

Book publications are here to stay: Can metrics help in evaluating their impact?

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Purpose

To encourage participants in the ENRESSH-network and beyond to further explore and engage with book metrics, including the need for identifiers and metadata that will facilitate them

Why this focus?

Books too are going digital

Book publishing takes a prominent role in SSH (Engels et al, ASLIB, 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1108/AJIM-05-2018-0127>)

Bibliometric studies mostly start from existing collections, e.g. Scopus or Clarivate books, Amazon, PlumX, ...

Research evaluation often considered to be at odds with book publishing: Perhaps because SSH book impact, both scholarly and societal in particular, is hardly traced ?

Monographs in humanities and social sciences

Table 1. Share of monographs in the humanities (%)

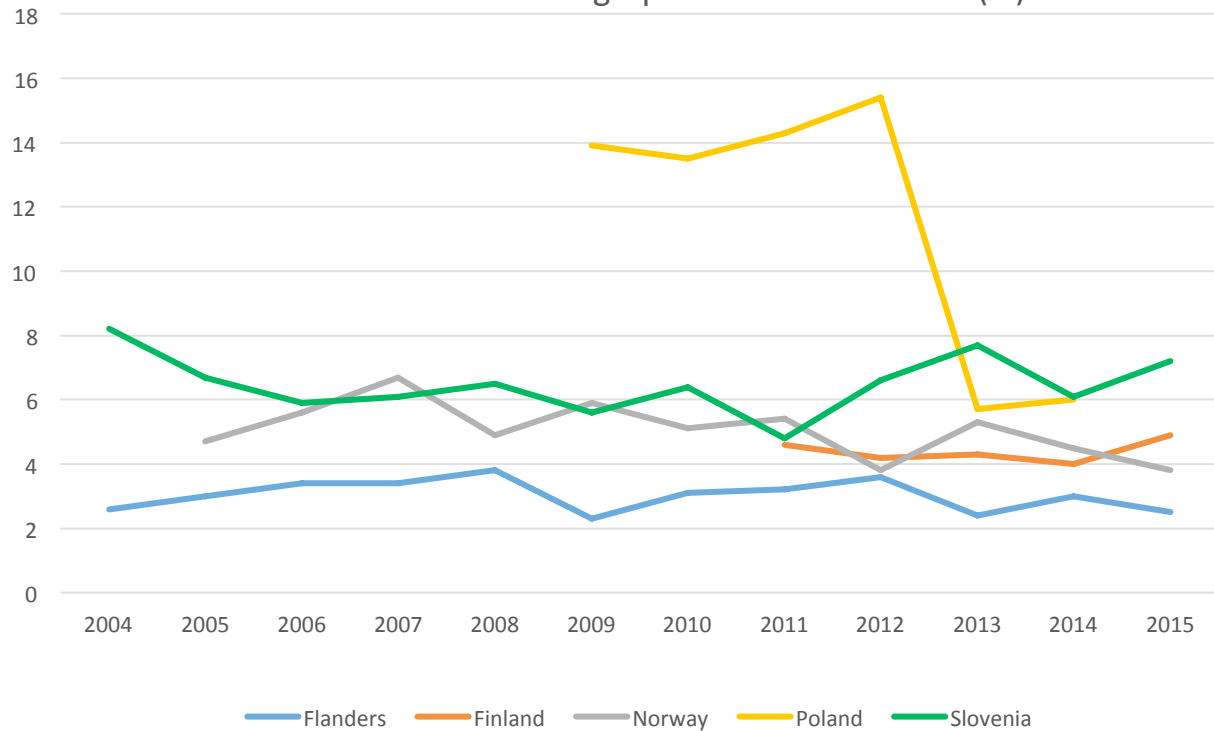
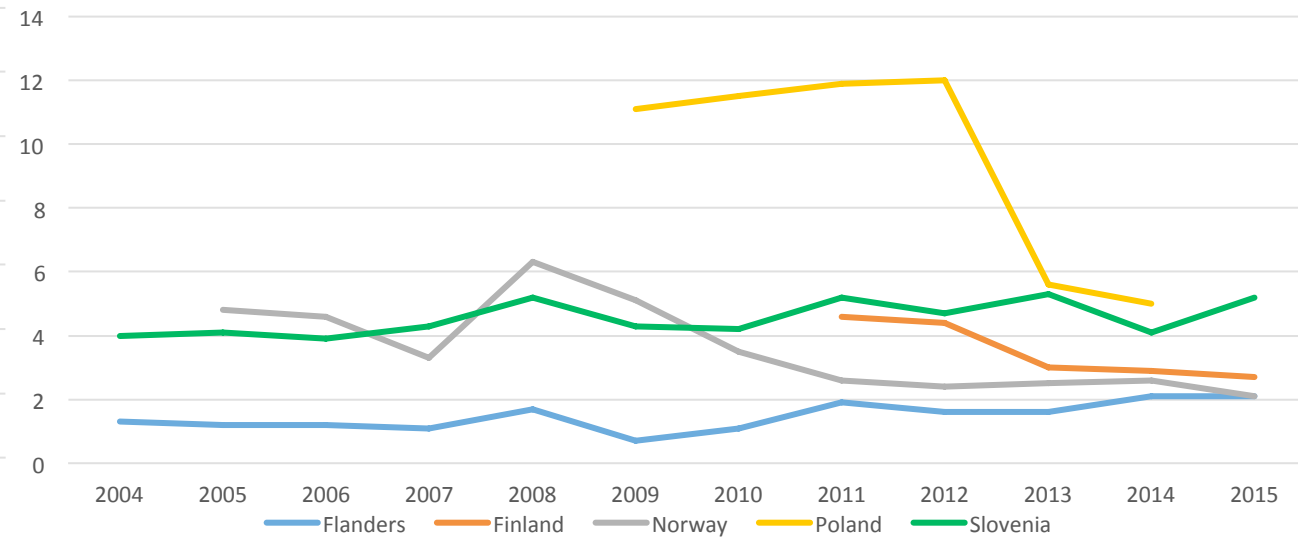


Table 5. Share of monographs in the social sciences (%)



Book chapters in humanities and social sciences

Table 2. Share of book chapters in the humanities (%)

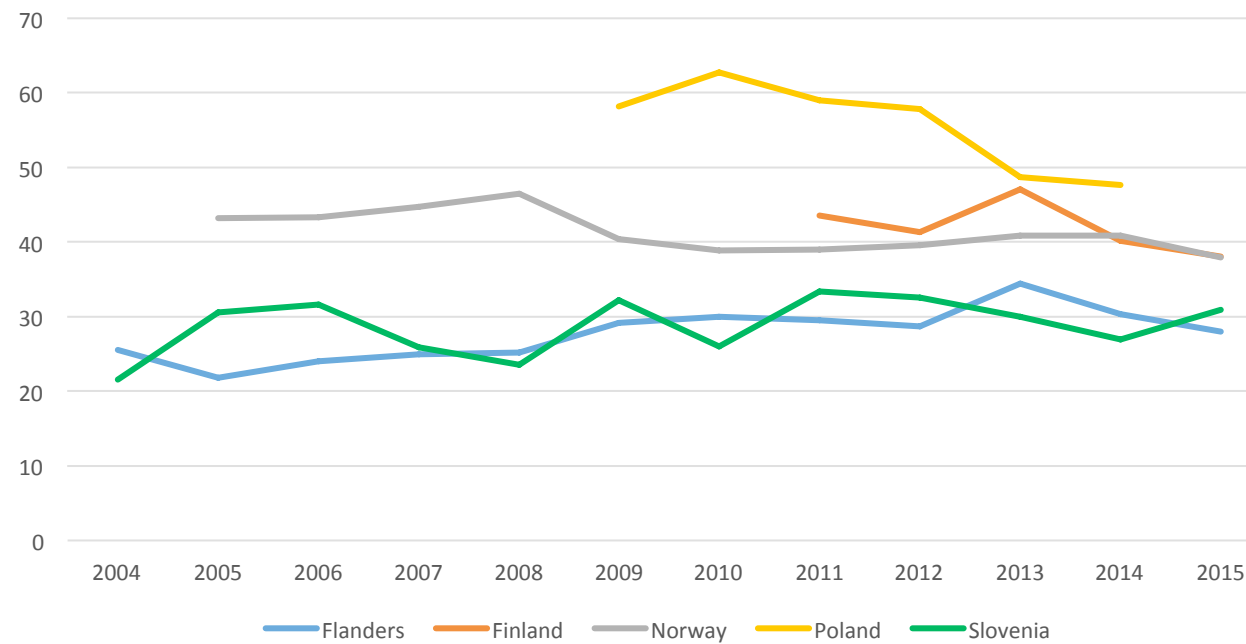
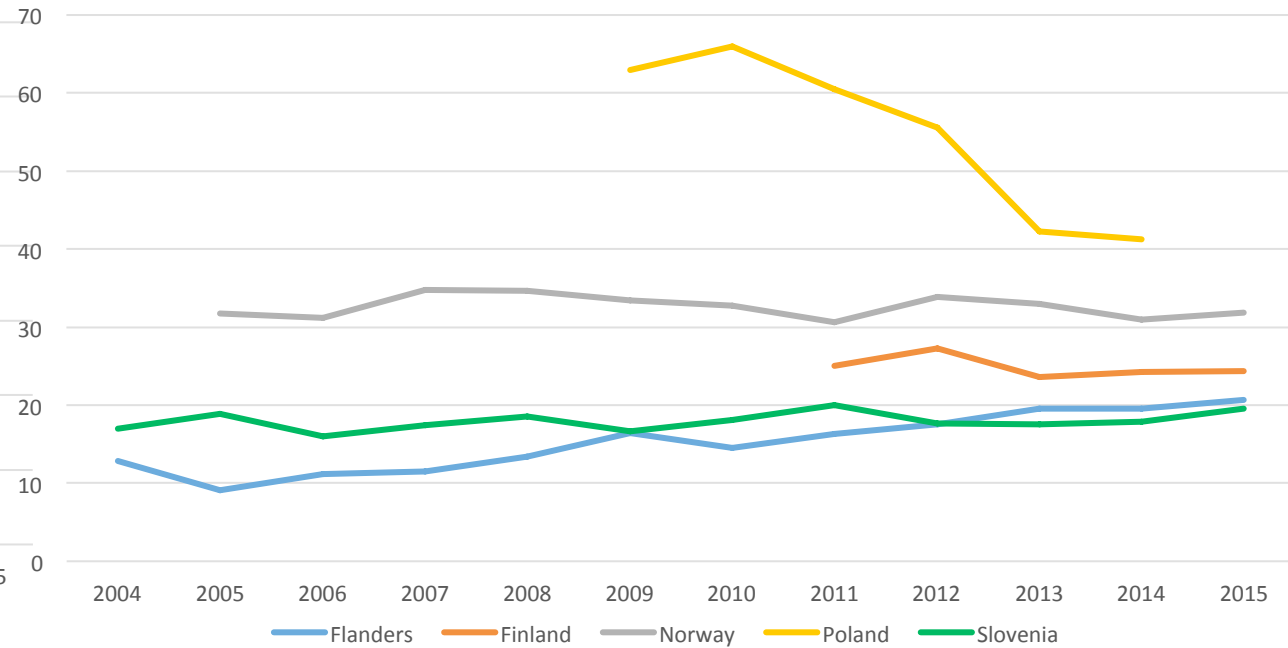


Table 6. Share of book chapters in the social sciences (%)



Some challenges for SSH books in the digital era

Go digital

Adapt existing tools (e.g. DOIs) to the needs of books

Ensure findability, visibility and traceability of usage of books

Therefore, shift to (immediate) open access at reasonable costs and in concertation with publishers and other actors

Quality assurance systems, including the need for post-publication review and the tradition of open identities in several countries

Some results
from

Carmeron Neylon et al. (2018). The visibility of open access monographs in a European Context. Knowledge Unlatched Research: Report for OPERAS-D.

Background

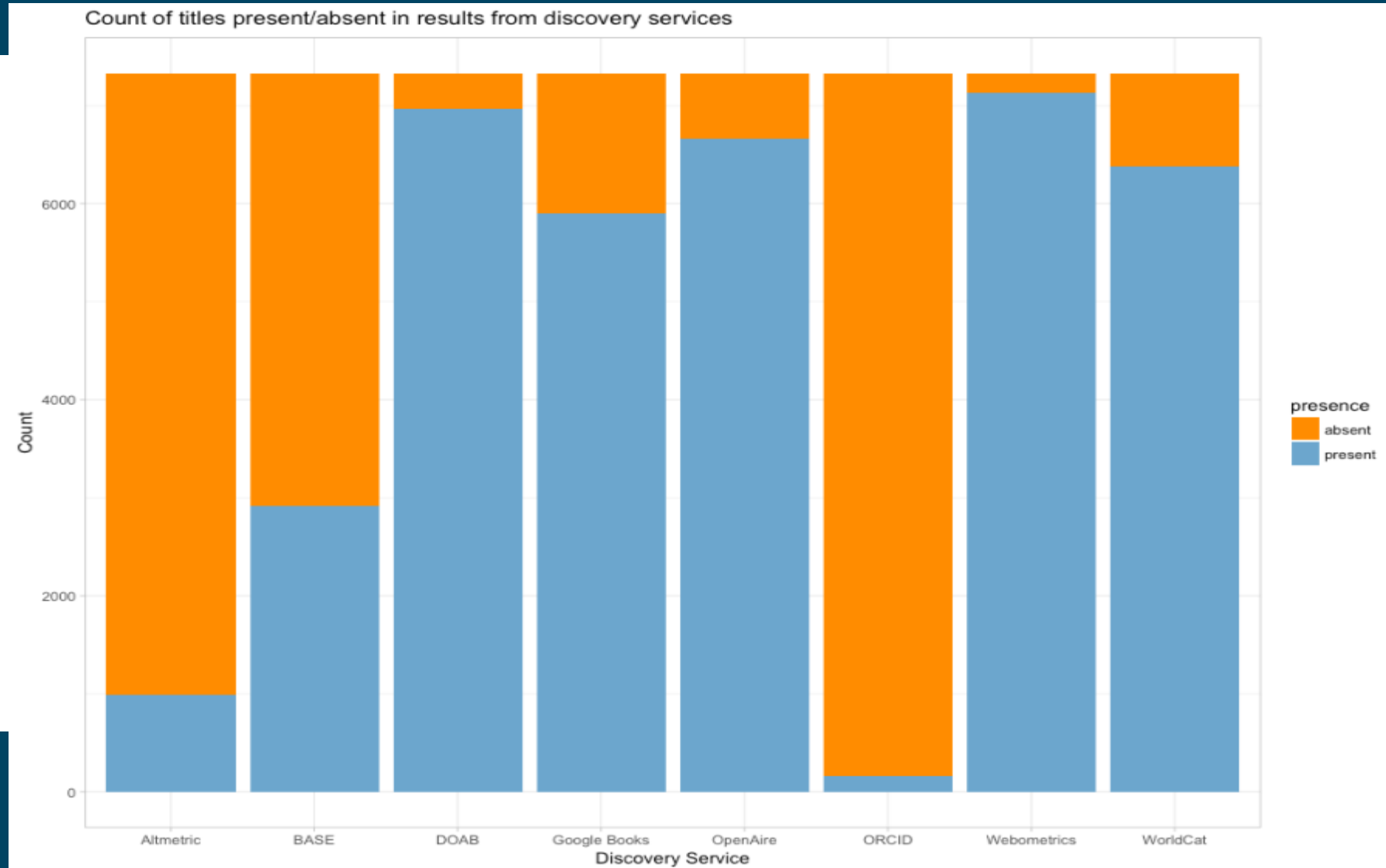
OPERAS-D = Design of Open Access Publications in European Areas for Social sciences and humanities

Focused on the development of European research infrastructure for the development of open scholarly communication

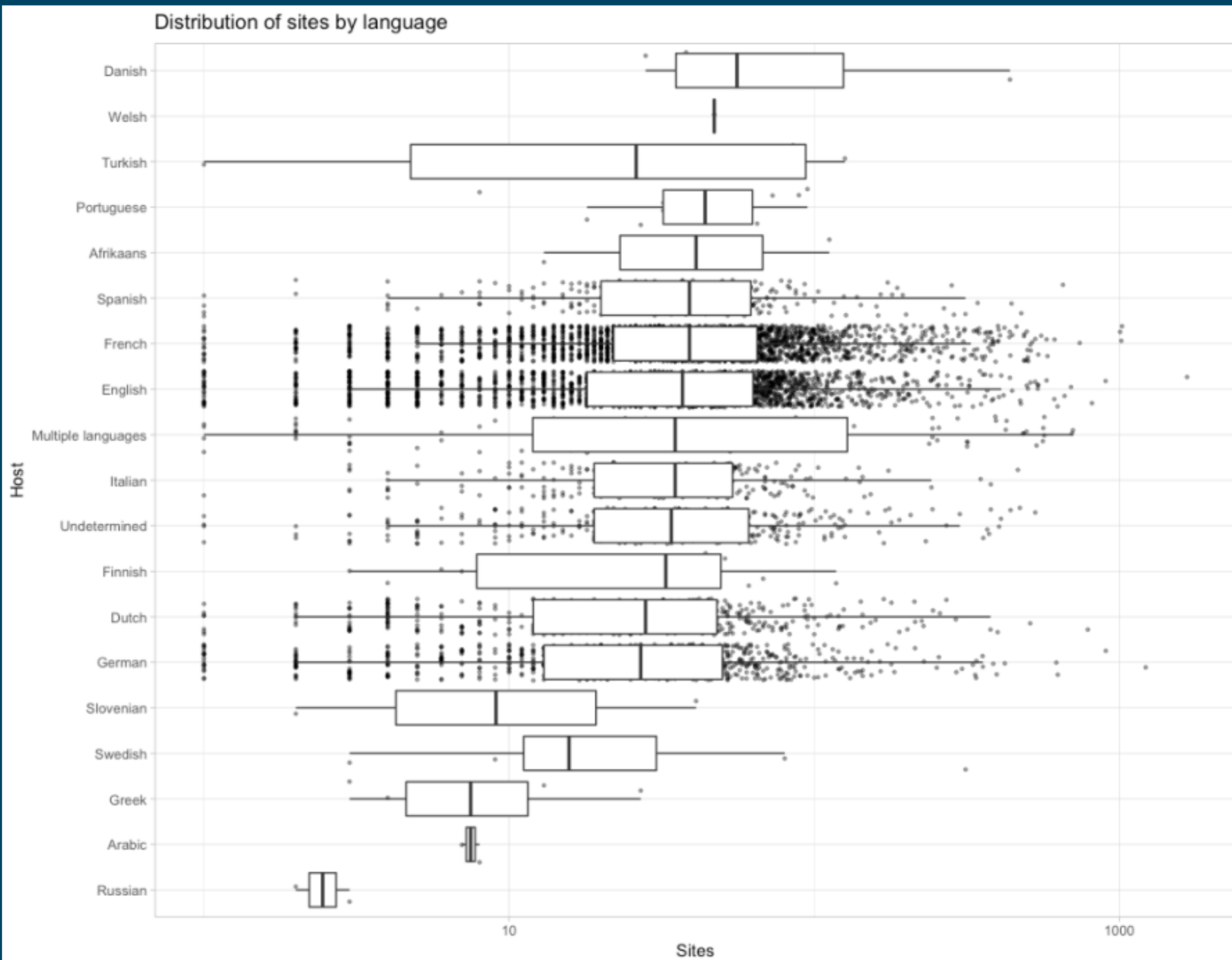
Ensure that scholarly books are integrated into digital landscapes of scholarship, which is particularly relevant for the SSH

Test visibility of the books (N-ISBNs = 11.000) of OPERAS-D network partners in different catalogues, in web search and in general information flows

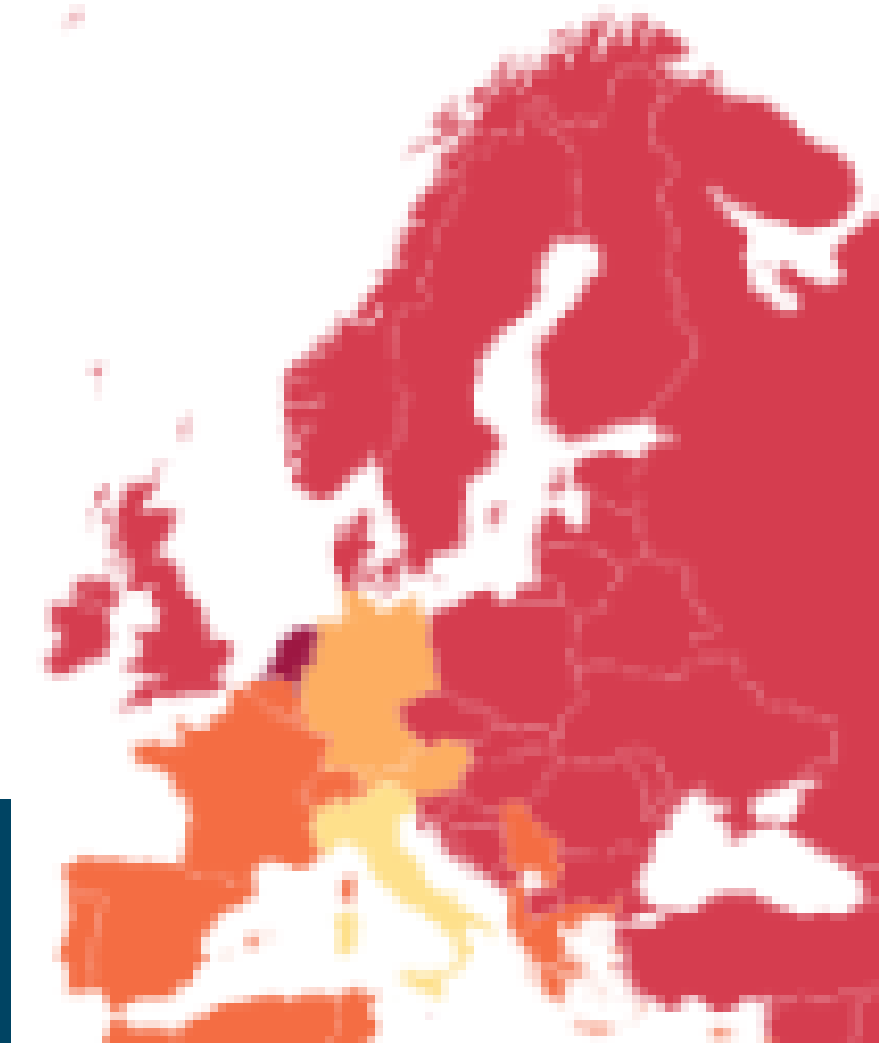
Neylon et al (2018): OA monographs in catalogues



Neylon et al
(2018) :
Distribution of
sites by
language



Neylon et al (2018): Top publication language (Webometrics Analyst 2.0)



Language

- Dutch
- English
- French
- German
- Italian
- Multiple languages
- Portuguese
- Spanish
- Turkish
- Undetermined

NA

Conclusion

Book publications are and remain vital for the SSH

Hence book publications should be taken into account fully in research evaluation

To facilitate that, encouragement of books as digital objects and their traceability is needed

Thank you!

A web overview of national bibliographic databases for publications is available at <https://ecoom.uantwerpen.be/sshdatabases>

This work is part of COST action 15137 ENRESSH, www.enressh.eu

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