



Essential Infrastructure Product Option

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Background

- Ad-hoc collection of 10 open infrastructure agreements
- Mainly library/discovery focussed
- Opt-In basis
- DOAJ; 55 supporters. Running since 2018
- Average number of supporters; 16 supporters
- 'No open access without open infrastructure' *COPIM Open Book Futures*.



Image Credit: "Dependency" by Randall Munroe, published in xkcd (<https://xkcd.com/2347/>)

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The approach

- RLUK Conference 2025; Ethical Procurement;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmJ2BTBJQrc>
 - Pragmatic and Principled: the approach to content acquisition and collection development at the University of York Library; Kirsty Lingstadt and David Brown
 - Reflecting library values in the shift from procurement to investment; Joanna Ball, Managing Director, DOAJ
- IOI InfraFinder; <https://infrafinder.investinopen.org/solutions>
- SCOSS; <https://scoss.org/>
- Principles of Open Scholarly Infrastructure: <https://openscholarlyinfrastructure.org/>

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Key requirements, approved by strategic group

- Deliver a service within the publishing lifecycle
- Align with UK institutional priorities and funder policies
- Provide full transparency on operational costs
- Be indexed by an open infrastructure directory such as [Invest in Open Infrastructure InfraFinder](#) or [SCOSS](#), or [POSI](#) compliant/ working towards POSI compliance/adherence
- Assessment form; requires evidence for the above points, plus
 - Does this infrastructure aid long-term preservation of research?
 - In the event that your service should fail, how would it be possible for others to replicate, migrate and integrate your systems, data and services?
 - What are the dependencies on other infrastructures, how does your product interact within the technology stack, what are the layers of technology that your infrastructure runs on and enhances?

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Outcomes

- Briefing for senior university leaders sent to Jisc members, Dec 2025. Information to initiate discussions about the support needed for essential infrastructure for research publication in your institution
- Assessment form completed for all existing agreements. Launched with blog '**New infrastructure option to support sustainable, affordable open research**' 2 Feb 2026
<https://www.jisc.ac.uk/news/all/new-infrastructure-option-to-support-sustainable-affordable-open-research>
- Research Professional Op-Ed piece; '**For UK universities, open infrastructure is an alternative to commercial publishing models**'
<https://www.researchprofessional.com/news-articles/article/1418543> 25 Feb 2026
- Member story forthcoming
- Expansion of licensed open infrastructures to approx. 20 over next 12 to 18 months