

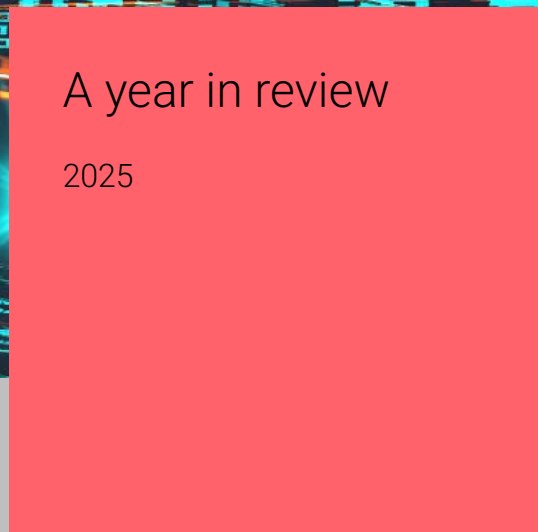
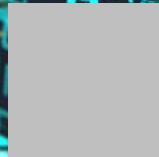
The Jisc logo is located in the top left corner, consisting of the word "Jisc" in white text on an orange rectangular background. The background of the entire page is a vibrant, abstract digital scene with glowing blue and orange lines and light flares, suggesting a network or data flow.

Jisc

# Open policy finder

A year in review

2025



# Contents

---

Contents	2
Introduction	3
2025 key highlights	4
Data integrity	4
Supporter scheme	4
Journal acquisition	4
Other activities	4

---

Metrics	5
Financial summary	7
Expenditure	7
Income	7
Expenditure breakdown	7

---

The year ahead	8
Acknowledgements	9

# Introduction

Over the past year, Jisc open policy finder has completed a major strategic transition, moving from the legacy Sherpa services (Romeo, Juliet and FACT) to a single, unified, modern platform. This consolidation has been more than a technical upgrade; it reflects a deliberate shift towards a more streamlined, resilient and user-centred service. Throughout this period of change, we have stayed focused on our core mission of providing machine-readable, accurate and trusted open access policy data that supports faster and more confident decision-making across the global research community. Feedback on the unified service has been consistently positive, confirming the value of these enhancements to our community of users.

Alongside this transformation, we have strengthened data integrity, sharpened our publisher acquisition strategy to better reflect user priorities, and enhanced governance through the establishment of an international advisory board. We also introduced a supporter scheme to secure long-term sustainability, achieving our initial £125,000 income target, and made substantial progress in migrating to a more modular and secure technical infrastructure.

Looking ahead to 2026, our focus is on consolidation and growth. We will complete the development of the backend platform, relaunch the API shaped by supporter feedback, introduce a specialist international funder comparison tool, and deepen engagement with national publishers to expand global journal coverage. Together, these developments will further strengthen open policy finder as a critical, sustainable and high-quality infrastructure service underpinning open access worldwide.

# 2025 key highlights

## Data integrity

---

We are committed to the highest standards of data integrity by vetting all publishers and manually entering and regularly reviewing policies to maintain trusted data for our users. This includes ongoing systematic data reviews aligned with our annual targets, with all datasets meeting or exceeding targets. This included annual reviews of funder policies, quarterly updates to book policies, and biennial reviews of journal policies.

## Supporter scheme

---

We secured £125,000 from organisations committed to advancing open access. As open policy finder continues to grow, reducing reliance on project based funding and moving toward financial sustainability through shared institutional investment will be essential. Our supporter scheme enables institutions that rely on our data and services to contribute directly to this long term stability.

[Our supporter scheme](#)

## Journal acquisition

---

Our new journal publisher acquisition policy sets strategic approach to expanding journal publisher coverage through collaborations and targeted reviews of authoritative lists. Existing publishers can continue adding new titles. Our inclusion criteria is unchanged but will be regularly assessed against community standards. We will also accept new listings in the funder and book publisher datasets.

[Our new journal acquisition policy](#)

## Other activities

---

**Advisory board:** We have strengthened our governance by convening an advisory board comprised of members of our community. The board will help steer future direction of open policy finder and ensure that it aligns with the needs of international open access community.

[Our advisory board](#)

**Backend redevelopment:** We have made a significant progress with the upgrade of our backend platform, which will complete in 2026. The new platform will be more robust, secure and modular, enabling us to respond better to evolving requirements.

# Metrics

27,862

Journal titles

3,580

Journal publishers

206

Funder policies

84

Book publishers

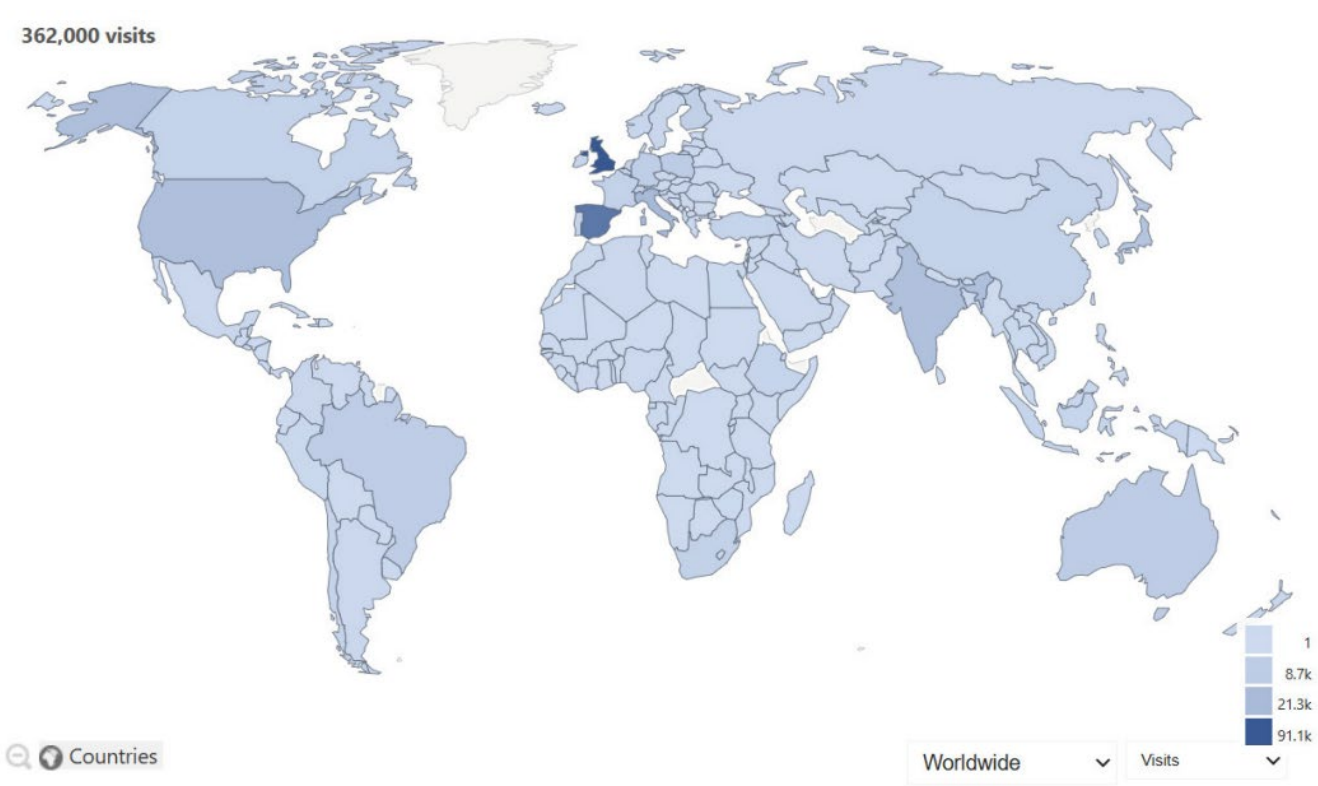


Figure 1: The above map shows the visitors to the new website ([openpolicyfinder.jisc.ac.uk](https://openpolicyfinder.jisc.ac.uk)) between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 – 31<sup>st</sup> December by location.

Open policy finder enjoys strong and accelerating global adoption, with particularly high usage across the United Kingdom, Spain, Western Europe, North America and Australia - regions that reflect our most engaged users. At the same time, the service has a healthy and growing worldwide presence, with visits distributed across nearly every continent. Notably, open policy finder website is now actively used in 97 countries, underscoring its broad international reach and the value it delivers to a diverse global user base.

In addition to this, our API provides data to 4500 registered users with a variety of use cases, from sending data to adjacent infrastructures, to being incorporated in local and national compliance tools and serving many research projects.

# Financial summary

## Expenditure

---

Direct costs (Salaries and Software):  
£605,827

## Income

---

Supporters: £125,000  
Grants: £226,253  
Jisc Contribution: £60,582

Additionally, Jisc provides significant in-kind contributions, covering essential overheads such as legal services, finance, HR, and marketing support. While these contributions are not reflected as direct income, they play a crucial role in sustaining and expanding the product's impact.

## Expenditure breakdown

---

### Product development (45%)

Data review, technical improvements and user experience optimisation

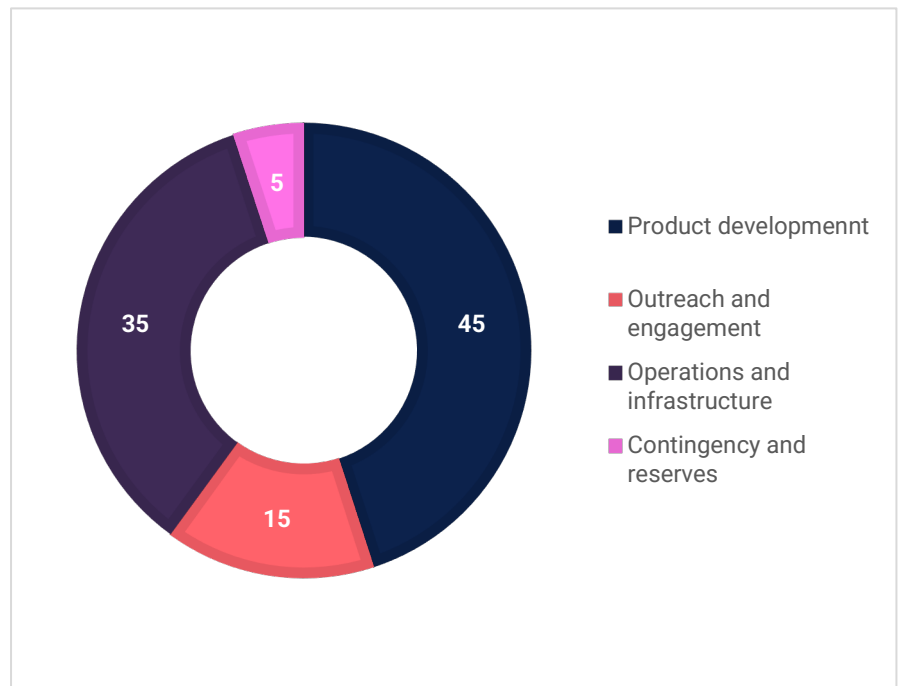
### Outreach & engagement (15%)

Workshops, webinars, conference attendance, relationships with sector Stakeholders

### Operations & infrastructure (35%)

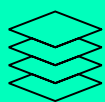
Managing data and systems and maintaining reliable service delivery, cyber security measures

### Contingency & reserves (5%)



# The year ahead

Open policy finder implements its 2024-26 strategy through three pillars: financial sustainability, data integrity and operational excellence. The activities below are in addition to our day-to-day work of curating and maintaining the datasets and supporting customer queries, which will remain our priority.



## Backend redevelopment

In the first part of the year, we will complete the upgrade of our technical platform's backend infrastructure. This upgrade will improve overall functionality and introduce a more modular, scalable architecture, providing a stronger foundation for future tools and ongoing service development.



## API relaunch

Our API is widely used by institutions, individuals, and peer infrastructures. Over the next year, we will migrate all users to the new API and review the current API data model with the aim of simplifying and improving the underlying data architecture.



## Financial sustainability

For 2026, our target income from the supporter scheme is £165,000. Alongside this, model as part of our broader strategy to diversify and strengthen future income streams.



## Policy comparison tool

Our current compliance checker has notable limitations, so we plan to replace it with a simpler, more effective feature that enables users to compare journal and funder open access policies globally. The new tool will be supported by clear guidance and greater transparency.



## Commitment to standards

We will continue to support high standards and promote good practice across the open access community. Over the next year, we will work with partners to improve the transparency of book policies in particular, while also maintaining close collaboration with adjacent networks and infrastructures.



## Community engagement

We will maintain continuous engagement with the community through open channels for feedback, regular webinars, and workshops around specific topics.

# Acknowledgements

Recognition of funders, partners and supporters who have made the work possible.

## Partners and collaborators

Mir@bel  
The Federation of Finnish Learned Societies  
TSV  
DOAJ  
SCOSS  
OAPEN/DOAB

## Community

We would also like to thank all members of the community who have taken the time to submit updates, missing titles and corrections to our records.

## Advisory board members

**Nick Weir-Williams**, Co-chair  
**Monica Westin**, Co-chair Cambridge University Press and Assessment  
**Beth Bayley**, Karger Publishers  
**Siobhan Haime**, Open Library of Humanities  
**Margit Dellatorre**, University Library of Zurich  
**Mary Schlembach**, University of Illinois at Urbana  
**Olaf Siegert**, ZBW - Leibniz Information Centre for Economics  
**Danny Smith**, Royal Veterinary College  
**Kate Snaith**, Aston University  
**Bernard Tessier**, ENTPE

## Supporters

FinELib consortium  
Norwegian Agency for Shared Services SIKT  
Canadian Research Knowledge Network CRKN  
ZBW - LEIBNIZ INFORMATION CENTRE FOR ECONOMICS  
The Royal Danish Library  
George Washington University Libraries  
Swiss Universities Consortium  
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam  
Universiteit Antwerpen  
Utrecht University  
IReL  
Couperin  
IMP Research Institute of Molecular Pathology  
Penn State University  
Karolinska Institutet  
Birmingham City University  
University of Liverpool  
University of Exeter



[jelena.stanovnik@jisc.ac.uk](mailto:jelena.stanovnik@jisc.ac.uk)



This document was created 19 March 2026 and is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).

Jisc  
4 Portwall Lane  
Bristol BS1 6NB

0203 697 5860  
[help@jisc.ac.uk](mailto:help@jisc.ac.uk)  
[jisc.ac.uk](http://jisc.ac.uk)