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## HSS Scholars & Scientists Workgroup Report

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### 1. Summary

The HSS Scholars & Scientists workgroup was convened in recognition of the diverse dynamics and requirements of different research communities, particularly within the Humanities and the Social Sciences (HSS). Within these disciplines there are significant differences in research culture, practices, and access to funding, highlighting that a different approach may be required to embed an open science environment.

The fundamental fact that bears repeating is that HSS scholars in the United States simply do not receive the level of funding or government-mandated support that STEM scholars receive. Without that key funding infrastructure in place, we cannot realistically hope for further open access (OA) progress in HSS in the U.S.

Unfortunately, ‘thoughtful conversations’ among earnest academic librarians and publishers are not enough to solve this serious funding gap—at least not in the immediate future. A strong lobbying force needs to approach the U.S. Congress and organizations such as the National Endowment for the Arts for more OA funding in the Social Sciences and Humanities. However, as anyone who follows current U.S. politics is aware, education funding is not a priority of the

current administration. If anything, there is talk of de-funding the NEA and other major academic funding bodies.

On a brighter note, sales professionals for academic publishers are trying to find creative ways to promote open access by offering special article processing charge (APC) rate packages to universities.

The approach of the HSS and Scientists workgroup was to map out the publishing environment for the following four areas, first looking at publication practices and preferences (Table 1):

- Clinical Medicine
- Other Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Humanities.

The group then sought to document both the challenges (Table 2) and opportunities (Table 3) for each area. For this further analysis Clinical Medicine and Other Sciences were combined under the classification “STEM”.

### 2. Analysis

The analysis of challenges and opportunities highlighted that there are more areas of convergence than initially anticipated, suggesting that some issues / opportunities could be tackled on a more universal basis. Examples included raising

awareness and understanding, and incentivising behavior.

Analysis did highlight, however, that some areas of divergence remain significant; i.e. access to funding, fundamental differences in publishing practices. This highlights a need for a bottom up approach from within individual subject communities.

### 3. Recommendations

Mapping out the characteristics of these different research communities proved a valuable exercise, as it helped the HSS and Scientists workgroup to assess where universal solutions could be applied. One key recommendation from the group was a drive on education and awareness, focusing

particularly on the benefits and incentives of an open science environment.

The main recommendation from the group was that, in recognition that there remain a number of areas of significant convergence, disciplines need to find their own approach and solutions need to come from within. Some of the most successful implementations of an open science environment have come from within individual communities, e.g. Physics. It was suggested that a research community within Social Sciences or the Humanities could be encouraged to act as a test case, working cohesively to suggest and trial new approaches.

## Tables

Table 1: Publishing Environment for Core Research Areas.

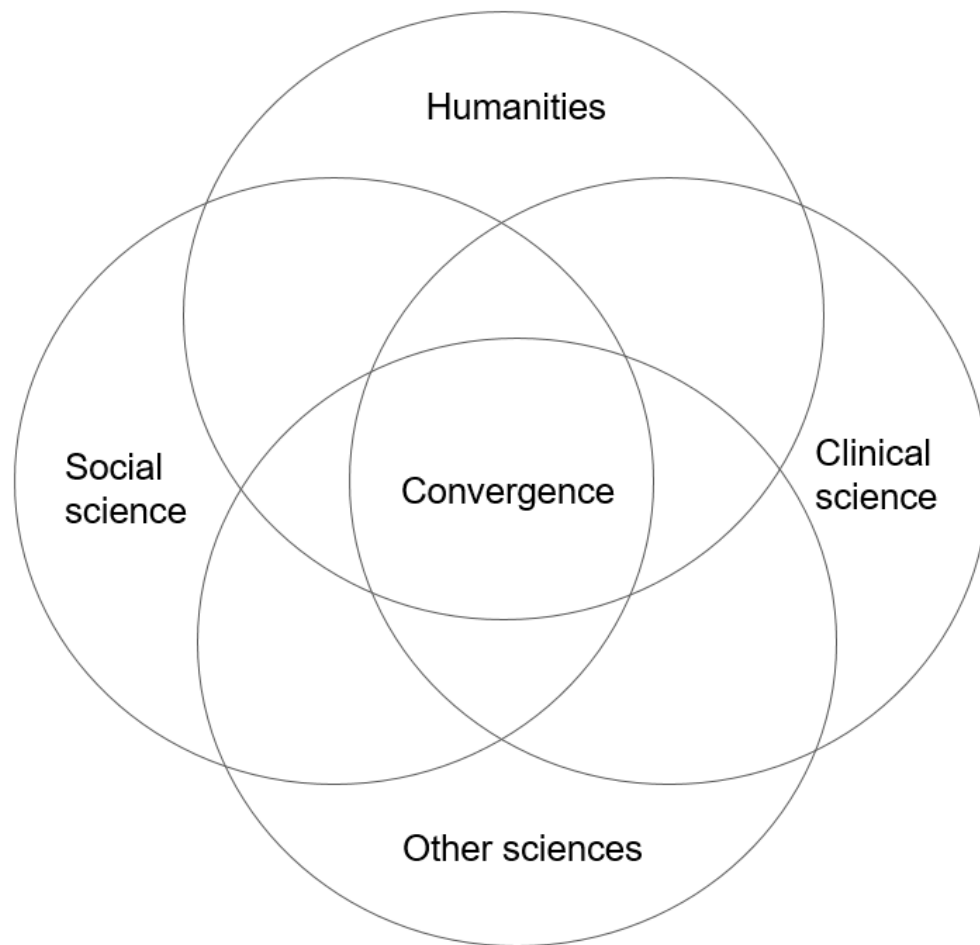
	<b>Clinical Medicine</b>	<b>Other Sciences</b>	<b>Social Sciences</b>	<b>Humanities</b>
<b>Publishing environment</b>	Journals: Vital for tenure; Strong OA models yielding broad transition Books: Generate royalties	Journals: Vital for tenure Strong OA models yielding broad transition Books: Generate royalties	Journals: Vital for tenure OA models may not be all that strong	Monographs are the gold standard for tenure and promotion Journals secondary

Table 2: Challenges of achieving an Open Science Environment.

	<b>STEM</b>	<b>Social Sciences</b>	<b>Humanities</b>
<b>Challenges</b>	<p>Pressure to publish            Few incentives for openness beyond mandates. Perceived COI by some            Confusion about licenses            Societies - some groups/vendors resist loss of revenue stream            T&amp;P slow evolution of assessment practices, incentives need expansion            Global South researchers lack funding            Little incentive to publish negative data or replications            Large multigroup works to agree            Lack of global norms/standards to expand joint collaborations            Increasing specialization inhibits coordination            Weakened journal brand as search engines have become the entry point to the literature            Privacy/regulation issues inhibit data sharing.            Who owns the datasets to be mined varies.</p>	<p>Perception of low-quality scholarship            Soc Sci societies see OA as cannibalizing content/cutting journals' revenue stream            Market confusion about predatory publishers            No author funding in most Soc Sci disciplines            Not enough OA activity (i.e. critical mass) to support full conversion to OA in most areas            Very little cohesion among the Soc Sci discipline communities            Not the same drivers, motivations, mandates to publish OA</p>	<p>Gold OA is confused with vanity publishing, which has a much worse rep in humanities            No mandates            Ethics policies doesn't address openness            No author funding in the A&amp;H disciplines            Perception of low-quality scholarship            No indexes like PubMed            Idea that 'Open' = larger risk of being plagiarized or copied            Slow evolution of assessment practices at institutions            Permission issues with visual arts (artwork) can be obstructive</p>

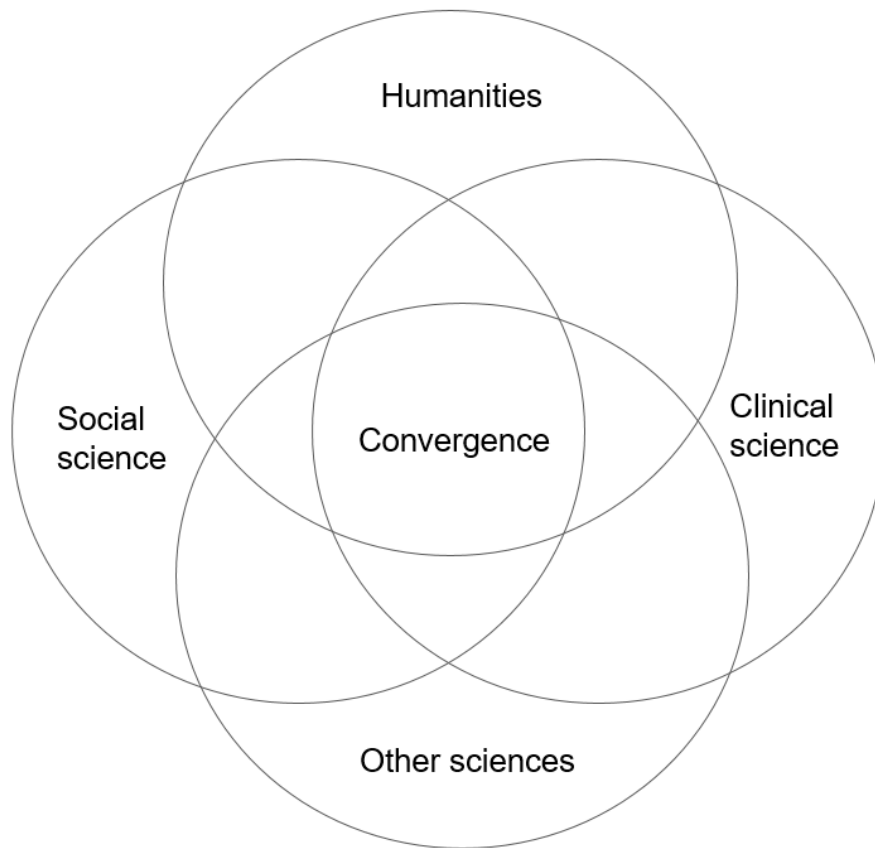
Table 3: Opportunities for creating an Open Science Environment.

	<b>STEM</b>	<b>Social Sciences</b>	<b>Humanities</b>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<p>Better engagement of public --more secure funding, better policy/health</p> <p>Improved discovery</p> <p>Data and pubs mining</p> <p>More timely access to research</p> <p>Potential to Identify and establish standards, efficiencies, areas for building on research</p> <p>Support future researchers and caregivers regardless of funding source, geo, resources</p> <p>Effective linking adds historical tracking and adds responsibility and assigns credit</p> <p>Supports new business models based on reuse/analytics</p> <p>Construction of field-specific factbases (chemical material properties, antibody properties, geophysical characteristics, etc.)</p> <p>Easier to make assessment more comprehensive, including public impact and other scholarly products like data &amp; software</p>	<p>Providing opportunities /publication venues and much-needed access for scholars from the Developing World/Global South</p> <p>Integrated interactive tables / datasets</p> <p>Integrated simulation</p> <p>Meta-analysis of large bodies of accessible work increases confidence in individual reports</p> <p>Interdisciplinary collaborations are easier to find/undertake</p> <p>Encourage a community within Soc Sci to act as case study / trail blazers for Open Practices</p>	<p>Scholars are recognizing the advantages of openness (ex. MLA Commons)</p> <p>Scholars working in the Digital Humanities are on board with openness</p> <p>Early-stage scholars' monographs</p> <p>Multi-media / non-text content</p> <p>GLAMs are opening up images and other content</p> <p>Access to digitized vulnerable cultural heritage artifacts</p>



**Convergence**

- + Visibility
- + Public engagement
- + Preservation
- + Text and data mining
- + Interdisciplinarity
- Lack of understanding
- How to assess
- Incentives
- Lack funding/business model
- Trust (brand weakness/vanity press)



**Divergence**

Humanities

Rights acquisition is harder  
Reputation of author-pays  
Funding  
Content half-life  
More monographs/books

Social science

Patient privacy  
Funding

STEM

Patient privacy  
Journal-based assessment  
Funder mandates

## **HSS Scholars & Scientists Workgroup:**

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