Infra Finder: Increasing visibility of open technologies for open science

FOSDEM
Open Research Track
3 Feb 2024

Emmy Tsang
Engagement Lead

Chrys Wu
Product Lead

investinopen.org | @investinopen
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.
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

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

Strategic Support:
- Tailored engagement with providers, funders, and institutions to implement IOI research recommendations and further adoption of open infrastructure

Data Room:
- Actionable and accessible research and strategy offerings that institutions and funders can use and rely upon to guide their investment
Open infrastructure can advance open values, is customizable, and can be adapted as needs grow.

How can we increase the adoption of open infrastructure?
Target audience:
Institutional decision makers
The problem

The considerations

Finding the “right” infrastructure is a hard and slow process

We discovered information related to pragmatism matters most overall.

This includes anything related to:

- **Costs**
  - How much will this cost me in labor, time, and money to install, maintain, and upgrade the infrastructure?
- **De-risking the purchase**
- **Dependencies and interoperability**
  - What else does this thing need to run?
  - Will this work with other systems installed at my org?
- **Can this infrastructure further the aim of “openness,” which includes equitable access?**
The problem

Finding the “right” infrastructure is a hard and slow process

- **Scattered information** across various parts of infrastructure websites and fora
- **Different requirements and needs** for different institutions and stakeholders
- **Time consuming** to pull together comparisons to identify best options
Introducing Infra Finder

Helping you navigate the complex landscape of infrastructure services and standards enabling open research and scholarship

Up-to-date, verified information
IOI works closely with infrastructure service providers to keep Infra Finder up to date

Key information in a centralized location
Infra Finder showcases extensive information on the common areas of consideration for institutions and stakeholders

An easy-to-use comparison view
You can compare up to three infrastructure services side-by-side, with links to more detailed information.

Document updated by Anuvab Sikder (left), Data by LAFS (middle), Compare by Shiva (right) from Noun Project (CC BY 3.0)
Designs & prototype
What's in it for you?

- **Showcase** your key achievements, highlight your funding needs
- **Reach** more potential adopters and funders
- **Learn from and connect with** other infrastructure services
Add your service to Infra Finder

Complete our Expression of Interest form
https://investinopen.org/add-an-infrastructure-to-infra-finder/
Next steps

This is a beginning - not a final nor the end.

First release in a few months time - we’d love to start and continue the conversation here!

Image from Crumlish, Christian, 2021. Product Management for UX People: From Designing to Thriving in a Product World. New York: Rosenfeld Media., shared with a CC BY 2.0 license
Let’s talk: How to ask about “Interoperability”

Users want to know if your technology will work with the other things they have running.

The answer isn't always “just use our API.”

How can we ask about integration and interoperability in a way that answers user questions: “Does your thing plug into my situation — and will everything work once it does?”
Thank you!

Sign up for our newsletter for updates
https://share.investinopen.org/newsletter

Send us an email -
infra-finder@investinopen.org
What do we mean by open infrastructure?

Open infrastructure is a spectrum, rather than a binary.

A service, protocol, standard or software that the academic ecosystem needs in order to perform its functions throughout the research lifecycle.

We prioritize services that meet **one or more** of the following criteria:

- Meets the definition of [open source software (OSS)](https://opensource.org);
- Primarily or exclusively distributes openly licensed (open access) content;
- Is free to use by anyone (free of charge or other restrictions);
- Is community-governed and is transparent in its operations and finances;
- Is operated by a non-profit or non-commercial entity.

We prioritize services, projects, or tools that are designed to be widely used.