

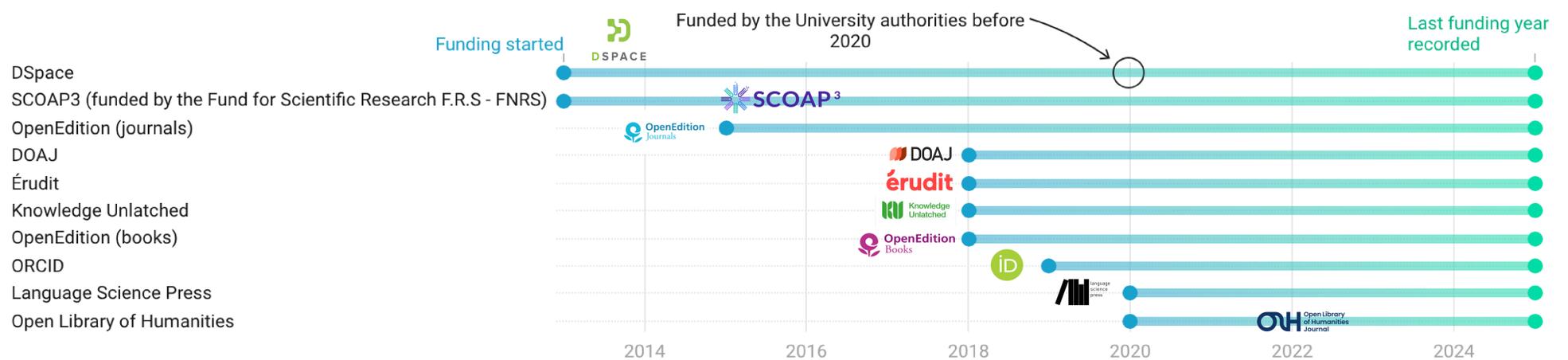
The Cost of Funding: Drafting a policy to promote financial support for Open Science – The Case of the University of Liège Library

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Context

- The University Library has increased financial support for Open Science initiatives and infrastructures over time, especially since 2018.
- Case-to-case evaluation of possibilities, but no set criteria or methodology for how (long) and what to fund.

Open Science initiatives and infrastructures financially supported by the University of Liège Library



Objectives

- Improve transparency and accountability for funding decisions for Open Science initiatives and infrastructures
- Develop a new methodology to streamline analyses for new funding opportunities, especially as:
 - Awareness of the importance for open metadata increases (e.g. Barcelona Declaration, OpenAlex)
 - Open Science momentum is building up at the University (first official Open Science roadmap for 2023-2028)

Methods and challenges

- Evaluation grid elaborated on the basis of two existing tools, namely:
 - Infracfinder (<https://infracfinder.investinopen.org/>)
 - The "How Equitable is it?" framework (<https://coalitions.typeform.com/Equity-Tool>)
- Adaptation of both tools and of their evaluation grid for local needs
 - Financial support for publishing initiatives and infrastructures, both of which require different set of evaluation criteria
- Lack of institutionally- or locally-oriented criteria observed in both analytical tools
 - Set of institutional/local criteria added in evaluation grid (working as **exclusive filters**)
- Subscribe to Open (S2O) initiatives posed a challenge with this evaluation grid
 - Variety of S2O agreements and diversity of legal and practical implications, depending on hosting structures
 - Various blind spots regarding long-term equity and sustainability issues in S2O agreements
 - Decision to currently exclude such agreement from this type of funding



Evaluation and eligibility criteria to consider to financially support Open Science initiatives or infrastructures

Each criterion/feature can be evaluated with the following scale (implemented/strongly aligned; in process/somewhat aligned; not implemented/poorly aligned).

Category

Institutional criteria (ULiège)	Institutional participation (from researchers, teams, services)	Strategic alignment with institutional open-science policy	Complementarity within other institutional portfolios and/or scientific/societal added value
Technical attributes	Open Source	Open data and/or licences (Barcelona declaration is a plus)	Interoperability & accessibility
Governance	Open and transparent governance	Community-led	Non-profit
Sustainability	Financial transparency	Sustainable funding model	Technical sustainability
Impact	International usage	Contribution to open source ecosystem(s)	Multilingual

Conclusions and perspectives

- Evaluation grid currently being tested for infrastructures and initiatives currently funded by the University Library
- Definition of total budget allocation is still being examined with the following possibilities:
 - Using the 2,5% commitment (of the total library budget) as defined by Lewis (2017)
 - Equating budget allocation with APCs paid by the Institution for OA articles in hybrid journals
 - Paying APC to hybrid journals is currently proscribed as per the Institutional Open Science roadmap (2023-2028)
 - Data available for APC in hybrid journals (OpenAPC data)
 - https://treemaps.openapc.net/apcdata/liege-u/#/period=2024&is_hybrid=TRUE
- Monitoring of funding data and data enrichment with TSOSI (Transparency to Sustain Open Science Infrastructure)

