



SCOSS and Consortia: Sustaining Open Infrastructure Together

Many library consortia already play a crucial role in supporting and funding open infrastructure by partnering with SCOSS. This flyer describes why, and how, they do so.

First, A Word About SCOSS

The Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services (SCOSS) supports community-led, open non-commercial services and infrastructures by endorsing select services each year, after rigorous assessment. These infrastructures set a funding target and SCOSS connects them with funding partners (primarily libraries and their consortia to date) to foster lasting relationships.

Why Should (and Do) Consortia Engage?

Many libraries already support one or more international services but may feel that their investment is ad hoc or scattershot. Others are ready to support Open Access and Open Science services, but are unsure how to proceed.

Consortia enable their members to contribute to Open Infrastructure

Consortia have assisted their members' desire to foster change through community funding of essential open infrastructure services. Partnering with SCOSS gives consortia the opportunity to help their members to support vital open infrastructure with minimal investment and help them to receive a discount when the consortium's collective investment meets a certain threshold.

Consortia are an effective and efficient means for a group of research libraries (whether national or regional in scope) to coordinate and strengthen their collective investment in international infrastructure services.

Consortia support also helps to reduce overhead for infrastructures by eliminating the need to invoice multiple individual pledgers. The various consortia showcased here demonstrate this efficiency and highlight the global growth potential of the SCOSS model.

The SCOSS model operates within your existing framework

How the SCOSS Model Has Worked for Consortia

The SCOSS model works for consortia because it works within your existing framework and allows for variation.

These leading library consortia have significantly promoted and sustained open science infrastructure by regularly contributing to SCOSS Family infrastructures:

- Australia and New Zealand, the Council of Australian University Libraries (CAUL)
- Consortium of Swiss Academic Libraries (CSAL)
- The Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) and Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) partnership
- California Digital Library (CDL)
- Couperin, France

The Standard Consortial Model (as followed by CAUL, CRKN/CARL, CSAL, CDL, and Couperin)

- 1 Each year, SCOSS vets and selects 2-4 essential, non-commercial infrastructure services. Brief information flyers and 'ask' videos are created to introduce the infrastructures.
- 2 The consortium shares these informational materials with their members.
- 3 The consortium members select which infrastructure they would like to support and pledge their support for a three-year period (either in a one-time payment or over three years). Members submit their selection to the consortium following its normal practices.
- 4 The consortium gathers the pledged funding from its members each year and provides the total amount directly to the applicable infrastructures.

Suggested Contribution

You can support the SCOSS-endorsed infrastructures in a variety of ways: through one-time or longer-term contributions, donations, or through memberships and more. The following are suggested contribution levels.

Organisation Size	Suggested Contribution Level
Large organisations from high-income countries	4,000 EUROS annually for three years
Small organisations from high-income countries	2,000 EUROS annually for three years
Organisations from low or middle income countries and others with lower incomes	500 EUROS per year for three years

Consortial Discount

A 25% discount will be deducted from consortia that provide pledges from ten or more pledging institutions.

A Variation on the Standard Model: France's Example

A more fulsome investment approach is exemplified in France, which has two sources of investment in open infrastructure – the national library consortium, Couperin, and the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research. Both entities make independent funding decisions, although Couperin has largely adopted the Ministry's criteria.

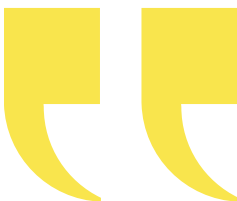
Couperin followed the standard consortium investment process described above for several years, but recently slightly revised it. Now, they annually select infrastructures based on assessment against their criteria and, mostly, include all the SCOSS-endorsed infrastructures.

Couperin members choose which infrastructure to support and at what level (500, 1500, 3000, or >3000 Euros), with the consortium managing the contributions. This model has successfully engaged about 25% of Couperin members and raised substantial funding for a variety of infrastructures. Additionally, Couperin members are asked to sign a 5-year protocol committing to funding open infrastructure, with annual flexibility. This approach has proven highly effective.

Collective Investment Adds Up!

Over the last five years consortia and institutions have contributed over 6 million Euros to 15 infrastructures. Infrastructures have been able support operational needs such as staffing and ongoing technical maintenance, as well as embark on new projects.

The consortia have found supporting SCOSS-endorsed infrastructures an easy and positive experience.



"We value working with SCOSS because the infrastructures have already undergone thorough vetting. The growth strategies and business models have been carefully reviewed by SCOSS, ensuring that our members are supporting sustainable initiatives."


—Canadian Research Knowledge Network ([CRKN](#)) and the Canadian Association of Research Libraries ([CARL](#))

"Each year when there is a new funding cycle, we share information with our members and customers. The process is very simple."

—Stephanie Tettamanti, Consortium of Swiss Academic Libraries ([CSAL](#))

"SCOSS contributions are different from buying something. They are investments in shared resources that benefit the University of California as well as the broader scholarly communications ecosystem."

—Miranda Bennett, California Digital Library ([CDL](#))



"We recommend SCOSS-endorsed infrastructures to Couperin's members because we are confident in SCOSS's rigorous and trusted selection criteria."

—André Dazy, [Couperin](#)



Why SCOSS?

What are the benefits of the SCOSS model?

The SCOSS model was created by the community, for the community, to ensure that non-commercial infrastructures serving our needs and aligned with our values continue to thrive.

Here are some of the benefits of the SCOSS model:

- **Provides guidance:** SCOSS helps you navigate the growing complexity of the Open Infrastructure landscape, ensuring you select those worthy of support.
- **Quality assurance:** SCOSS vets and selects essential, non-commercial Open Infrastructures in need of financial support, adding them to the SCOSS Family.
- **Facilitates relationships:** SCOSS facilitates relationships between funding organisations and each infrastructure.
- **Flexibility:** SCOSS supports various ways to contribute, whether you want to support one infrastructure, some infrastructures, or all of them.
- **Direct benefits:** Contributing organisations can receive member benefits from the Open Infrastructures like governance roles; free hosting; preservation services; member dashboards; expert access; and customised usage reports.
- **Efficiency:** SCOSS reduces overhead through its endorsement process and, where possible, by collaborating with consortia to maximise the impact of your contributions.
- **Global governance:** The SCOSS Board and Advisory Group include representatives from key national and regional organisations from Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and North America.

What is SCOSS?

The Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services (SCOSS) provides a framework that enables support to community-led, open non-commercial services and infrastructure. Each year, SCOSS rigorously assesses applications from non-commercial, Open Science (OS) infrastructures and endorses a select few. These infrastructures set a funding target and SCOSS connects them with funding partners (primarily libraries and their consortia to date) to build a relationship, which we hope will continue well into the future. SCOSS also helps solidify the OS infrastructure ecosystem by connecting and supporting its infrastructures through common SCOSS Family activities.

Mission

We create connections to sustain vital Open Science Infrastructure.

Vision

A world where research is supported by a sustainable and thriving ecosystem of Open Science Infrastructures

Values

- Community-led
- Expert-driven
- Global in reach
- Collaborative
- Equitable and inclusive
- Practical and outcome-driven



Contact us to learn more. info@scoss.org