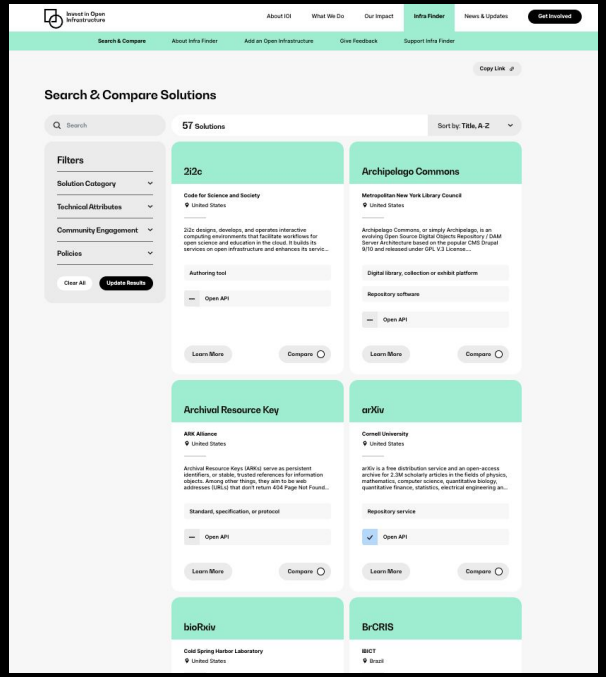
Invest in Open Infrastructure

Infra Finder

Your Hub for Finding Open Infrastructure Services for Research and Scholarship

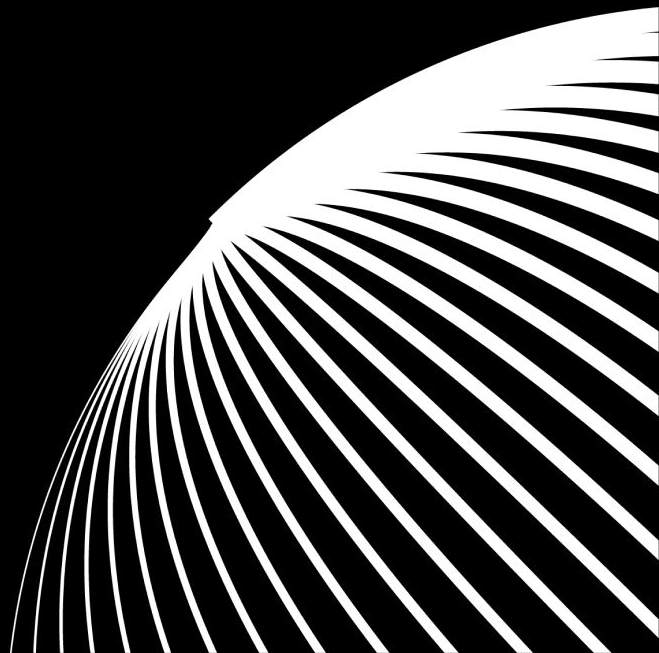
OPERAS 2024
Drs. Katherine Skinner, Emmy Tsang, Lauren Collister



We're on a mission.

Our aim: to increase investment in and adoption of open infrastructure.

Open infrastructure can advance open values, is customizable & can be adapted as needs grow. But its adoption is trailing that of its' competitors.



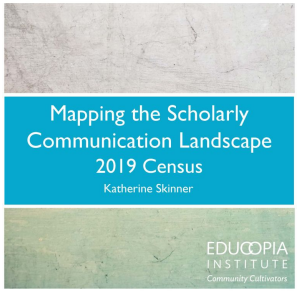
The problem

Finding the “right” infrastructure is a hard and slow process

- **Scattered information** across various parts of infrastructure websites and fora
- **Different requirements and needs** for different institutions and stakeholders
- **Time consuming** to pull together comparisons to identify best options

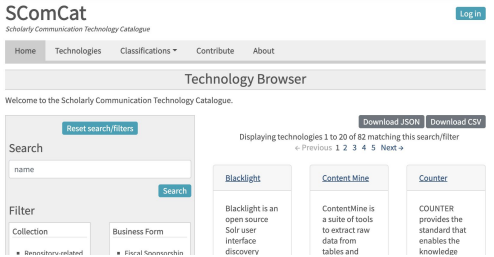
Building blocks

This is neither the first (nor the last!) approach to sense-making for the complex landscape of infrastructure services and standards enabling open research and scholarship. Predecessors include...



Mike Roy, David Lewis, Katherine Skinner, project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 2018.

John W Maxwell, Erik Hanson, Leena Desai, Carmen Tiampo, Avvai Ketheeswaran, Melody Sun, Kim O'Donnell, Emma Walter, Ellen Michelle, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 2019.



Catherine Mitchell, Kristin Ratan, Katherine Skinner (with Paul Walk and Sarah Lippincott each doing some heavy lifting!!), funded by Arcadia Fund, 2020.

What do we mean by open infrastructure?

"Open infrastructure" is defined on a spectrum, not as half of a binary.

A service, protocol, standard or software that the academic ecosystem needs in order to perform its functions throughout the research lifecycle.

Criteria we use (always refining!) to zero in on "OI":

- Meets the definition of open source software;
- Primarily or exclusively distributes openly licensed (open access) content;
- Is free to use by anyone (free of charge or other restrictions);
- Is community-governed and is transparent in its operations and finances;
- Is operated by a non-profit or non-commercial entity;
- Is a service, project, or tool that is designed for wide use.

Additional considerations

We have to start somewhere... this is only a beginning

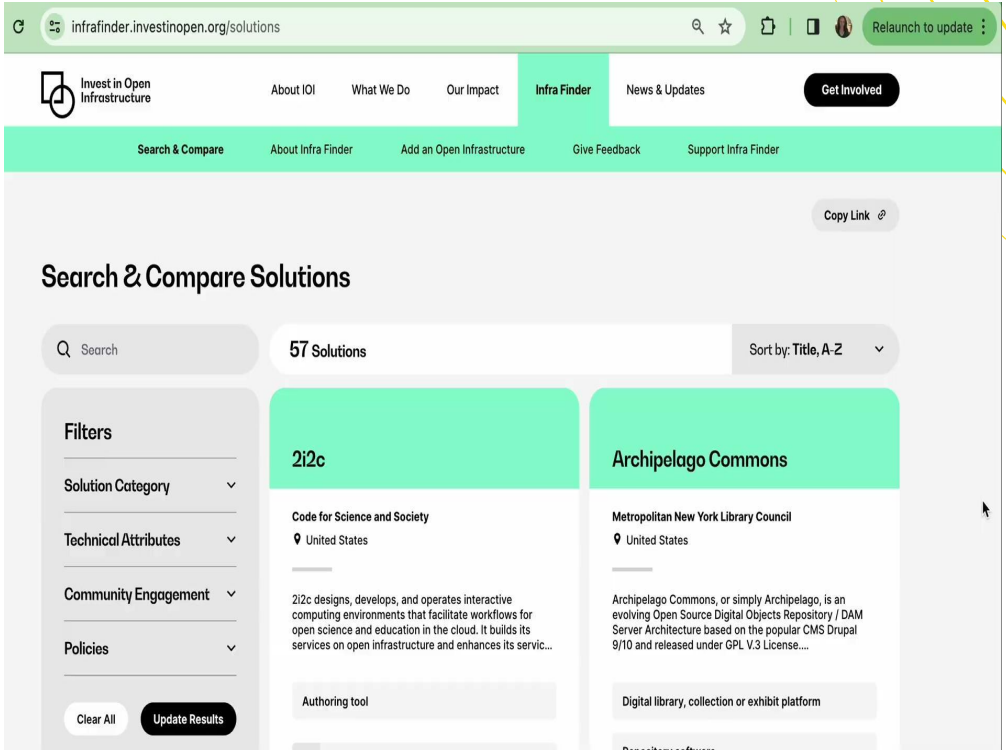
Prioritized:

- Repository systems
- Preprint systems
- Publishing platforms/tools
- Standards related to the above
- Invitees' perspectives

Deprioritized:

- Hosts and service providers

Infra Finder



https://infrafinder.investinopen.org/solutions

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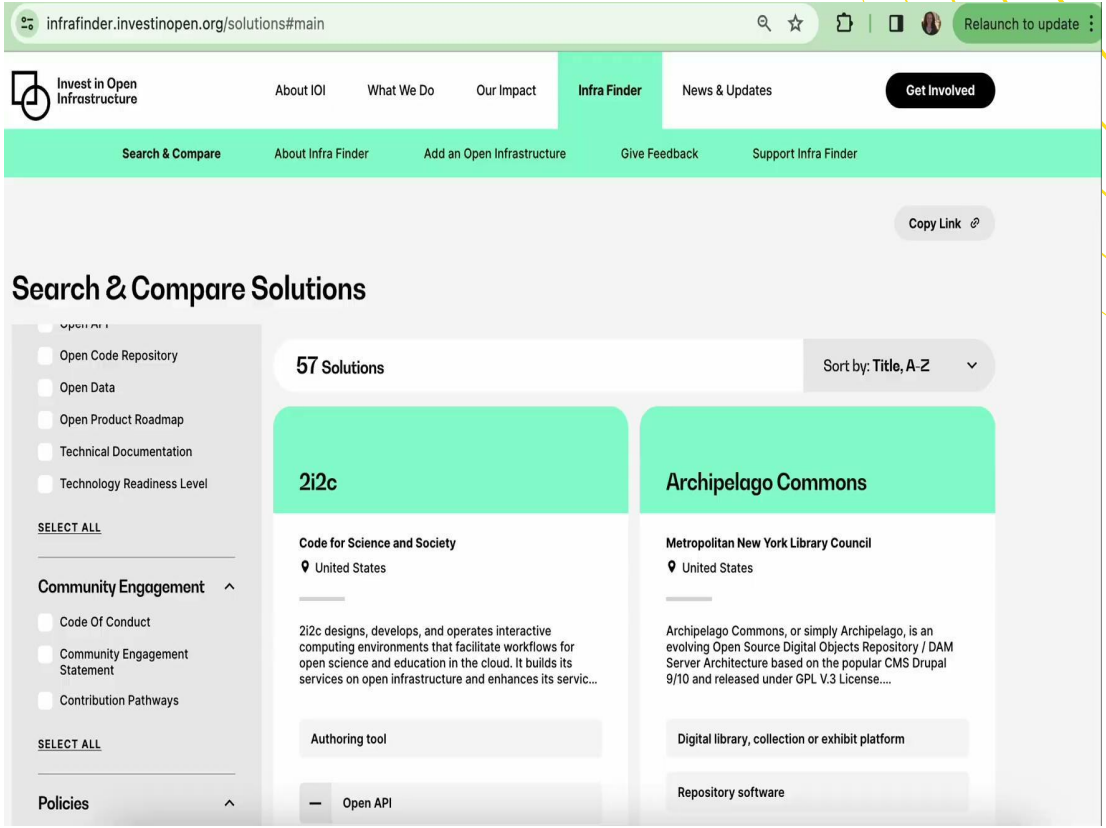

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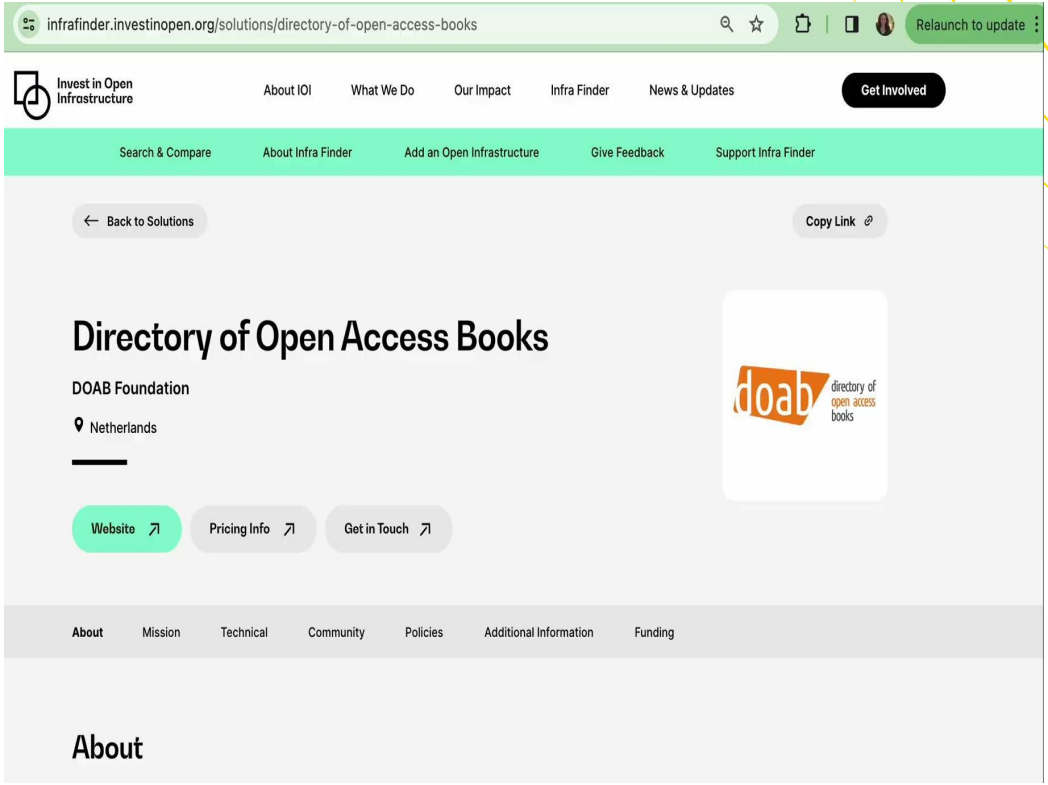

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Invest in Open Infrastructure

Infra Finder is created with the community

10+

User research sessions

Refining Infra Finder's utility, value, and user experience

30+

Conversations with providers

Improving Infra Finder's data collection and validation processes and instruments

10

(Upcoming) talks and demos

Online and in-person; collecting feedback to improve future releases

Invest in Open Infrastructure

This is a beginning – not a final nor the end

Let’s continue the conversation.

Let us know your experience – what can you not find? What would you like to see?

Want to add your infrastructure? Express your interest today.

Spread the word! Tell those who are looking for infrastructure services to use Infra Finder.

infrafinder.investinopen.org ↗