

Dear readers,

Welcome to the second 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.

During the past seven months, OPERAS has grown continuously and now already counts 31 partners. With expertise from 11 European countries and our first international partner, OPERAS has submitted to the ESFRI Roadmap 2018.

The first OPERAS-D validation workshop has successfully been held in June. Resulting from this workshop and the deliverables that were prepared for the project, the OPERAS-D consortium has finished a Design Study for OPERAS which includes a landscape study, a technical mapping, the results of the usage survey, and an ESFRI landscape study. The study's main finding is the fragmentation of OPERAS' field of work. Thus, OPERAS' vision and mission is integration.

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

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Content

1. OPERAS is Growing
2. The Road to ESFRI
3. OPERAS-D News
4. From the Newsdesk
5. Save the Date

1. OPERAS is Growing

OPERAS has grown and now gathers 31 organizations from 12 countries. The ten new partners that have joined between May and August are:

- **Associazione Italiana per la promozione della scienza aperta (AISA)**, a non-profit organization that undertakes to advance Open Access to knowledge.
- **Knowledge Unlatched (KU) Germany**, which works to implement a collaborative business model that enables libraries to support the publishing of monographs via existing publishers by paying for the fixed publication costs in exchange for the books being issued on an Open Access license. KU Research, which is an independent arm of KU, already is part of the OPERAS consortium and is a partner in OPERAS-D.
- **Linguistics in Open Access (LingOA)**, which facilitates the transition of prestigious subscription journals in linguistics to Fair Open Access.
- **NOVA School of Social Sciences and Humanities**, the largest Portuguese Higher Education and Research institution in the fields of Social Sciences and Humanities.
- **Quality Open Access Market (QOAM)**, an academic market place for Open Access publishing.
- **Roma Tre University**, a new-born and innovative university in Rome.
- **UC Digitalis**, a global project of the University of Coimbra for the collection, valuation and dissemination of digital contents.
- **University of Liège**, the only complete public university in the Belgian French-speaking community.
- **University of Milan**, a public, multidisciplinary teaching and research institution.
- **SciELO**, a 19-year-old international cooperation program on scholarly communication and OPERAS' first international partner.

The OPERAS core group has also increased from five to nine organizations and now includes **EKT, IBL PAN, MWS, OAPEN, Open Edition, UC Digitalis, UCL Press, University of Turin**, and the **University of Zadar**.

2. The Road to ESFRI

The **European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)** is a strategic organization first launched in 2002 to develop the scientific integration of Europe and to strengthen its international outreach. ESFRI selects a limited number of projects with a high degree of maturity, that enhance European science and innovation competitiveness.

OPERAS has submitted to the ESFRI Roadmap 2018 in August 2017.

Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, and Portugal have expressed their strong support of OPERAS' application to the ESFRI Roadmap.

3. OPERAS-D News

The OPERAS consortium has prepared a **Design Study**, which is the outcome of the OPERAS-D project. The main part of the document 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 studies' main finding is the fragmentation of OPERAS' field of work. Thus, OPERAS' vision and mission is integration.

OPERAS has **launched seven working groups** at the First OPERAS Validation Workshop to explore future services OPERAS will develop. Each group will develop a White Paper for mid-2018. The groups work on communication, tools (R&D), standards, business models, best practices, multilingualism, and future seamless services at European level.

The OPERAS-D project partners have submitted another 4 deliverables: D1.3, D1.5, D2.1, and D3.1. The public deliverables **D2.1 ("Landscape Study")** and **D3.1 ("Technical Mapping")** are available for download at the OPERAS website.

The **4th Digital Humanities Benelux Conference**, hosted by Utrecht University, took place from 3–5 July. Andrea Bertino (SUB Göttingen) has chaired a section and has presented the HIRMEOS project. Everything indicates that the tools and services implemented by HIRMEOS on its Open Access publishing platforms will meet the fundamental needs of humanities scholars.

The **First OPERAS Validation Workshop** took place on 26/27 June 2017 in the Central Library Amsterdam. The workshop has concluded the design phase of the OPERAS-D project and has planned the next steps. OPERAS-D project partners have presented four deliverables to the OPERAS consortium: the landscape study of open scholarly communication in Europe, the technical mapping of the OPERAS network, the online survey on future OPERAS services, and the future business and governance model of the OPERAS infrastructure.

Arnaud Gingold (CLEO), OPERAS technical coordinator, has presented HIRMEOS at a poster session at the **CERN-UNIGE Workshop on Innovations in Scholarly Communication** held in Geneva on 21/23 June. It was a very fruitful workshop, both for its content and for possible future collaborations.

Pierre Mounier (OpenEdition), OPERAS project coordinator, has presented the OPERAS research infrastructure at the **First Conference Workshop of the Association of European University Presses (AEUP)** in Stockholm, Sweden, on 17 May 2017. The presentation outlined the way forward for OPERAS and presented the development plan of the infrastructure. It moreover showed the steps already taken, especially by the HIRMEOS project: the first service of OPERAS is the **Directory of Open Access Books (doab)**.

4. From the Newsdesk

Links to top stories from the OPERAS newsdesk

- 15 June – *Manifold v0.2.0 Released*
- 7 June – *Open Science Centre*
- 7 June – *Claims About Benefits of Open Access to Society (Beyond Academia)*
- 29 May – *Scholarly book publishing: Its information sources for evaluation in the social sciences and humanities*

4. Save the Date

- 13 September – *Andrea Bertino and Margo Bargheer (SUB Göttingen) will present HIRMEOS at the Open-Access-Tage 2017 in Dresden*
- 20 September – *Andrea Bertino (SUB Göttingen) will present HIRMEOS at COASP 2017 in Lisbon*
- 24 October – *Pierre Mounier (OpenEdition) will present HIRMEOS at the AAK Coalition at FORCE2017 in Berlin*

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