

Advancing Global Scholarly Communication: Preservation, Open Science & Emerging Challenges



ISSN news

The Keepers Registry: Safeguarding the World's Scholarly Record

The Keepers Registry, powered by the ISSN International Centre, connects a global network of twenty archiving agencies through seamless data exchange. Each archived title is enriched in the ISSN Portal with detailed information on its publisher, preserved volumes and years, and the responsible archiving agency. Today, 98,261 titles are archived by at least one agency—and an impressive 20,238 are safeguarded by three or more, ensuring long-term preservation. Guiding this growing initiative, the Keepers Registry Technical Committee meets twice a year to assess new agency applications and expand partnerships, with a strong focus on strengthening collaboration across Africa, Asia, and South America.

Search the portal [here](#).



Digital preservation

Digital Preservation as a Shared Responsibility

This article emphasizes that digital preservation is not just a technical task but a collective, long-term commitment involving institutions, communities, and professionals. It

distinguishes digital preservation from curation, highlighting the need for strategies, policies, and careful selection of materials. Collaboration between organizations strengthens resilience and reduces risks. The discussion also underlines the importance of human expertise, ethical considerations, and inclusivity in shaping the preserved record. Emerging technologies like AI offer new opportunities but also raise challenges around authenticity. Ultimately, preserving digital knowledge requires coordinated effort to ensure its accessibility and integrity for future generations.

[Read more.](#)



Digital Preservation Awards 2026 Open for Global Submissions

The Digital Preservation Coalition has launched the 2026 Digital Preservation Awards, a biennial initiative recognizing global achievements in safeguarding digital assets. Open to organizations, projects, and individuals, the awards highlight innovation, collaboration, and impact across the field. A new category for 2026 focuses on resilience, maintenance, and continuity of digital preservation infrastructure. Eligible entries include work completed between August 2024 and July 2026. The awards aim to raise awareness, celebrate excellence, and promote best practices within the international digital preservation community, culminating in a ceremony in October 2026.

[Read more.](#)



‘The world’s memory’: why Nigeria is burying its history under a mountain in Svalbard, Norway

Nigeria is the first African country to deposit data in the Arctic World Archive, a storage facility designed to preserve records of everything from cultural practices to historical events. The Arctic World Archive (AWA) is a data storage unit where organisations and individuals can deposit records kept on specialist digitised film called Piql that lasts up to 2,000 years. On

27 February, Nigeria became the first African country to place archives at the facility 300 metres beneath a mountain where the cold, dark, dry conditions are perfect for preservation.

[Read more.](#)

Open science

Japan adopts French model for open science monitoring

Japan has introduced its own Open Science Monitor, inspired by the French Open Science Barometer, to assess the adoption of open science practices. Developed through close collaboration between the two countries, the tool relies on open data and a shared methodology established by France. It tracks key indicators such as open access to publications, data sharing, and software openness. This initiative strengthens France's position as an international reference in open science and enables global comparisons, while encouraging other countries to adopt similar monitoring frameworks and advance transparency in research.

[Read more.](#)



Open access

DOAJ and Crossref Strengthen Partnership for Equitable Open Access Infrastructure

DOAJ and Crossref have renewed their partnership to improve the quality and accessibility of open access research through enhanced scholarly metadata and global support. Building on collaboration since 2021, the initiative focuses on upgrading article-level metadata, including author identifiers, open references, and expanded harvesting. It also strengthens the DOAJ Ambassador Programme, supporting journals—especially in low- and middle-income countries—with training and outreach. The partnership reflects a shared commitment to sustainable, interoperable infrastructure, improving research discoverability and promoting more equitable participation in the global scholarly communication ecosystem.

[Read more.](#)

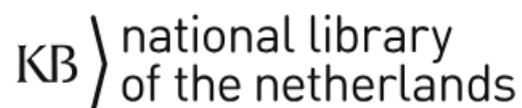


Libraries

Dutch National Library Advocates for Freedom of Information

The article highlights the Dutch National Library's (KB) commitment to defending free access to information amid growing challenges. Through screenings of the documentary *The Librarians*, it raises awareness of censorship and book banning, particularly in the United States, where librarians face threats and restrictions. The KB notes similar pressures emerging in the Netherlands, including attempts to ban certain books and intimidate libraries. Its Director General reaffirms that libraries must remain safe, inclusive spaces offering uncensored collections, enabling individuals to form independent opinions and supporting fundamental democratic values.

[Read more.](#)



Publishing industry

Small Publishers Challenged by Structural Inequalities in Scholarly Publishing

A recent report highlights that small academic publishers are not primarily threatened by open access, but by structural inequalities that favour large publishing groups. Limited scale restricts their ability to invest in infrastructure, negotiate transformative agreements, and compete in an increasingly consolidated market. While many small publishers support open access in principle, they face disproportionate operational and financial pressures. The study calls for coordinated support from funders, libraries, and policymakers to address these imbalances. Without systemic intervention, the diversity and sustainability of the scholarly publishing ecosystem could be at risk.

[Read more.](#)



Ukrainian Academic Publishing Shows Resilience and Innovation Amid War

Despite the ongoing war, Ukrainian academic publishing continues to demonstrate resilience and leadership, particularly in advancing open research practices. A recent delegation of librarians and publishers highlighted innovative approaches to scholarly communication, alongside efforts to align with European and international standards. They are also working to reclaim ISSNs appropriated in occupied territories, underscoring the importance of maintaining research integrity. These initiatives show how Ukraine's scholarly community is not only surviving under extreme conditions but actively shaping more open, transparent, and internationally connected publishing systems.

[Read more.](#)



Scholarly communications

Artificial Intelligence Transforming Information Literacy in Academic Libraries

This article reports on a recent scientometric study examining how artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping information literacy in academic libraries between 2020 and 2025. It highlights a rapid growth in research output, with key themes including AI literacy, user education, and the integration of tools such as chatbots and machine learning. The analysis shows that libraries are evolving from traditional information providers into active facilitators of digital and AI competencies. However, challenges remain, particularly around skills development, ethical concerns, and unequal global adoption of AI technologies in library environments.

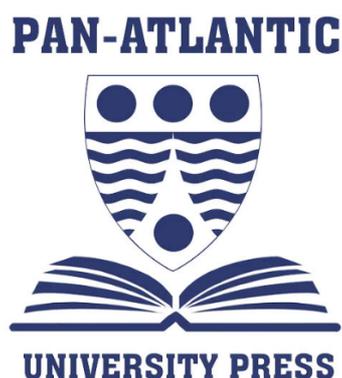
[Read more.](#)



African University Presses Challenge Inequities in Global Knowledge Production

The article argues that the global scholarly publishing system is shaped by structural inequalities that disadvantage African researchers and publishers. High article processing charges (APCs), limited research funding, and Western-dominated evaluation systems restrict participation from the Global South. While open access aims to democratize knowledge, it often reinforces these imbalances by shifting costs onto authors. African university presses are working to strengthen local publishing, promote indigenous knowledge, and build international partnerships. The author calls for more equitable models to ensure that African scholarship is visible, valued, and sustainably supported worldwide.

[Read more.](#)



Scholarly Publishing in Spain: An Analysis Based on the Estimated Financial Value of Journals

This study examines the scholarly publishing system in Spain, with a particular focus on its most highly regarded journals indexed in international databases. Using data on Spanish journals included in Scopus and leveraging the recently developed SCImago Journal Value (SJV) tool (Halevi et al., 2024), we estimate the financial value of scholarly publications. This estimation is grounded in the SCImago Journal Rank (SJR), a network-based centrality indicator derived from citation data, thereby linking a journal's estimated value to its effectiveness in disseminating scholarly knowledge. By applying this methodology, the study aims to provide a novel perspective on the structure, influence, and economic dimension of the Spanish scholarly publishing landscape, contributing to a deeper understanding of its role within the global research ecosystem.

[Read more.](#)

Standards

Appel à candidatures pour les groupes de travail RDA-FR sur les œuvres spécialisées

La page annonce un appel à candidatures pour intégrer des groupes de travail dédiés à l'élaboration des règles RDA-FR sur les œuvres et expressions spécialisées. Quatre groupes thématiques seront constitués (audiovisuel, iconographique, performatif, plastique), réunissant des experts issus des bibliothèques, archives et musées. Les travaux se dérouleront sur des cycles de 6 à 9 mois, avec des livrables réguliers. Une formation initiale est prévue, sans prérequis obligatoire sur RDA-FR. Les candidatures doivent être soumises avant le 10 avril 2026, pour une sélection prévue début mai.

[En savoir plus.](#)



Latest 2026 RDA Toolkit Release Highlights

The February 2026 RDA Toolkit release is a minor update featuring corrections, new examples, and revisions based on RSC decisions. Policy statements from several national libraries, including the British Library and Library of Congress, have been updated. The release introduces OLAC best practices, accessible by adjusting Toolkit views. Upcoming updates will include translations in Spanish, Finnish, and French. Based on GitHub release 5.4.12, this version focuses on the English Toolkit. Detailed release notes provide descriptions of changes and downloadable PDFs for comparing revised and previous versions. The next release is scheduled for June 2026.

[Read more.](#)



Artificial intelligence

German Court Rules AI-Generated Logos Lack Copyright Protection

A Munich court has ruled that logos created using generative AI are not eligible for copyright protection, highlighting the importance of human creativity in intellectual property law. The case involved three AI-generated logos that were copied without permission, but the court rejected the claim, finding no sufficient human authorship in the results. While copyright protection remains possible in principle, it requires clear, identifiable human creative input shaping the final work. The decision underscores legal uncertainty for businesses using AI-generated designs and reinforces the need for human contribution to secure intellectual property rights.

[Read more.](#)



Events

Deep Dive on Requirements Analysis, Specifications & Registry for long-term access and preservation services (8 April 2026, online, 14.00 – 15.00 CEST)

The EOSC EDEN project, an EU-funded initiative, is continuing its webinar series to share key results and insights from its work on advancing digital preservation strategies across Europe. At the heart of EOSC EDEN lies the ambition to develop a framework for identifying research

data that should be prioritised for long-term digital preservation at both European and national levels. The webinar is tailored for repository managers.

Registration: <https://eden-fidelis.eu/form/eosc-eden-deep-dive-on-requireme>



Journées Abes – Faire réseau dans l’avenir (28-29 Mai 2026, CORUM, Montpellier, France)

Les Journées ABES 2026, organisées à Montpellier, réunissent les acteurs des bibliothèques de l’enseignement supérieur autour des évolutions des services documentaires. Le Centre international de l’ISSN est sponsor de l’événement. Il collabore de longue date avec les bibliothèques académiques françaises à travers l’outil CIDEMIS pour l’identification des titres de périodiques qu’elles conservent. Une présentation du plan d’action 2025-2029, du nouveau portail ISSN et du nouvel identifiant ISSN-H est prévue le 28 mai à 14h30.

En savoir plus.



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