Can Tell Us

1. What have we created, and what does the **landscape look like today**?
2. **How are initiatives supported** and how stable is that support?
3. What are the greatest **risks** to the infrastructures we are supporting?
4. How can we **improve the ways we *build* and *fund* tools** and services?
5. Can we responsibly use this type of information to **guide investments**?

Foundation for the Census
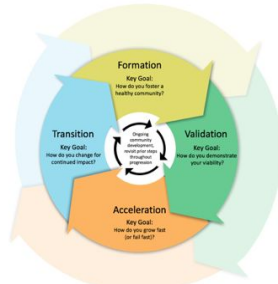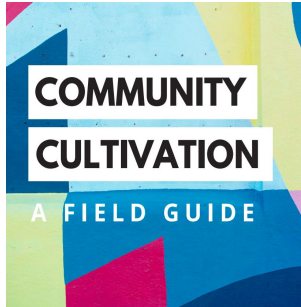
CCFG Purpose: To help communities assess their current strengths and growth opps, then pinpoint appropriate tools and activities to assist in their maturation.

Census Purpose: To gather and assess info about the SCR's organizational, technical, fiscal, administrative, governance, engagement, and HR/staffing activities in order to better understand individual SCR stability *and* to establish a health index for SCRs via the aggregated data.

Community Cultivation Field Guide available at: http://educopia.org/cultivation (free and open)

Census — Early Data Visualizations

Complete the census for your Scholarly Communication Resource:
https://investinopen.org/census/

- Census opened Feb 18-Mar 22 by invitation
- 45 respondents
- 25+ additional respondents have indicated interest and will be included late
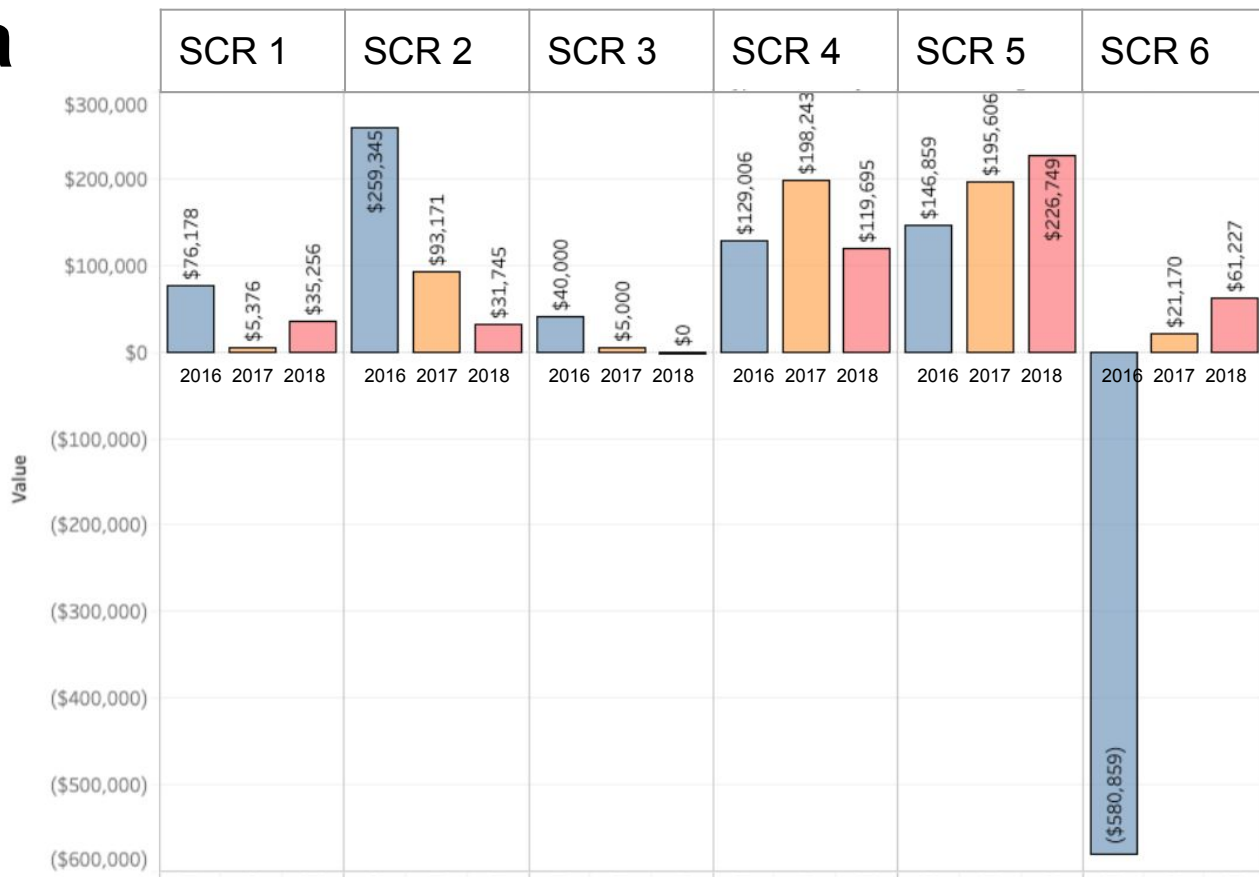- Reopened May 13 at launch of IOI; link on website

Example Data

This graph shows fiscal variance between net budgeted and net actual for six of the surveyed SCR's.

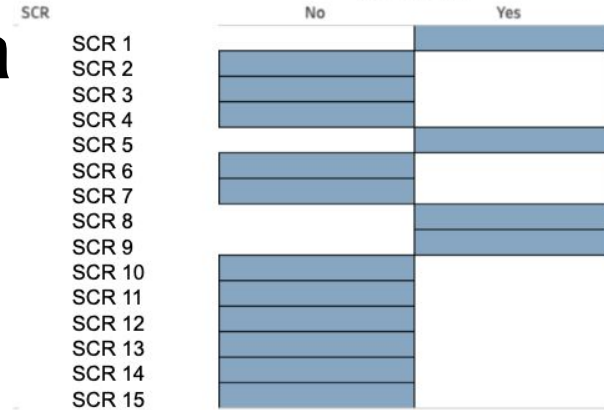In mature SCRs, we would hope to see relatively stable, near zero amounts--not at all what we see here.
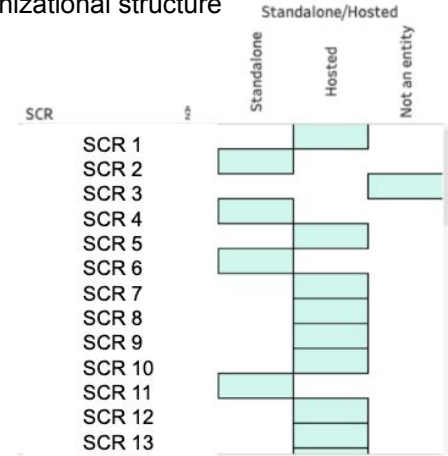
Example Data
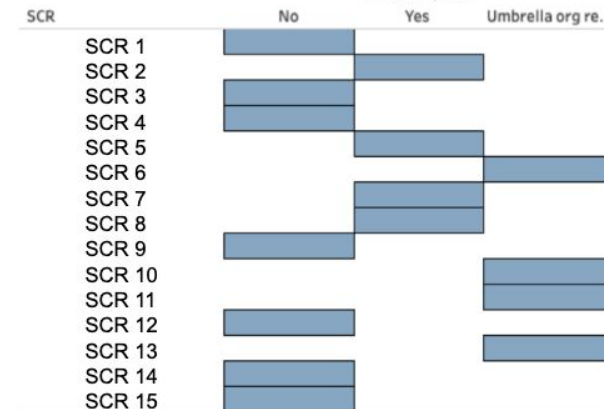
This graph shows organizational and administrative info reported by 15 SCRs.

Questions probed organizational, technical, fiscal, administrative, governance, engagement, and HR/staffing activities
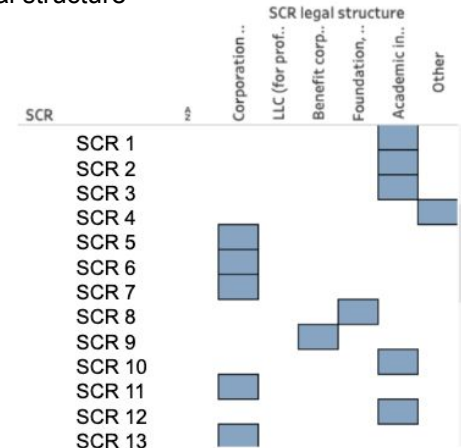

Administrative - Succession Plan

Organizational structure

Administrative - Annual Report

Legal structure

Survey of Library Investments in Scholarly Communication Infrastructure

The goal is to establish across a range of different **types of libraries the investments** they make in scholarly communications infrastructure.

Libraries will be asked to provide:

1. Demographic information, budget, etc.
2. Investments (dollars and people) in various SCRs
3. Expectations of future investments

Will show level of library investment and where it goes.

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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. Engaging a planning grant to **hire staff and develop strategy** of this group, focused on open infrastructure

Question and Things We Should Know

What resonates?

What's missing?

What would you want to see?

What concerns you?

Contact us: info@investinopen.org
Website: https://investinopen.org