

D7.2

Exploitation and Sustainability Plan

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Abstract	<p>The CRAFT-OA project Exploitation and Sustainability Plan outlines strategic approaches to maximise impact and ensure the long-term benefits of key project outcomes in Open Access (OA) publishing. CRAFT-OA is dedicated to enhancing the accessibility and quality of OA journals through innovative technological solutions and collaborative frameworks. The plan focuses on the exploitation of Key Exploitable Results (KERs), including pivotal outputs such as the Diamond Discovery Hub, OJS Core Features, OpenAIRE Publisher Dashboard, Living Handbook, and OJS Diamond Plugins. The plan emphasises detailed strategies for the exploitation and sustainability of these outputs post-project, relying on key partnerships. The plan provides a comprehensive roadmap, focusing on strategic exploitation through robust partnerships and the development of</p>

sustainable, scalable solutions for the OA publishing sector, ensuring the project's contributions continue to benefit the global OA community.

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Disclaimer



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List of Acronyms

AMU	Université d'Aix Marseille
CAP	Common Access Point
D	Deliverable
DCH	Diamond Capacity Hub
DDH	Diamond Discovery Hub
DIAMAS	Developing Institutional Open Access Publishing Models to Advance Scholarly Communication
DOAJ	Directory of Open Access Journals
DOAS	Diamond Open Access Standard
EC	European Commission
EDIB	Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging
EOSC	European Open Science Cloud
ERA	European Research Area
EU	European Union
HE	Horizon Europe
ICM	Interdisciplinary Centre for Mathematical and Computational Modelling
IP	Intellectual Property

IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IPSPs	Institutional Publishing and/or Service Providers
IPTPs	Institutional Publishing Tool & Technology Providers
JATS	Journal Article Tag Suite
KER	Key Exploitable Result
LH	Living Handbook
M	Month
MS	Milestone
MU	Masarykova Univerzita
OA	Open Access
OJS	Open Journal Systems
OpenAIRE	Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe
OPERAS	Open Scholarly Communication in the European Research Area for Social Sciences and Humanities
PALOMERA	Policy Alignment of Open Access Monographs in the European Research Area
PKP	Public Knowledge Project
PMB	Project Management Board
RFOs	Research Funding Organisations

RPOs	Research Performing Organisations
SRCE	University of Zagreb University Computing Centre
TB	Technical Board
TIB	Technische Informationsbibliothek
WP	Work Package
XML	Extensible Markup Language

Approval pending

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Exploitation and Sustainability Plan for the CRAFT-OA project outlines strategic approaches to maximise impact and ensure the long-term benefits of key project outcomes in the field of Diamond Open Access¹ (OA) publishing. CRAFT-OA is dedicated to enhancing the accessibility and quality of Diamond OA journals through innovative technological solutions and collaborative frameworks.

This plan focuses on the exploitation of Key Exploitable Results (KERs) and details how these outputs will be identified, promoted and utilised. The project has identified several pivotal outputs, including:

- **Diamond Discovery Hub (DDH):** A comprehensive registry for Diamond OA journals in Europe, designed to improve its visibility and discoverability.
- **Open Journal Systems (OJS) Core Features:** Targeted improvements to the OJS platform to enhance data management, support for multiple languages and metadata quality, among other features. These enhancements aim to streamline editorial processes and improve the quality of OA publishing.
- **Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe (OpenAIRE) Publisher Dashboard:** A tool providing tailored metrics and insights for Diamond OA publishers, enabling them to assess and measure the quality of the publication production.
- **Living Handbook (LH):** A dynamic resource offering standards, tools and training materials for institutional publishing in the Diamond OA domain, ensuring that stakeholders have access to up-to-date and practical guidance.
- **OJS Diamond Plugins:** Designed to facilitate editorial workflows and improve the discoverability of Diamond OA journals. These five plugins aim to be integrated seamlessly with key databases and aggregators such as OpenAIRE and the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).

The plan emphasises detailed strategies for the exploitation and sustainability of these outputs post-project. Key partnerships play a crucial role in these strategies, ensuring the continuous development and maintenance of project outcomes. Notable partners include: the Public Knowledge Project (PKP), the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and OpenAIRE.

The CRAFT-OA project's Exploitation and Sustainability Plan provides a comprehensive roadmap for maximising the impact of its key results. The plan focuses on strategic exploitation through robust partnerships and the development of sustainable, scalable solutions for the Diamond OA publishing sector. These efforts are aimed at ensuring that the project's contributions continue to benefit the global Diamond OA community and support the ongoing evolution of Diamond OA technologies and practices.

¹ Diamond OA is "characterised by the absence of financial barriers for both readers and authors: they do not levy obligatory APCs or BPCs." See Bargheer, M., Bosman, J., Cupar, D., Frantsvåg, J.-E., Klaus, T., Kramer, B., Laakso, M., Manista, F., Melinščak Zlodi, I., Peruginell, G., Proudman, V., Rooryck, J., Souyiultzoglou, I., Stojanovski, J., Stone, G., Verheusen, A. (2022). *D2.1 IPSP Scoping Report_approved by the EC*. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10406373>, p. 8.

2 EXPLOITATION

Exploitation means the use of results in further research and innovation activities other than those covered by the action concerned, including inter alia, commercial exploitation such as developing, creating, manufacturing and marketing a product or process, creating and providing a service, or in standardisation activities.

2.1 Approach

For clarity, for both consortium members as well as external stakeholders, it is important to distinguish between project results and Key Exploitable Results (KER).

2.1.1 Project results

Project results are generated during the project implementation. This may include: know-how, innovative solutions, algorithms, proof of feasibility, new business models, policy recommendations, guidelines, prototypes, demonstrators, databases and datasets, trained researchers, new infrastructures, networks, etc. They also include research roadmaps, policy recommendations, reports, platforms (collaboration), skills and knowledge, educational materials, codes of conduct, pre-standards, prototypes, software, publications, and data².

2.1.2 Key Exploitable Results

The primary project results from the dissemination and exploitation point of view are the KERs. A specific note from the European Commission (EC) Portal states that before uploading a result in the Horizon Results Platform, to make sure that it is in fact a KER. It defines a KER as: "Any tangible or intangible output of the action, such as data, knowledge and information whatever their form or nature, whether or not they can be protected, which are generated in the action as well as any attached rights, including intellectual property rights".

Therefore, CRAFT-OA is prioritising the identification of the main results (as defined above) due to their high potential to be "exploited" – meaning to make use and derive benefits - downstream the value chain of a product, process or solution, or act as an important input to policy, further research, or education. Selecting the KERs took into consideration aspects such as degree of innovation, exploitability and impact.

2.1.3 KER Champion

For further refining and consolidating the collection of information required to fully analyse, articulate and disseminate, each of the KERs has been assigned a "KER champion". The role of the KER champion is to act as the central contact point for all issues that might arise related to this KER. The champion also helps to coordinate and encourage the exploitation and dissemination of the KER. The champion also acts as the primary spokesperson for the KER

² https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/dissemination-and-exploitation-research-results_en

and accepts or suggests changes and improvements of the KER-related documentation, promotional material and plans, in collaboration with the different Work Package (WP) team members.

2.1.4 Confluence

The CRAFT-OA Project Management Board (PMB), together with WP2, has selected Confluence³ as the solution for its information management system to provide a full knowledge base. Confluence offers a number of functionalities that support not only static collection of information, but also management of several project activities such as deliverables and milestones, action assignment as well as templates that can be used to harmonise content.

For management of both the project and the KERs, a specific section of the project Confluence space has been dedicated to this activity, with a template having already been structured based on the Horizon Results Platform required set of information (i.e. “Result Title, Target Audiences and Needs”; “About us”; “Result Description and Influence”; “Result and Business Maturity and Exploitation Outlook”; and “Investors Corner”).

This approach offers the ability for information to be collaboratively worked on, transparent to all consortium members and allows for the information to be easily imported into the portal at the end of the project.

Figure 1: Screenshot of project results and KERs in Confluence

³ <https://www.atlassian.com/software/confluence>

2.2 Key Exploitable Results

As mentioned above, there will be a number of individual results produced by CRAFT-OA, that will each be tracked and continually analysed for identification of appropriate exploitation strategies, but overall, the project will focus on identifying and articulating KERs. No formal KERs were defined in the project preparation phase, therefore, they had to be identified during its first phase. Thus, this deliverable provides the first opportunity to present the KERs as a whole, their status and future plans. A final report will be delivered in M36 (Deliverable (D) 7.7).

2.2.1 KER1 – Diamond Discovery Hub

The Diamond Discovery Hub (DDH) is a comprehensive registry for Diamond Open Access (OA) journals in the European Research Area (ERA), made to improve their visibility and discoverability.

The DDH has different dimensions: the platform itself and the editorial model, which includes the DDH editorial team on one side and trusted Institutional Publishing and/or Service Providers (IPSPs) on the other side.

During the project, the editorial team will consist of consortium partners, especially those who are already in the role of an IPSP. After the end of the project, the editorial team will consist of representatives of Diamond Capacity Centres. An IPSP will be labelled as “trusted” by the DDH editorial team. The DDH is a source of journal metadata verified by humans according to the Diamond OA criteria for journals formulated by the two European Union (EU) funded projects CRAFT-OA and Developing Institutional Open Access Publishing Models to Advance Scholarly Communication (DIAMAS). These criteria serve as an operational definition for Diamond OA journals, allowing the DDH editorial team to decide on whether a journal is to be included in the registry. In this capacity, the DDH acts as a complementary service to the Diamond Open Access Standard (DOAS) self-assessment tool⁴. While the DOAS self-assessment tool gives IPSPs a comprehensive and nuanced insight into their current compliance with the DOAS⁵, the DDH is dedicated to enhancing the visibility and discoverability of Diamond OA journals by providing the first comprehensive registry indexing them. Moreover, the operational criteria for Diamond OA journals used in the context of the DDH allows for verification of the “Diamond OA status” on a journal level.

This verification is conducted externally, meaning it is carried out by an independent editor from either the DDH editorial team or a trusted IPSP, rather than by the IPSP itself. In contrast, the DOAS self-assessment tool is available for IPSPs to independently evaluate their compliance with DOAS standards. It is therefore a means of internal evaluation for internal verification of platforms.

⁴ <https://diamas.fecyt.es/>

⁵ Consortium of the DIAMAS project (2024). *The Diamond OA Standard (DOAS)*. Version 1.0. Zenodo. <https://zenodo.org/records/11489692>



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The DDH is a dynamic data collection and will focus on different stakeholder groups at different stages. We distinguish three main stakeholder groups:

1. Data Providers
 - DOAJ
 - IPSPs
2. Data Consumers
 - Readers and authors
 - Research Performing Organisations (RPOs)
 - Research Funding Organisations (RFOs)
3. Data Reusers
 - Aggregators

The DDH starts from the perspective of data providers and includes other stakeholder groups in the process. The DDH aims to make journals more visible within a larger collection of institutional journals highlighting the diamond model. This increased visibility would allow IPSPs to better align, improve and harmonise their data for broader dissemination, thereby gaining recognition for their diamond efforts. RPOs, as well as readers and authors, will be able to assess the nature of Diamond OA journals and their publishers relying on the DDH. Here, the primarily data-focused perspective of the DDH corresponds with the DOAS and the DOAS self-assessment tool developed within the DIAMAS project once again. The DOAS self-assessment tool, and by that extension the DOAS, provide IPSPs with the possibility to further check their compliance with Diamond OA in terms of Funding, legal ownership, Open Science, Editorial Management, Editorial Quality, and Research Integrity, Technical Service Efficiency, Visibility, Communication, Marketing, and Impact, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (EDIB), Multilingualism, and Gender Equity.

Furthermore, via the DDH Funders will also be able to assess whether a journal qualifies as a Diamond OA journal. Additionally, aggregators will be able to efficiently reuse the index to retrieve data on Diamond OA journals that comply with their requirements. The DDH is making the values of visibility and discoverability of Diamond OA Journals its priority.

Key Results and Related Actions

The DDH requirements were developed in different meetings and commenting rounds of the DDH Design draft document (Milestone (MS) 09), including a DDH workshop on November 22, 2023. Since then, the developers have been working on the DDH in an agile approach. Beyond that, the DDH model and features are being discussed and refined in dedicated bi-weekly meetings. Starting in January 2024, selected Technical Board (TB) members have also started to join these meetings to support more frequent decision making.

The CRAFT-OA project will cover the technical implementation of the first iteration of the DDH platform (v1.0) and it will be developed further after the end of the project. The scope of the development tasks for DDH 1.0 and their progress, which has been outlined in a dedicated spreadsheet⁶. CRAFT-OA will also build an editorial team and populate the registry with data. To collect all Diamond OA journals in the ERA, the DDH 1.0 will start with the journals from

⁶ [DDH functionalities & time estimations](#)

Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe (OpenAIRE) and several selected IPSPs, which will allow it to reach a critical mass. The added value of DDH lies in including new diamond journals (not present in DOAJ and OpenAIRE). Towards the end of the project (month / Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe (M) 30), DDH 1.0 will be ready for use.

2.2.2 KER2 – OJS core features

OJS core feature enhancement is a collection of new features developed for the journal publishing platform Open Journal Systems (OJS). The enhanced core features implement new solutions that allow editors to work with user and reviewer data in a GDPR-compliant way and address discovered shortcomings in the platform's support for multilingual content and metadata. Additionally, the capability to interact with diverse controlled vocabularies, taxonomies and persistent identifiers is improved, accompanied by the introduction of automated metadata checks, thus contributing to an elevated standard of metadata quality.

The new features will be incorporated into future releases of OJS and will be available for Open Monograph Press (for publishing books) and Open Preprint Systems (for publishing preprints). The functions developed will become an integral part of the software and will be maintained and further developed by the Public Knowledge Project (PKP) community after the end of the project.

According to the OA Diamond Journals Study that was commissioned by cOAlition S and funded by Science Europe and published in 2021⁷, OJS is the most widely used platform for Diamond OA journals⁸. CRAFT-OA is making a considerable contribution to the development work of OJS, which will benefit all users of the system – publishing service providers, publishers, editors, authors, reviewers and readers alike. The development targets have been chosen in coordination with the main developer, PKP, and the contributed features will become available in future releases of OJS. The KER will therefore have a significant impact on the Diamond OA publishing landscape both in Europe and elsewhere in the world.

Key Results and Related Actions

As of June 2024, the project has achieved several key milestones and actions. Data privacy and multilingualism features have been presented, discussed with WP4 partners and moved through coding, testing and multiple review stages, including a presentation at the WP4 workshop in the Helsinki Consortium Meeting (June 2024). Currently, these features are in the code review phase.

Looking ahead, the focus will shift to metadata quality and extensibility features. In autumn 2024, these features will enter the coding stage, will be discussed with WP4 partners and reviewed at the PKP Sprint and CRAFT-OA Technical event in Turin (October 2024).

⁷ Becerril, A., Bjørnshauge, L., Bosman, J., Frantsovåg, J.E., Kramer, B., Langlais, P.-C., Mounier, P., Proudman, V., Redhead, C., & Torny, D. (2021). *The OA Diamond Journals Study*. <https://scienceeurope.org/our-resources/oa-diamond-journals-study/>

⁸ See Bosman, J., Frantsovåg, J. E., Kramer, B., Langlais, P.-C., & Proudman, V. (2021). *OA Diamond Journals Study. Part 1: Findings*. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/ZENODO.4558704>, p. 8.

Additionally, Data privacy and multilingualism features will be released in OJS 3.5 and announced in a blog post. By spring 2025, metadata quality and extensibility features will be in testing and continue to be discussed at the PKP Sprint in autumn 2025. The code review for these features is scheduled for June 2025, with their release in OJS 3.6 to be communicated in a blog post. Finally, by November 2025, all features will be merged into the OJS core.

2.2.3 KER3 – OpenAIRE Publisher Dashboard

The OpenAIRE MONITOR⁹ is an on-demand service built upon the OpenAIRE Graph¹⁰ providing on-demand dashboards to funders, institutions and research initiatives, populated with well-documented metrics and indicators of research activities. It streamlines the tracking and assessment of an organisation's research impact, fostering transparency and empowering informed decision-making. These dashboards offer customisable indicators and visualisations, enabling researchers, institutions and policymakers to monitor performance, benchmark against peers and track trends over time. By fostering transparency and supporting compliance with Open Science mandates, OpenAIRE MONITOR enhances the visibility and impact of research outputs on a global scale.

By expanding its organisational coverage, OpenAIRE MONITOR, through the CRAFT-OA project, will introduce an additional level of tailored, on-demand dashboards for the Diamond OA landscape. The OpenAIRE Publisher Dashboard is a set of specialised dashboards designed specifically for publishers of Diamond OA journals, primarily institutions and other not-for-profit organisations. These dashboards will feature indicators and metrics to assess the quality and compatibility of publication production. They will be accessible to both publishers and specific Diamond OA journals. By monitoring and benchmarking scholarly production, impact, collaborations, linked data and authors, these dashboards will serve as an innovative tool for the Diamond OA community. Currently, the prototype is being built: MS16 - OpenAIRE Publisher Dashboard: prototype for University of Zagreb University Computing Centre (SRCE) due in M18 and discussions ongoing regarding the metrics and indicators that will be implemented in the dashboard.

Key Results and Related Actions

The next step is to enhance the prototype with functionalities that will allow user test and feedback and disseminate it to the SRCE platform participants for user testing and create a dissemination plan in parallel for further development. The service should be delivered in December 2025. Regarding collaboration with DIAMAS, will assess the relevance of its self-assessment tool on DOAS with the Publisher Dashboard.

2.2.4 KER4 – Living Handbook

The Living Handbook (LH) will provide comprehensive information, standards, tools and training materials for institutional publishing in Diamond OA. It will also be developed in collaboration with the communities of practice and will ensure that the content is relevant,

⁹ <https://monitor.openaire.eu/>

¹⁰ <https://graph.openaire.eu>

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practically applicable and current. It also aims to promote the dissemination of project results, the exchange of knowledge and the sustainable availability of information. With a user-friendly interface and regular updates, particular emphasis is placed on accessibility and sustainability. In addition, the LH provides clear explanations of Diamond OA concepts, technical solutions and supporting training materials.

The LH is primarily for:

- Communities of Practice
- Diamond OA Journals (Authors, Reviewers, Editors)
- Technical staff (e.g. Software Developers)
- IPSPs and Institutional Publishing Tool & Technology Providers (IPTPs).

Key Results and Related Actions:

The concept for the LH will outline the approach to creating a dynamic and interactive resource. By February 2025, the “LH Content Creation and Outreach” (MS22) will be “live and available” alongside a dissemination and communication strategy. The journey will culminate with the CRAFT-OA Final Event (MS29), marking the project’s achievements and future directions for project results. Additionally, the project will deliver outputs related KER4 such as the D7.3 “Toolkit for the IPTP network” by September 2025, providing essential resources for partners. Finally, the “Institutional publishing technical LH” (D7.4) will be completed by November 2025, serving as a comprehensive guide for institutional Diamond OA publishing. Collaboration with DIAMAS will continue regarding alignment with the DIAMAS Common Access Point (CAP)¹¹.

2.2.5 KER5 – OJS Diamond Plugins

OJS Diamond Plugins are being developed to make the editor’s job easier. According to the OA Diamond Journals Study¹², many journal editors manage their journals as a “second job” alongside their primary roles, often as researchers. These Diamond plugins will assist editors in enhancing the discoverability of their journals, while also facilitating automatic connections to key databases and aggregators such as OpenAIRE and European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) EU Node.

This resource is intended for individual journal editors, journal platforms such as Journal.fi¹³, Tidsskrift.dk¹⁴, and Hrcak¹⁵, as well as aggregators like OpenAIRE and EOSC EU Node.

The 5 plug-ins covered as part of KER5 are:

1. Plug-ins for OJS and Lodel Interoperability based on Journal Article Tag Suite (JATS) Extensible Markup Language (XML) [D4.1, AMU, TIB]
2. OJS plugin for the EOSC Interoperability Framework on Research Product Publishing (D6.2) [MU]

¹¹ <https://diamasproject.eu/the-diamas-common-access-point/>

¹² Bosman et al. (2021).

¹³ <https://journal.fi/>

¹⁴ <https://tidsskrift.dk>

¹⁵ <https://hrcak.srce.hr/>



3. OJS plugin for integrating feedback from EOSC catalogue (D6.3) [MU]
4. OJS connector for OpenAIRE Research Graph (D6.1) [MU]
5. [Diamond Journals] Discoverability Companion¹⁶ (includes T5.1, D3.1, 3.2, MS23).

Key Results and Related Actions:

The roadmap outlines the key milestones for various plugins and integrations. For the OJS Connector for OpenAIRE Research Graph, further details can be found in D6.1¹⁷ (submitted in May 2024). The Discoverability Companion will see significant progress with requirement engineering and data models refined by June 2024, followed by a functional OJS plugin available by December 2024. By June 2025, the Discoverability Companion plugin and blueprint will be adjusted and approved by the IPSP community. For OJS and Lodel interoperability, beta releases of the plugins are scheduled for December 2024, with full JATS XML-based interoperability plugins expected by June 2025. The EOSC Interoperability Framework will also see key developments, with an OJS plugin for Research Product Publishing and additional OJS plugins integrating feedback from the EOSC catalogue, both targeted for completion by June 2025.

Approval pending

¹⁶ Re-branded from original naming “Visibility Pathfinder”.

¹⁷ Gomola, R., Dvořáková, M., & Růžička, M. (2024). CRAFT-OA Deliverable 6.1 OJS connector for OpenAIRE Research Graph (under EC review). Zenodo. <https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.12633202>



3 SUSTAINABILITY

All KERs developed by the CRAFT-OA project will be integrated into the Diamond Capacity Hub (DCH)¹⁸ currently in development by the DIAMAS project. The DCH will serve as a European-wide node for Diamond OA publishing. Furthermore, WP7 will ensure the outputs of CRAFT-OA constitute the technical building blocks for the DCH. The eventual integration of CRAFT-OA outputs into the DCH enhances the exploitation of project results and will build further capacities for the Diamond OA community. To ensure seamless integration into the DCH and aligned development between CRAFT-OA and DIAMAS, Open Scholarly Communication in the European Research Area for Social Sciences and Humanities (OPERAS) coordinates the respective exploitation tasks in both projects.

3.1 SWOT Analysis – KER Sustainability

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Diverse Service Portfolio: CRAFT-OA (DDH, Plugins, Publisher Dashboard) & DIAMAS (DOAS, self-assessment tool, CAP) offer a range of complementary services catering to various needs across the Diamond OA publishing ecosystem. ● Robust Partnerships: Collaboration with top OA platforms, communities and other entities ensures strong support and sustainability for ongoing and future services. Most notably, the collaboration with DIAMAS and the update of KERs such as the DDH in the CAP and DCH enhances the sustainability of CRAFT-OA's project outputs. ● Community-Driven Approach: Community input and engagement fosters continuous support and relevance. ● Scalability: Services are designed to be adaptable and scalable, ensuring long-term viability and responsiveness to community needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Funding Dependency: Reliance on project-based funding creates uncertainty for long-term service sustainability. ● Maintenance Ambiguities: Unclear responsibilities for ongoing service maintenance. ● Variable Community Engagement: Inconsistent user engagement can impact the sustainability and momentum of the services.

¹⁸ Known as "capacity centre" in the Grant Agreement

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Growing Diamond OA Adoption: Increasing demand for Diamond OA (e.g. via national calls for capacity centres) presents opportunities to expand the user base for services. ● New Collaborations: Potential to form new partnerships and collaborations with emerging Diamond OA platforms and academic institutions. ● Policy Support: Encouraging policies that back Diamond OA could provide a stable foundation for the long-term sustainability of services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Funding Instability: Changes or reductions in financial support could jeopardise the continuity of services. ● Technological Changes: Rapid tech advancements and emerging competitors could make existing services obsolete if not updated promptly. ● Regulatory Challenges: Compliance with evolving regulations requires continuous adjustments, which can strain resources.

Table 1: SWOT Analysis – KER Sustainability

3.2 KER Sustainability Status

The CRAFT-OA project encompasses a diverse portfolio of results aimed at enhancing the Diamond OA publishing landscape. Each of the KERs are at various stages of maturity and are built on both proprietary and partner ecosystems. To ensure their sustainability, the project is actively working on establishing robust models and support structures including strong collaborations with other initiatives such as DIAMAS, Policy Alignment of Open Access Monographs in the European Research Area (PALOMERA) and the wider community coalescing under the DCH.

Diamond Discovery Hub (DDH)

The DDH is currently in the development stage, with plans to become a key registry for institutionally published and scholar-led Diamond OA Journals in Europe. The DDH aims to receive ongoing technical support from ICM¹⁹, ensuring the necessary infrastructure for its growth and maintenance. For the editorial aspect, trusted IPSPs are envisioned to act as ambassadors, representing a broad spectrum of national, regional or disciplinary collections of journals. These IPSPs will play a critical role within the future DDH editorial team, advocating for their communities and contributing to the hub's strategic direction. A significant aspect of the DDH's sustainability plan involves creating synergies with established platforms such as the DOAJ. Collaborating with DOAJ and its editorial team will enhance the DDH's integration within the Diamond OA ecosystem, thereby ensuring its long-term viability and relevance. By fostering these partnerships and focusing on robust technical and editorial support, the DDH aims to become a sustainable and integral part of the Diamond OA publishing infrastructure.

¹⁹ Interdisciplinary Centre for Mathematical and Computational Modelling (ICM), a unit of the University of Warsaw.

OJS Core Features

The development of OJS core features is progressing well, with about half of the planned enhancements ready for the next software release. Efforts are now focused on addressing metadata quality issues, ensuring that the features meet high standards of data management. By the end of the CRAFT-OA project, these enhancements will be finalised and integrated into upcoming OJS releases, extending their applicability to platforms like Open Monograph Press and Open Preprint Systems. The sustainability of these enhancements is secured by the commitment of PKP to maintain and further develop them after the project's completion. PKP's ongoing support ensures that the enhancements will be continuously updated and improved, keeping them relevant and effective for users worldwide. This strategy guarantees that the OJS platform, along with the associated publishing systems, will remain robust and capable of evolving to meet the needs of the academic community. The continued involvement of PKP in maintaining these features underscores a solid foundation for the sustainability of the OJS ecosystem, ensuring that the platform remains a critical resource in Diamond OA publishing.

OpenAIRE Publisher Dashboard

The OpenAIRE Publisher Dashboard is currently in the prototype stage, with plans to deliver it to the SRCE platform participants for user testing. Following this, a dissemination plan will be developed to guide further enhancements. The service is planned for delivery in December 2025 and will be available through OpenAIRE MONITOR. OpenAIRE is committed to maintaining the service and will establish a business model, including a cost analysis, to ensure its sustainability and ongoing development.

The Living Handbook

The LH is currently in the developmental stage, focusing on providing comprehensive standards, tools and training materials for institutional publishing in Diamond OA. It is designed to be a dynamic and evolving resource, tailored with input from various communities of practice to ensure its content remains relevant and practically applicable. The first draft of the concept has been completed and is undergoing finalisation based on the evaluation of feedback from a recent Summer School (i.e. surveys, polls, community workshops). The future sustainability of the LH hinges on establishing clear plans for its maintenance and regular updates post-project. While the development team is focusing on creating a robust structure for ongoing content updates and user engagement, it remains unclear who will take responsibility for maintaining the handbook after the project's conclusion. The aspects of the LH are also part of the ongoing discussions with DIAMAS via the regular meetings. Identifying long-term support mechanisms, potentially through partnerships or integration with existing educational and publishing networks, is essential to ensure that the LH continues to be a valuable and up-to-date resource for the Diamond OA community.

OJS Diamond Plugins

The OJS Diamond Plugins are a set of five distinct plugins designed to enhance the functionality and interoperability of the OJS platform. These plugins are at various stages of development, each aimed at improving different aspects of the publishing process for Diamond OA journals. They are crucial for ensuring the visibility, accessibility and integration of OA content within the broader research infrastructure. The sustainability of these plugins is deeply intertwined with their integration into the OJS platform and their availability through GitHub and the OJS Plugin Gallery. Questions remain regarding the long-term maintenance and management of these plugins, including which organisations will be responsible for updating them to new versions of OJS and managing their intellectual property rights. This includes defining the roles of contributing organisations, such as Masarykova Univerzita (MU), Université d'Aix Marseille (AMU) and Technische Informationsbibliothek (TIB), and determining the mechanisms for tracking and reporting plugin usage. Clarifying these aspects will help ensure that the OJS Diamond plugins remain a vital and sustainable component of the Diamond OA publishing infrastructure, supporting the ongoing evolution and enhancement of the OJS platform.

The Role of Partnerships in the CRAFT-OA Project Sustainability

Partnerships are fundamental to the sustainability and success of the CRAFT-OA project as they facilitate the development, maintenance and expansion of its key services. For the DDH, collaboration with trusted IPSPs and the DOAJ ensures that the service is well-integrated within the OA ecosystem and supported by a robust editorial network. The OJS core features rely on the OJS platform and on the continuous support of PKP, which guarantees their adaptability by incorporating them into future software releases. The OJS Diamond Plugins' sustainability is secured through the OJS Plugin Gallery and supported by its availability for further development at GitHub. The OpenAIRE Publisher Dashboard's sustainability is underpinned by OpenAIRE's commitment to maintaining the service and developing a business model for its long-term use. These strategic alliances not only enhance the project's immediate impact, but also ensure that its contributions to OA publishing are sustainable and scalable in the long term.

Challenges and Steps to Ensure Sustainability

The CRAFT-OA project faces several key challenges that need to be addressed to ensure the sustainability of its KERs. The DDH is still in its early development stage, and formal commitments from all partners, including technical support from ICM and the involvement of IPSPs as community ambassadors, must be secured. It is also essential to establish synergies with the DOAJ for the DDH's successful integration. For the LH, there is significant uncertainty regarding who will maintain and update it after the project ends, necessitating the identification of a responsible entity or organisation to ensure its long-term relevance. The OJS Diamond Plugins, despite being accessible via the OJS Plugin Gallery and GitHub, face unresolved issues regarding their maintenance, including which organisation(s) will handle updates and manage Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). Clarification from stakeholders such as MU, AMU and TIB is needed to address these issues and establish a sustainable management framework. Addressing these challenges is crucial for ensuring the ongoing viability and impact of the project's services in the Diamond OA landscape.



3.3 Intellectual Property (IP) Management

Intellectual property management is the management of an organisation's intellectual property (IP), including patents, trademarks, copyrights and trade secrets. The goal of IP management is to maximise the value of an organisation's IP while minimising the associated risks, costs and administrative burdens. IP management activities include protecting IP, licensing and monetising IP and leveraging IP to create new products and services.

The CRAFT-OA Consortium Agreement²⁰ remains the reference document for handling of IPRs, whether as background or as foreground. However, any result of research, work, publication or invention that derives from the activities carried out within the scope of the project and is susceptible to economic exploitation or may give rise to a request for ownership of intellectual property rights, the project management shall be notified including the beneficiary representative. IPR will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as necessary.

In addition, IPR will be explicitly analysed as part of the KER business and sustainability model.

Approval pending

²⁰ CRAFT-OA Consortium (2023). *Consortium Agreement* (Version 5.0 - 08.03.2023). Project internal document.



4 CONCLUSION

The CRAFT-OA Exploitation and Sustainability Plan lays the foundation for ensuring that the project's contributions to the Diamond OA publishing ecosystem are impactful, sustainable and scalable. The comprehensive strategy outlined in this document highlights KERs such as the DDH, OJS Core Features, OpenAIRE Publisher Dashboard, the LH and OJS Diamond Plugins. Each of these components is integral to enhancing the visibility, quality and accessibility of Diamond OA journals, thereby supporting the broader academic community.

The roadmap for each KER includes detailed timelines and action plans that ensure a clear path from development to integration and beyond. The sustainability of these outputs is further supported by the commitment to continuous improvement and adaptation in response to the evolving needs of the OA community. All KERs within the CRAFT-OA project are at varying stages of maturity, reflecting a dynamic and evolving commitment to enhancing the Diamond OA publishing landscape.

By fostering a collaborative environment and leveraging established networks, the CRAFT-OA project aims to ensure that its innovations remain relevant and beneficial long after the project's official end. The plan emphasises the need for ongoing support from key stakeholders, including technical partners and community representatives, to maintain and evolve the project outputs. The strategic exploitation of results is underpinned by robust partnerships with leading organisations in the broader OA field, including PKP, the DOAJ, OpenAIRE. These partnerships are essential for maintaining the momentum of the project and ensuring the continuous development and integration of its outputs into the wider OA infrastructure.

The CRAFT-OA project will continue to support and enhance the global Diamond OA publishing landscape, fostering greater accessibility, quality and collaboration across the academic community.

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5.2 List of Websites

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Approval pending



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