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Metrics for Open Access Digital Monographs: the HIRMEOS Project

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Open Access has matured for journals, but its uptake in the book market is still delayed, despite the fact that books continue to be the leading publishing format for social sciences and humanities. The 30-months EU-funded project HIRMEOS (High Integration of Research Monographs in the European Open Science infrastructure) tackles the main obstacles of the full integration of five important digital platforms supporting open access monographs. The content of participating platforms will be enriched with tools that enable identification, authentication and interoperability (via DOI, ORCID, Fundref), and tools that enrich information and entity extraction (INRIA (N)ERD), the ability to annotate monographs (Hypothes.is), and gather usage and alternative metric data.

This presentation will present the specific contribution of the HIRMEOS Work Package 6 for the development and implementation of metrics services on our platforms. Being able to demonstrate the uptake, usage and reusage of OA books is important for authors, publishers and funders. Collecting this type of data for books presents a set of challenges different than for articles. Authors and publishers are interested in obtaining overall usage data for both the book, and individual chapters within a book. Use of DoIs for books remain limited - so many citations do not include a DoI reference. Books and individual chapters have different DoIs. Many platforms hosting digital editions of OA titles assign their own DoIs or permanent url references to the content. Numerous different digital formats for ebooks exist and circulate.

Ubiquity Press and Open Book Publishers are working together to create and populate a database of title specific usage data - aggregating usage data across multiple different platforms and formats. Drivers are being developed to query alternative hosting platforms for usage data, and an api and widget created for publishers to use query the database and present the aggregate data on their own websites. All the code and architecture created for this project will be Open, and be made available for other publishers and platforms to freely download, adopt or adapt as they wish, facilitating broader uptake, collection and presentation of this data for Open Access books.

This presentation will:

- a. Identify the main theoretical difficulties to be addressed in collecting and aggregating this data for Open Access books, and the various solutions adopted.
- b. Explain the data collection and aggregation packages we are developing, and how they may be adopted by other publishers and platforms.
- c. Provide technical specifications of the implemented metrics services being developed, the database architecture and the Metrics API Standards used for the statistics collection agent and the OA metrics Widget. The intended audience for this presentation will be publishers seeking to collect aggregate usage data of this kind, online content platforms creating usage statistics, libraries and research agencies wishing to access and analyse usage data for the content created by their researchers.

Topic Area

Impact evaluation and metrics

Type of abstract

Presentation (15 minutes)

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