

The many faces of sustaining Open Access publishing

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DIAMAS

Developing Institutional Open Access
Publishing Models to Advance
Scholarly Communication

The many faces of sustaining Open Access publishing

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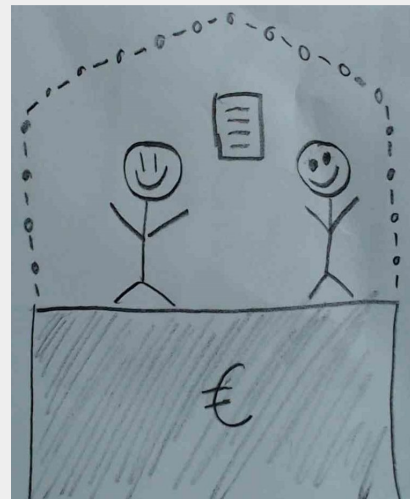
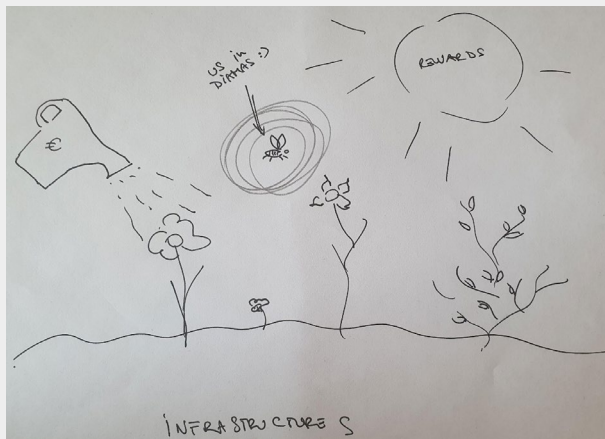
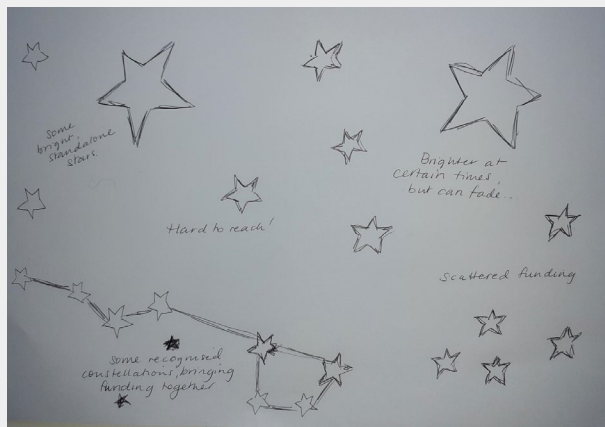
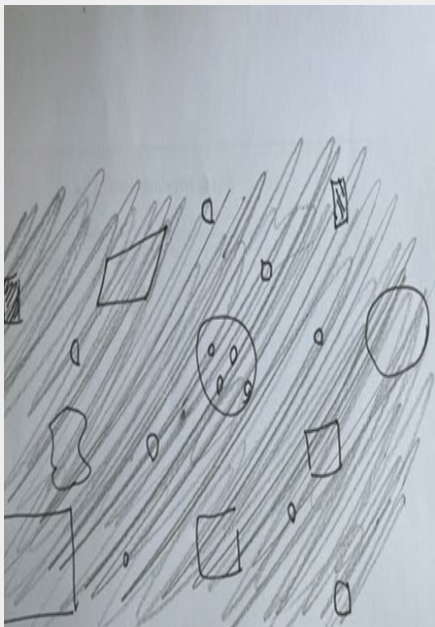
The DIAMAS project has received funding from the
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- Institutional publishing is challenged by fragmentation and varying service quality, visibility, and sustainability
- The project will:
 - 1. Map the current landscape of Institutional Publishing Service Providers (IPSPs) with special attention for IPSPs that do not charge fees for publishing or reading
 - 2. Coordinate and improve the efficiency and quality of IPSPs
- WP5 (*Exploring and supporting the sustainability of institutional publishing*) objectives:
 - Gaining a better understanding of IPSP costs, funding and business models and the strengths and weaknesses for their institutions and prospective FSDs. Seeking to optimise costs by exploring collaboration and convergence among IPSP to sustain operations, innovate, and develop shared resources. Empowering IPSPs to financially sustain operations by providing intelligence, new models and building capacity on financial models...

Do we understand each other when we speak of *sustainability* in publishing?

- preparatory work for the work package in the DIAMAS project dedicated to sustainability
- different backgrounds and experiences of collaborators in the project
- no established and well accepted definition of sustainability in publishing
- prevalence of using the term in different contexts (related to environmental sustainability or sustainable development goals), even when speaking about publishing
- linguistic diversity (different connotations in different languages)



**A complex notion:
both very abstract and very practical**

Linguistic diversity

- English: **sustainability**
- Croatian: **održivost**
- Serbian: **održivost**
- German: **Nachhaltigkeit**
- Finnish: **Kestävä**
- French: **durabilité**
- Norwegian: **bærekraft**

Connotations: long term survival, independence, reasonable development, persistence or living on without resource depletion or harm to the respective ecosystem

Sustainability as related to funding and resources

Issues to consider:

- 'survival' – development – evolvement
- existence implies change, dynamics and transformative practices
- continuation of operation – preservation of content
- (de)growth?
- quality – success
- Initial expectations (from modest cost recovery to having high-profit margins)
- Underlying infrastructures

WHAT is sustainable?

- A journal?
- A publisher?
- A service provider or an infrastructure?
- A wider publishing system (for instance national journal publishing system)?
- A particular business model?

WHO holds responsibility for sustaining?

- Which stakeholder or group of stakeholder?
- Where is the locus of control?
- The role of communities and governance models

Differing ways of achieving sustainability?

- More successful strategies in acquiring resources
- More efficient ways of using the available resources
- Cutting costs
- Sharing resources
- Building common infrastructures
- Resilience or adaptiveness to changed circumstances



DIAMAS landscape survey

Preliminary results



To be published in the '*Institutional Publishing in the ERA: results from the DIAMAS survey*'

Working definition of the sustainability of IPSPs:

The **capacity** to develop and implement feasible medium-term financial strategies that facilitate the **consistent execution** of editorial tasks, incorporating **essential developmental** elements for adhering to globally recognized **quality** standards in editorial work and publishing, all while guaranteeing the **continuous accessibility** of published content. This capacity can depend on the IPSP's **internal resources and expectations**, the **contextually available funding sources**, and the **effectiveness of the strategies** deployed.

Early insights related to sustainability

- Reliance on diverse sources of funding, importance of subsidies (either from the parent institution or from the external organisations)
- No one source is available to all (funding is context dependant!)
- Many are relying on 2 or more funding sources (even very small publishers)
- Many funders are national, regional or local

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Thank you!