

CHAPTER

04

**Innovative models
of bibliodiversity
in scholarly publications**

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Partners involved:

Coimbra University and OpenEdition, with the collaboration of the OPERAS Special Interest Group on Multilingualism (including representatives of the Helsinki Initiative, Federation of Finnish Learned Societies, ENRESSH, Association of European University Presses, Academic Book Publishers, PKP, FORCE11)



Introduction

Given the growing need to strengthen the bonds between stakeholders involved in scholarly communication and multilingualism, this task was directed by a three-fold purpose: 1) synthesise evidence in the literature as to the innovative dynamics of knowledge-sharing and scholarly communication within linguistically diverse scholarly contexts and research networks; 2) have a better understanding of the role of multilingualism within bibliodiversity in scholarly communication through the lens of publishers, researchers, and translators; and 3) present the conceptual design of a future OPERAS Translation Platform aimed at supporting translation services at the scholarly communication level.

Aim of the study

- to prepare a theoretical background to discuss the use of multilingualism in scholarly communication;
- to identify, analyse, and understand the innovative dynamics of working practices and knowledge-sharing within linguistically diverse scholarly contexts and research networks;
- to identify and analyse the motivations behind these practices (questionnaires/focus groups – how tools may answer to needs);
- to formulate recommendations/guidelines for OPERAS and other stakeholders regarding the future implementation of a service aimed at enhancing multilingualism;
- to prepare the conceptual design of a platform prototype for a shared translation service at the scholarly communication level (involving publishers, translators, and researchers).

Method and process

Literature review.

The literature review was a qualitative study of an exploratory nature; the method used is in the scope of an integrative literature review, summarising prior research to clarify research trends based on *in vivo* content analysis of the selected corpus. This method follows several stages, starting with problem formulation, which frames the data collection; it is then followed by selection, treatment, analysis, and the final presentation of results.

In respect to the problem, the study reflects a gap in the recent literature, namely, identifying factors that influence the dynamics underlying language selection and the use of multilingualism within scholarly communication. The database selected was Google Scholar, and the search terms used were “scholarly communication,” “language,” and “multilingualism,” combined with the Boolean operator “AND.” The search, undertaken on 6 April 2020, yielded 152 works. These results were reviewed to exclude duplicates, PhD and Master’s dissertations, and works that did not meet this literature review’s goals. To be within the selection criteria, the works had to 1) have a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) code, 2) be published in open access between 2019 and 2020, and 3) be written in English, French, German, Portuguese, Italian, or Spanish. This resulted in 12 documents being selected that were then analysed by resorting to qualitative content analysis of the abstract and conclusion sections. Subsequently, the final category framework reflected the corpus codification structure that emerged from the analysis.

Survey *Multilingualism in Scholarly Communication*:

This report presents the main results and an in-depth analysis of the survey *Multilingualism in Social Sciences and Humanities*, which was conducted during the summer of 2020 (from 19 June to 20 August), in the form of an online survey distributed among researchers, translators, and publishers within the OPERAS network and other channels. A total of 359 participants responded to the survey in which they were given a common initial set of questions, followed by their own contribution according to three different perspectives (researchers, translators, and publishers), separate or combined depending on the respondents’ profiles. Following the first step of the literature review, the empirical survey led to two main objectives: to collect evidence as to the role of multilingualism within bibliodiversity in scholarly communication, and to contribute to the conceptual design of a platform prototype for community-owned translation services at the scholarly communication level, both involving the needs of publishers, translators, and researchers.

Final Report OPERAS-P

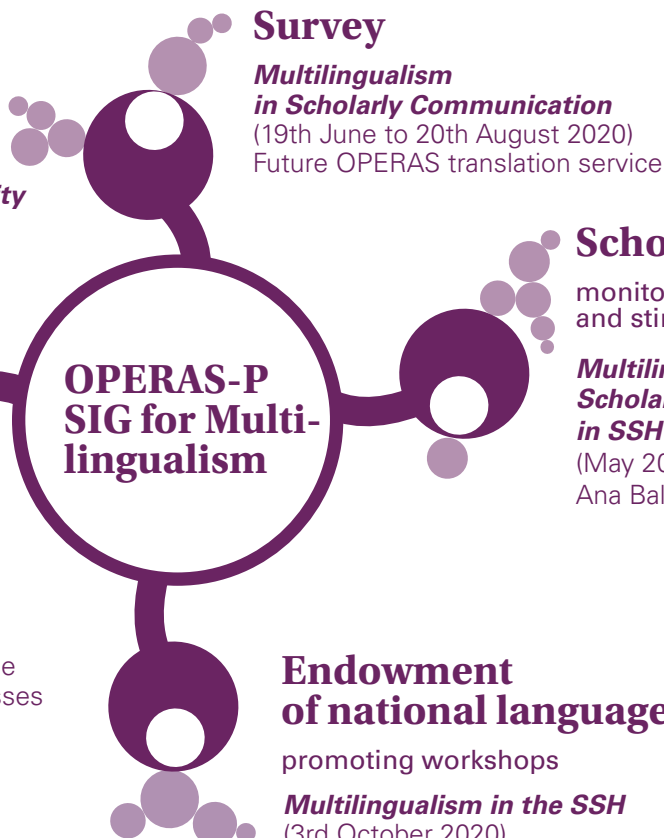
*Innovative Models of Bibliodiversity
in Scholarly Publications*

**Publishers
and Publishing
Stances: a Contribution
to Multilingualism
and Bibliodiversity**
(24th April 2021)

Joint workshop OPERAS SIG
on Multilingualism and Advocacy,
with the OPERAS-P and the TRIPLE
projects, and APEES – the Portuguese
Association of Higher Education Presses

**Multilingualism in Scholarly
Communication: a Preliminary
Report (SIG + OPERAS-P 6.4)**
(21st September 2020)

2020 Workshop Multilingualism-
satellite event of the OASPA
Conference 2020



Survey

**Multilingualism
in Scholarly Communication**
(19th June to 20th August 2020)
Future OPERAS translation service

Scholarly debate

monitoring practices
and stimulating discussion

**Multilingualism within
Scholarly Communication
in SSH – a literature review**
(May 2021)

Ana Balula and Delfim Leão

Endowment of national languages

promoting workshops

Multilingualism in the SSH
(3rd October 2020)

OPERAS Research Infrastructure
in 90': Mission, Vision, Action
at the OPERAS 2020 Conference

**Summary of activities undertaken during the work on the report
on Innovative models of bibliodiversity in scholarly publications**

Main Findings

In the literature review, the classification of the corpus regarding the dynamics between multilingualism and scholarly communication in SSH was identified *in vivo* and structured as four categories:

Research relevance

“Englishisation” does not seem to fully address the intended main goals of research concerning information sharing and discussion, or the co-construction of knowledge, for which multilingualism can be an important asset, while promoting inclusiveness and equity among researchers.

Content curation

The possibility of having reliable multilingual research information available definitely contributes to an efficient dissemination of the research (and research data) produced in national languages, as well as contributing to communication among publishers and researchers – thus promoting the development of intercultural, comparative, and/or complementary studies in SSH. In this context, multilingual content curation is crucial.

Reputation

Given that a considerable amount of SSH research is published as monographs and/or in local languages, the use of these databases to evaluate research and establish the researchers or institution’s reputations is necessarily fallacious and limited.

Balanced multilingualism in scholarly communication

This is considered to be a **golden breakthrough**, which embraces information-sharing, collaborative knowledge construction, and equity by enabling global interaction with multinational and multidisciplinary research (and researchers), thus mitigating the hurdles underlying static, poor translations while connecting research worldwide.

In regard to the **survey**, the results showed that there was a strong openness among researchers, translators, and publishers in viewing the amplification of multilingualism as an advantage both for fostering international collaborative works and for promoting interculturality, inclusion, and equity; highlighting that,

- a **collaborative system** that uses expertise in specific areas to support and facilitate translations could reduce time consumption, and mitigate the risks of flaws and high prices that may be attached to the translation process;
- and, the **exchange of experiences and specificities**, among researchers who speak different languages but share the same areas of study, has the potential to make a relevant contribution to enriching international collaboration and to make an impact on works.

Challenges

Boosting balanced multilingualism

A scenario that has become increasingly clear during the development of the different phases of the task is that multilingualism must be perceived as a strong manifestation of bibliodiversity, which is particularly important in SSH. This does not preclude the use of English as a communication language, as long as the advantages of using a *lingua franca* do not risk turning it into the *lingua unica* of scientific and scholarly communication. Instead, innovative solutions must be implemented so they have the ability to enhance balanced multilingualism in scholarly communication, in information-sharing, and in collaborative knowledge construction.

Developing a community based translation platform

The lack of a platform to support translation to different languages is a limitation for the federative nature of OPE-RAS’ consortium.

Conceiving that platform as a social infrastructure

By federating technical knowledge and scholarly expertise, the social infrastructure will stimulate the sharing of tools, methodologies, and practices so that a broad user community can test and scale what is being developed separately by individual partners.

Making national production internationally relevant

The literature review demonstrated that the notion of international publishing is closely linked to the idea of publishing in English in large international publishing houses; however, by putting a broad universe of small publishers and their authors in contact with each other, it will be possible to find an alternative way to internationalise scholarly production, enhance specific catalogues, and relaunch multilingualism as an expression of bibliodiversity, inclusion, and scientific maturity.

Recommendations

Target audience

Recommendation

Scholars



View the **amplification of multilingualism** as an advantage for **fostering international collaborative works** and for **promoting interculturality, inclusion, and equity**.

Publishers



Improve the **scholarly communication landscape** at the **international scale**; helping what usually tends to be considered “national” (the use of local languages) to **become more clearly “international”** (by putting them on the radar of wider networks and within the scope of collaborative interest groups worldwide).

Translators



Enhance expertise, particularly when it is combined with **reciprocity**, in order to **stimulate networking** and **improve bibliodiversity through multilingualism**.

Funders and research performing organisations



Advocate for the **implementation of innovative solutions** that have the ability to **enhance balanced multilingualism** in scholarly communication, information-sharing, **collaborative knowledge construction**, and **careers recognition and credit**.

Policy makers



Perceive and value **multilingualism as a strong manifestation of bibliodiversity**, which is particularly important in the area of Social Sciences and Humanities.

OPERAS



Develop a platform to support scholarly translation, that is **community based** by boosting the collaborative work of researchers, translators, and publishers, by creating conditions for cooperation and providing information that will enable each scholarly work to identify an **appropriate publisher profile**, a suitable **scientific milieu**, and the **right partnership** in order to disseminate specialised or local scientific production to a wider environment.

OPERAS SIG
Multilingualism



Get **directly involved** in studying and promoting the **development of a translation platform** as one of OPERAS' future services.

Data and further reading

- Data related to the survey *Multilingualism in Scholarly Communication* are available at [OPERAS-P collection at Nakala](#).
- Full report from this task is available at [OPERAS Innovation Lab community on Zenodo](#).
- The issue concerning the literature review and balanced multilingualism is further elaborated in: Ana Balula and Delfim Leão, “Multilingualism within Scholarly Communication in SSH – a literature review,” *JLIS.it* 12, 2 (May 2021): 88-98. DOI: [dx.doi.org/10.4403/jlis.it-12672](https://doi.org/10.4403/jlis.it-12672)