

Press Release

Brussels, 10 November 2022

OPERAS signs Agreement for Reforming Research Assessment and provides services for researchers

OPERAS has signed the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment, an initiative that gathers more than 180 [signatories](#), including public and private research funders, universities, research centres, institutes and infrastructures, associations (and alliances thereof), national and regional authorities, accreditation and evaluation agencies, learned societies and associations of researchers, and other relevant organisations, representing a broad diversity of views and perspectives. Many OPERAS members have already signed the document.

The agreement aims to recognise the diverse outputs, practices and activities that maximise the quality and impact of research for the research, researchers and research organisations assessment. The document sets a shared direction for changes in the research assessment practices, including principles, commitments and timeframe for reforms. The new vision for the research assessment requires that it will be based primarily on a qualitative judgement, for which peer review is central, and supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators.

As the Research Infrastructure dedicated to support the whole research lifecycle of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in Europe, OPERAS is taking part in CoARA and invites all its members to sign the agreement. OPERAS supports CoARA's vision of innovative and open research assessment practices, which can be adapted to the diversity of scientific disciplines.

OPERAS commitment in signing includes the provision of services that can enable the full range of practices in the SSH field, where there is still a lack of tools and indicators. Some examples would be

- quality assurance services such as the [PRISM](#) (Peer Review Information Service for Monographs) to increase trust in Open Access book publishing by improving transparency around the quality assurance process (peer review procedure);
- the [Metrics Service Portal](#), that collects usage and impact metrics related to published Open Access content from many different sources and allows for their access, display and analysis from a single access point;
- the [GoTriple platform](#), a multilingual and multicultural discovery service, that provides a better findability of research results;
- the [Pathfinder](#) service to support academic open access publishing.

The issue of reforming research assessment will be also included among the topics of the relevant OPERAS [Special Interest Groups](#) ([Advocacy](#) and [Standards](#)).

Commitment of existing and new members

By advocating for a change in the research assessment and supporting CoARA, OPERAS is including the commitment to recognise all research outputs and to experiment new indicators and tools in its new members' application form. The infrastructure encourages existing members to sign the Agreement and to be active parts of the Coalition as research performing organisations.

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.

The agreement's initiative followed a [call of interest](#) by the European Commission, in January 2022, to be drafted in a co-creation exercise. Since July 2022, the document was publicly presented (read it via [this link](#)). The Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment ([CoARA](#)) is now being created and has an interim secretariat provided by [Science Europe](#), the [European University Association](#) (EUA) and the [European Commission](#).

Read the Agreement full-text [here](#).

More information: <https://operas.hypotheses.org/5829>

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