IMPROVING OPEN ACCESS PRACTICES IN EUROPEAN RESEARCH LIBRARIES – LIBER CASCADING GRANTS

The LIBER Cascading Grants, supported by Knowledge Rights 21, aims to gather and share best practices of the actions laid out in the LIBER Action Plan, which translates the findings of a European Commission report into practical guidance for research libraries on access and use research outputs, research materials and research data. It will fund seven LIBER member libraries implementing the actions, encouraging knowledge exchange of copyright and open science practices across research libraries. The Cascading Grants call is open from 19 January – 20 February (23:59 CET).

Overview

Many research libraries and their communities face barriers to implementing Open Science practices due to legal barriers, cultural conditions, licensing terms, technical expertise, and so on. This project responds to LIBER's mission by enabling libraries to providing examples of Good Practices and lessons learned from various countries. Following the release of the European Commission study "Improving Access to and Reuse of Research Results, Publications and Data for Scientific Purposes" in May 2024, LIBER undertook a project to translate this comprehensive report into an action plan for research libraries to help tackle some of the challenges libraries and researchers face when accessing and using research outputs, research materials and research data. Conducted as part of the Knowledge Rights 21 project, funded by Arcadia, the project brought together the report's authors and experts from LIBER's Copyright and Legal Matters Working Group to distil the 1200 pages into the succinct 35-point action plan titled "Improving access and reuse of research results by addressing copyright and data legislative & regulatory issues" that is addressed to research libraries, research institutions and national bodies, and EU level legislators. The LIBER Action Plan focuses on three areas: Access to Content, Usage of Content, and Data.

- The Access to Content area proposes nine actions aimed at accelerating OA, including Rights Retention and Secondary Publishing Rights.

- The Usage of Content area proposes five actions to enable research activities by helping to overcome legal issues, three actions to enable researchers to use TDM and AI-tools and three actions to challenge restrictive commercial practices by publishers.

- The Data area proposes 11 actions, grouped around investing in legal expertise and education, further developing Research Data Management services, and implementing and managing data repositories, as well as two actions focus on providing library collections as FAIR datasets.

The Action Plan highlighted these tangible activities librarians, research libraries & institutions and national policy makers could do to support and enhance research

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activity. The purpose of the Action Plan was to turn the recommendations from the EC report into practical steps libraries could enact but also to mobilise LIBER's network of research libraries across Europe to implement the recommendations.

Scope

The LIBER Cascading Grants project seeks case studies and reports of institutions and researchers implementing the 35 action points and the changes they are leading to at the institutional and national levels. For 2,500 Euros, the following deliverables are expected from each of the seven successful applications:

- An implementation report (of maximum 4,000 words) that will be later publicly shared via Zenodo with a CC license.

- A blog post showcasing the library's story on the LIBER website.

- A collective publication of all seven stories to be submitted in LIBER Quarterly.

- A webinar of selected good practices to share with the LIBER community.

The grantees are also encouraged to propose workshops for upcoming LIBER events, such as the LIBER Winter Event or LIBER Annual Conference 2027.

The project aims to achieve tangible objectives and support libraries in developing and testing open science workflows, gather and share best practices through reports from its library-members, strengthen collaboration amongst the LIBER network and provide input to policy discussions on the Copyright and Open Science discourse.

- Interested members are invited to submit their application through this form by **23:59 CET on February 20, 2026**.

- All LIBER members are eligible to apply for funding.

- Groups of libraries, representing national consortia and showcasing the national implementation of their actions, are also eligible, provided that the lead library is a LIBER member.

- Applications must be followed by a consent note of the Library or the Consortium Director.

Enquiries can be addressed to Project Coordinator Sophy Sepuru.