



Invest in Open
Infrastructure

Exploring open infrastructure needs in Latin America, Africa, and Asia

**Inclusiveness through
Openness**

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Emmy Tsang,
Engagement Lead

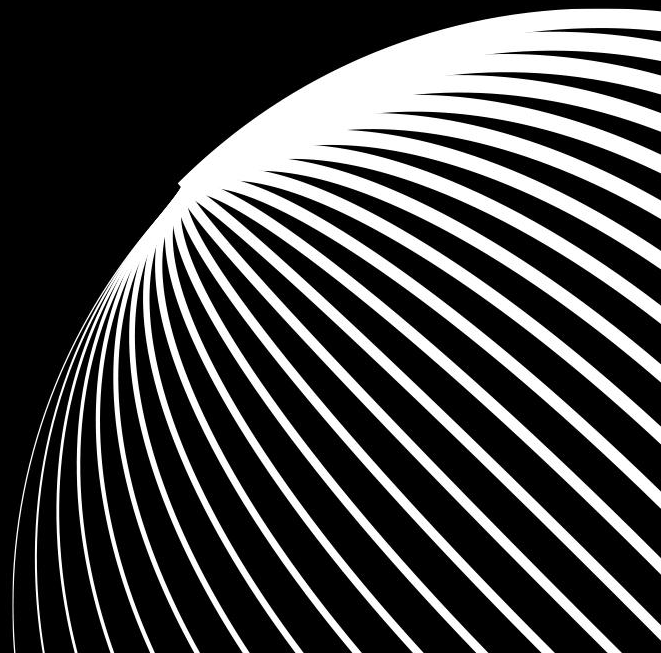
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We work to increase the investment in and adoption of open infrastructure to further equitable access and participation to research.



For open knowledge to flourish, our systems need to be similarly designed. Our work seeks to advance a vision where open infrastructure is the default in research and scholarship.



Our approach



We employ a research-driven approach

to guide strategies and action designed to increase adoption of and investment in open infrastructure.



We provide resources and analysis

to help funders and budget holders assess, evaluate, and make investment decisions about open infrastructure.



We pilot solutions and coordinate stakeholders

to increase the sustainability of the sector, to further a shared agenda for making open infrastructure the default in research

What this looks like in practice

Three **core programs** working together to advance IOI's mission to **increase investment in and adoption of open infrastructure.**



IOI 2024 Fund: catalyzing investment

Increase the amount of funding and diversity of those investing in open infrastructure to ensure we're building towards a healthy, resilient, sustainable future for research and scholarship

Data Room: tools for decision makers

Research-based tools and products that institutions and funders utilize and can rely upon to guide their investments in and adoption of open infrastructure

Strategic Support: tailored application of research

Tailored engagement with infrastructures, funders, and institutions to implement IOI research recommendations and further adoption of open infrastructure



Through the regional exploratory research, we aim to deepen our understanding of the initiatives, people, and issues involved in scholarly infrastructure in Latin America, Africa, and India (Asia).

Work by the IOI research team: Anne Britton, Tania Hernández Ortiz, Naomi Penfold





Research questions

What we're seeking
to understand



What are the characteristics of open infrastructures serving India, Africa, and Latin America?

What are the strengths, opportunities, weaknesses, and threats they face?

What are the funding needs of existing open infrastructures in such regions?



Exploratory research approach

Primary data collection

through 21 semi-structured interviews in English and Spanish

Secondary data collection

through desk research

Additional insights from participating in events in these regions

Participants

- Infrastructure providers
- Experts on open research and knowledge
- People providing leadership and services in academic institutions
- Funders

Limitations

- Exploratory research - findings limited to the cases we studied
- Researchers perspectives and biases



Characteristics of infrastructures serving Latin America, Africa and Asia

What interviewees
spoke with us about

Internet connectivity

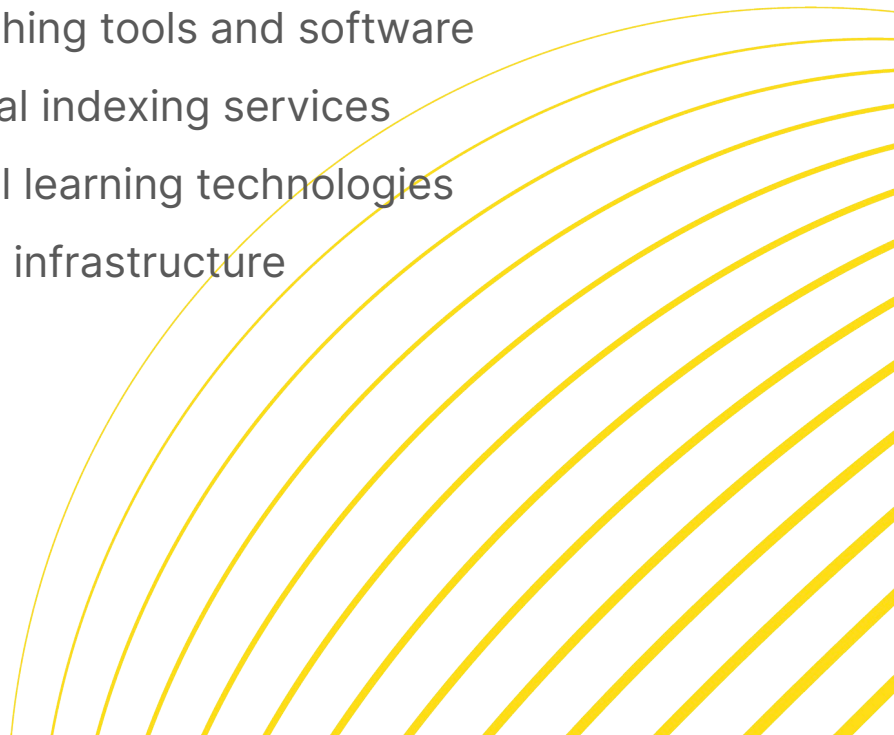
Repositories (and networks
of repositories)

Publishing tools and software

Journal indexing services

Virtual learning technologies

Social infrastructure





Strengths & Enablers

Strong awareness of the values of openness and equity

Strong culture of collaboration and partnerships (*LatAm, Africa*)

Significant pockets of awareness and passionate individuals driving the equitable open access conversations (*LatAm, India*)

Coordination and resources from federal governments (*LatAm*)

Significant international investments (*LatAm, Africa*)



Threats & weaknesses

Disconnect between government,
and practitioners and
communities (*Africa, India*)

Weak political stability (*LatAm,
Africa*)

Lack of supportive policies
(*LatAm, India*)

Lack of/unsustainable funding to
hire and retain paid, skilled staff

Challenges in value alignment



Opportunities

Strengthen operational capacity
of open infrastructures

Resourcing for technical and
system upgrade and maintenance

Increase interoperability and
foster collaboration between
open infrastructures (*LatAm*)

Focus support on those who are
“at the periphery” (*Africa, India*)

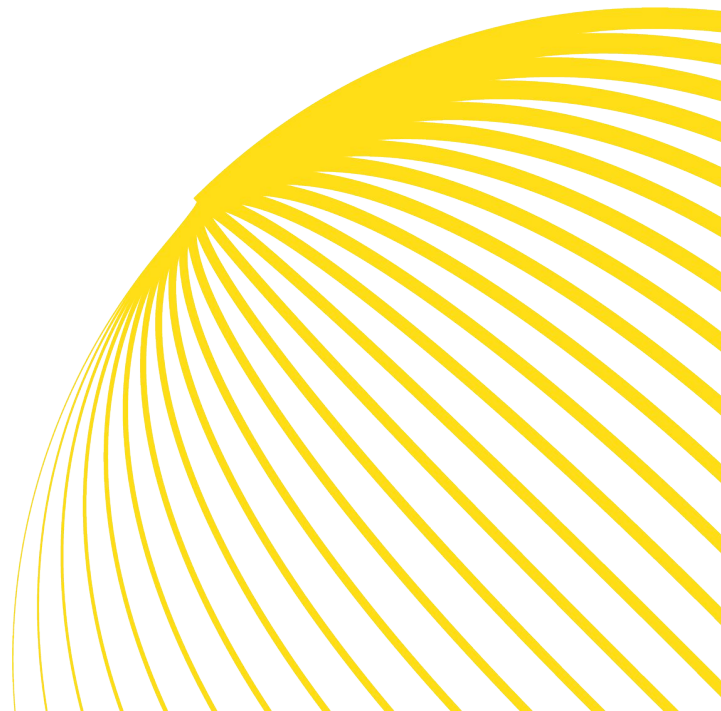
Support knowledge production in
native languages (*Africa*)

Raise awareness on open science
practices (*India*)



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Key takeaways & reflections



Open Infrastructure Fund

Funding areas:

Capacity building,
Strengthening
community
governance,
Critical shared
infrastructure

Where you are

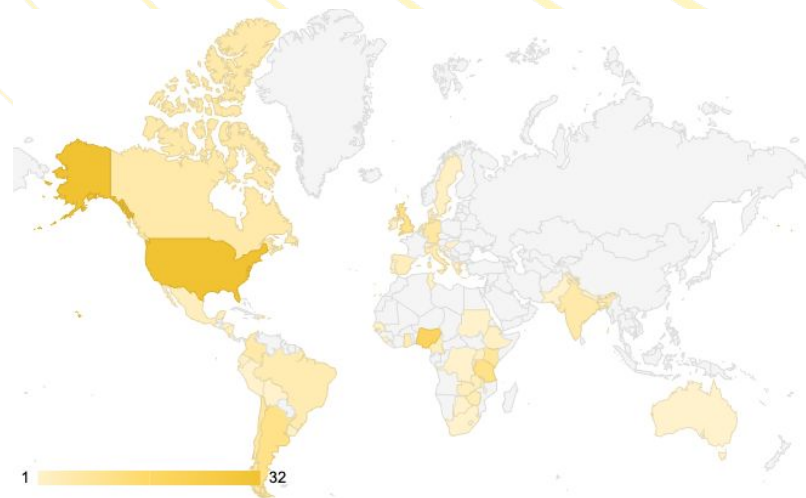
based: anywhere
in the world; 60%
funds reserved for
individuals,
organizations, and
projects in Low
and Middle
Income Economies
(LMIEs).

Level of funding:

5,000-25,000 USD

Application data:

197 proposals
from 51 countries,
including 31 LMIEs





“Our ambitious goals can only be achieved through close collaboration with networks around the world. We recognise the power of networks, the connections and experience that they have built up over the years and the deep work and understanding that they’ve developed about the needs of the communities they serve.”

IOI's approach to
working with networks





Catalog of Open Infrastructure Services

investinopen.org/catalog



Catalog of Open Infrastructure Services (COIs)

#Research #Projects

The **Catalog of Open Infrastructure Services (COIs)** is a step towards addressing the information asymmetries that exist in understanding and assessing open infrastructure projects. This effort is designed to model a means of standardizing information about core open infrastructure services for decision makers and members of the community.

Overview Organization Finances Delivery

Overview

Service summary

DSpace is an out-of-the-box open source software package for creating repositories focused on delivering digital content to end users and providing a full set of tools for managing and preserving content within the application.

Transformative influence

Eight properties drawn from IOF's concept of transformative influence:

■ Yes ■ Partial ■ No

🔗	Open code repository	🔗
🏠	Open data statement	🔗
📄	Technical user documentation	🔗
👥	Governance structure and processes	🔗
🏛️	Governance activities	🔗
🌐	Web accessibility statement	🔗
💰	Transparent pricing & cost expectations	🔗
👤	Commitment to equity and inclusion	🔗

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Emmy Tsang at
emmy@investinopen.org

