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

Press Release

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$1,2 million for Open Access book usage data sharing –

OPERAS co-leads a collaborative project funded by the Mellon Foundation

An international team of scholars has been awarded $1.2 million grant from the Mellon Foundation to develop core scholarly infrastructure for the community-led sharing of quality, interoperable, Open Access book usage data. OPERAS, the Research Infrastructure for open scholarly communication in the European Research Area for social sciences and humanities, will co-lead the project as European partner. This three-years project is a collaboration led by the University of North Texas (UNT), and co-led by OPERAS, OpenAIRE and John Hopkins University. The project will develop the governance building blocks needed for a 2025 public launch of the data services streamlining data exchange and provide economies of scale to all who create usage data analytics and dashboards.

Open Access (OA) materials are free to read online and are distributed without licensing restrictions. Allowing unrestricted access to scholarly research enables students, professors and scholars to use the most up-to-date and relevant information for their work. Currently, there are no systematic practices for collecting data on how and where OA scholarly books are used.

The OA Book Usage Data Trust project aims to make book usage data more accessible for libraries, presses, publishers and others interested in scholarly impact since 2015. To achieve this, the team is developing data governance and administration mechanisms for the ethical exchange of digital book usage data between public and private book publishing stakeholders. Building on results of a pioneer project (OAeBU), the additional funding from the Mellon Foundation will support multi-stakeholder development and documentation of community norms pertaining to book usage data sharing and governance. Leveraging emerging European models for International Data Spaces, the team will facilitate book publishing, discovery and impact metric stakeholders in defining participation terms for organizations sharing or receiving usage data via the OA Book Usage Data Trust.

OPERAS will be able to hire a full-time community manager to build up a European community of stakeholders for the OA eBook Usage Data Trust.

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. 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 and enables the whole field to reinvent itself in the new Open Science paradigm. In building up a scholarly communication community in SSH abroad Europe OPERAS has already given evidence of its competences in community building.

More information soon: operas-eu.org
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