# Upscaling Citizen Science in Research Libraries:
## *Inspiring by example and <u>how to make change?</u>*

## LIBER Citizen Science Working Group
Co-Chairs

Alisa Martek, National and University Library, Zagreb

Simon Worthington, TIB – Leibniz Information Centre for Science and Technology and University Library, Hannover

PHAIDRAcon'25, October 31st 2025, Padua, Italy.

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# LIBER Citizen Science Working Group (CSWG)

- 39 members – working group ambassador – Margaret Gold ☺

- Strategic Directions:
  - SD1: Developing the Working Group (A community of interest, knowledge, and practice)
  - SD2: Developing the field of Citizen Science at Research Libraries
  - SD3: Research libraries to be a part of Citizen Science activities

Strategy is a style of thinking, a conscious and deliberate process, an intensive implementation system, the science of insuring future success.

Pete Johnson

LIBER LIBER

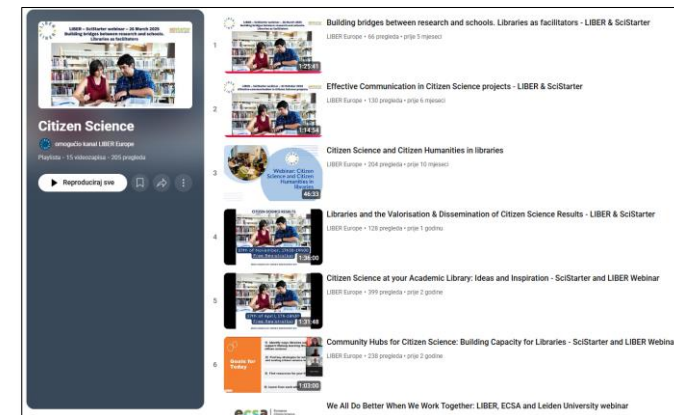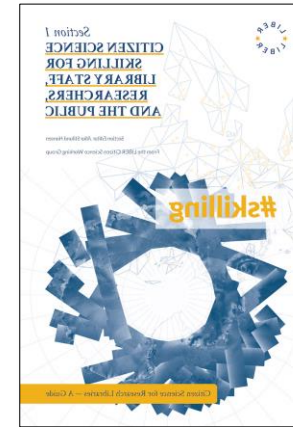Strategy 2023 - 2027

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A. RESEARCH LIBRARIES AS ENGAGED AND TRUSTED HUBS

outside academia & society

Engaged & trusted hubs

By 2027, research libraries will be engaged and trusted hubs of their user communities, collaborating with each other and with local, national and international stakeholders in their role as change agents and facilitators, and taking up task in public engagement in research.

Research Libraries as Engaged and Trusted Hubs

# CSWG Creations: Knowledge Sharing

- Audiences
  - Firstly, there is skilling and knowledge sharing for frontline library staff, and;
  - Secondly, supporting leadership and library executives.

- Formats
  - Guides – publications
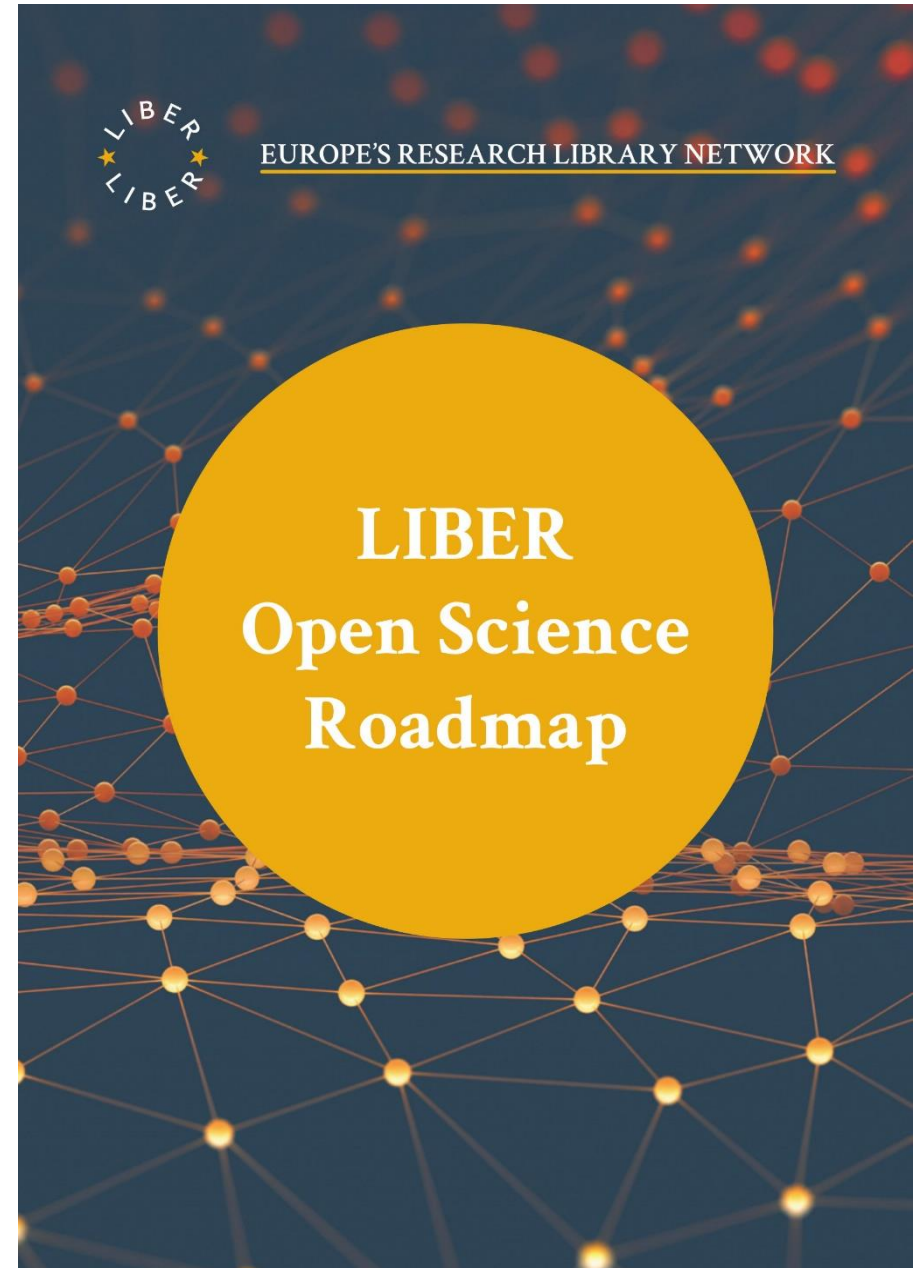  - Masterclasses
  - Workshops and webinars

# The Changing Face of Citizen Science

'Citizen Science, or the participation of the general public in the scientific research process, is an important element in establishing new links between science and society. It is thus essential to implementing Open Science, can contribute to innovation tailored to the needs of society, lead to reciprocal learning and foster a scientific culture across society as a whole.'
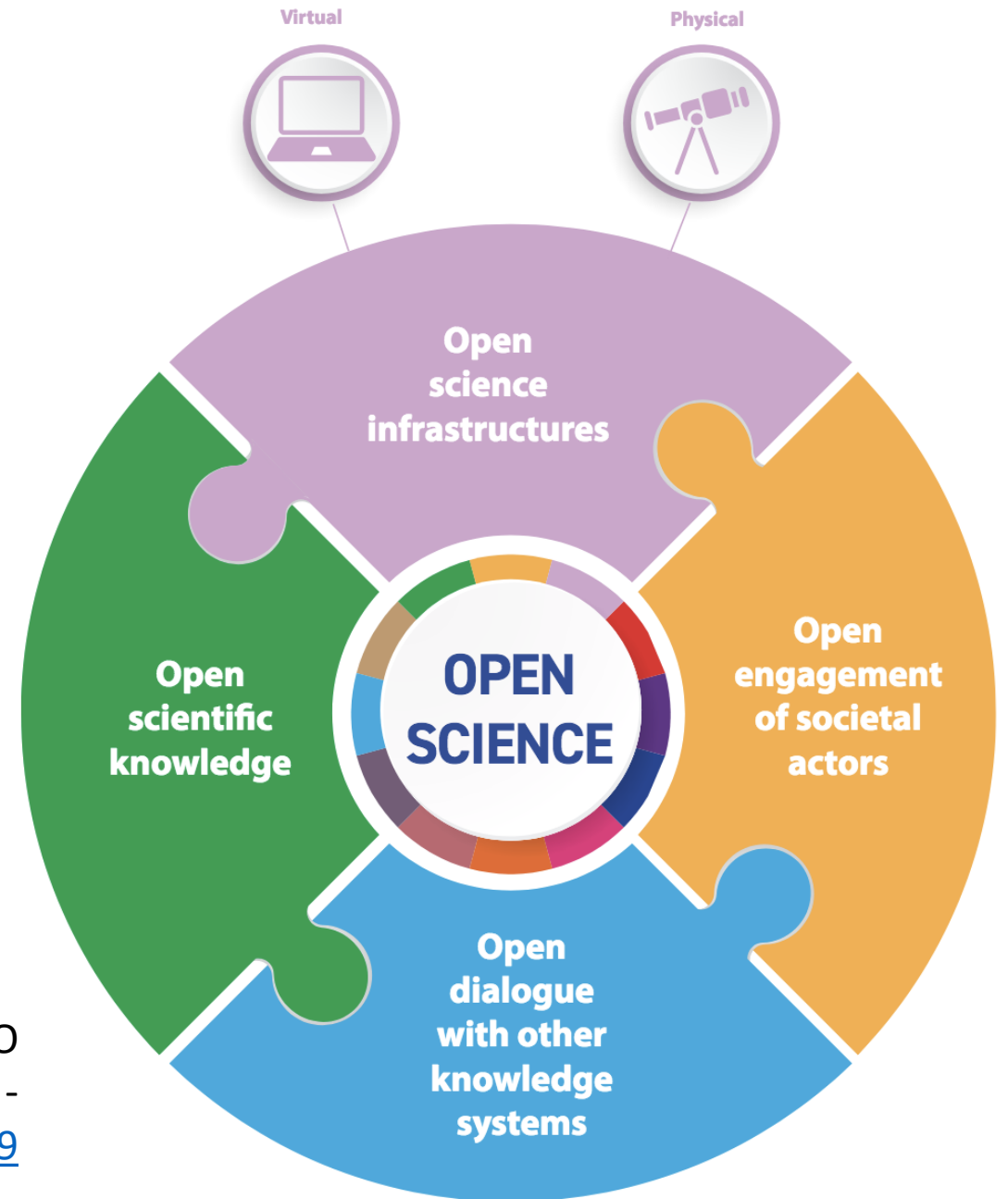
- **LIBER Roadmap** to Open Science (2018),

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.1303002



EUROPE'S RESEARCH LIBRARY NETWORK

LIBER Open Science Roadmap

# Open Science Infrastructure & GLAM

Collections can now take advantage of these huge and powerful open infrastructure and collective learning.

Open Science Pillars according to the UNESCO recommendation on Open Science - https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379949

# Supporting Researchers With Their Citizen Science Project

- Supporting library users: A key focus for the academic or research library is supporting its researchers.

- The projects they come to the library for support can be varied:
  - Crowdsourcing
  - Scientific
  - Health data
  - GLAM
  - Maker Space, etc.

# Public Library vs. (Open) Academic Library

Thinking through the differences between
the two and how they can collaborate.

The [Library of Trinity College Dublin](), established in 1592

- Digital Collections
- Open Access literature
- Terminology services
- Bibliographic databased
- Open Data infrastructures
- Open Source software records
- PID systems
- Research knowledge training

# SD1: Developing the Working Group (A Community of Interest, Knowledge, & Practice)

Tasks and Activities:

1. Recruiting additional members of the working group

2. Onboarding/integrating/upskilling working group members

3. Understanding the position of individual institutions (collecting information/authored content etc)
   - Make it agile, quick, slim (not many Qs)
   - Mapping: try to identify the low-hanging fruits

4. Monitoring and sharing calls on international projects
   - How: Consortia building
   - How: Partnerships
   - Outcome/Goal: Funding for individual libraries

# SD Example Project: CeOS_SE (Citizen-enhanced Open Science in Southeastern Europe)

EU Erasmus+ funded project coordinated by LIBER organisation. Project partners from the National and University Library in Zagreb, University Library "Svetozar Markovic", Belgrade, and University of Patras.

The project created studies, guides and best practices to help mainstream citizen-enhanced Open Science in Southeastern Europe

Zenodo: https://zenodo.org/communities/ceos_se


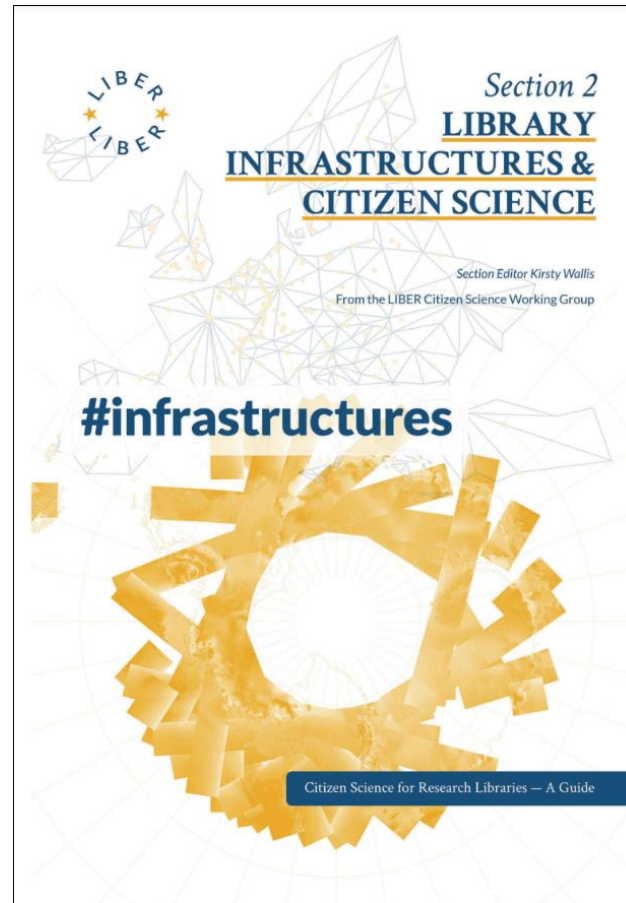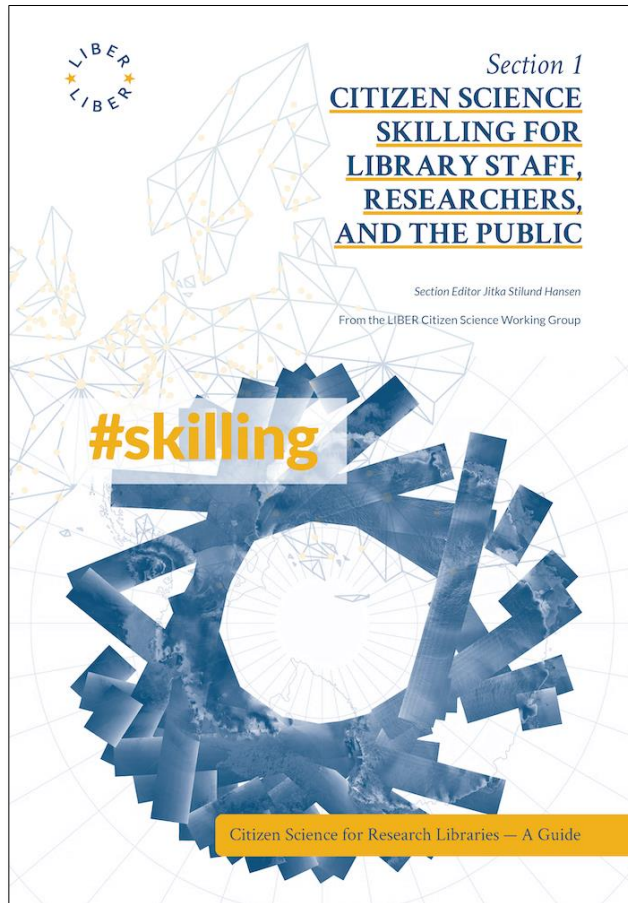
Alisa Martek presented the findings of the first two completed studies

# SD2: Developing the field of Citizen Science at Research Libraries

Tasks and Activities:

1. Complete the first version of the Guide
   - Recruit contributors, including LibOCS and CEOS_SE (the courses, the reports that are produced there)
   - Build an editorial committee to support Simon
2. Awareness and training for leadership teams
   - Masterclasses
   - Consider emerging leadership programme

3. Training for librarians (in person/online)
   - Skills and competencies

4. A mapping exercise to connect Citizen Science taxonomy with key competencies of researchers and librarians

5. Design library services for researchers and related governance structures
   - Consider processes/procedures and BESPOC as elements here.

# SD Example Project: *Citizen Science for Research Libraries — A Guide*



#CS4RL: https://github.com/cs4rl/guide

# SD3: Research libraries to be a part of Citizen Science activities
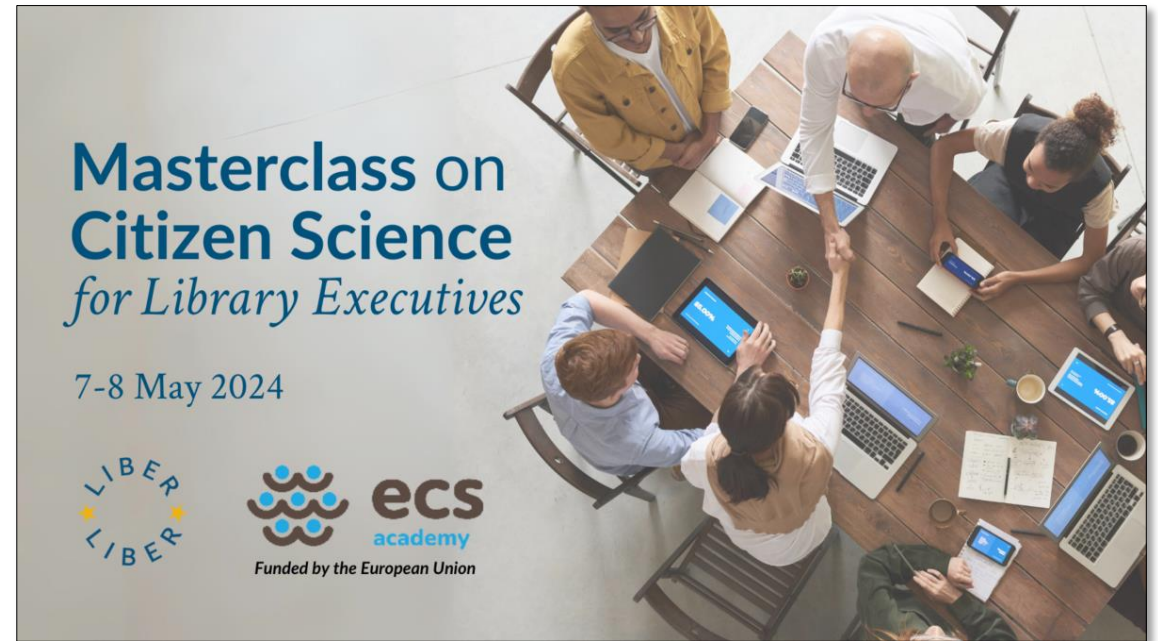
Tasks and Activities:

1. Advocacy for the non-library world to recognize the potential of research libraries to significantly contribute to the field of citizen science
   - University management
   - Key research groups

2. Make sense of the existing partnership agreements (SciStarter, ECSA & new partnerships)

3. Identify and communicate strategic direction relevant to university management
   - Inspire: a workshop that creates a vision
   - Build a case on how CS supports the societal impact of research/researchers relates to the topic "Explore the role of CS in research assessment"
   - Citizen Science in the curriculum (for Masters students/PhD etc)

4. Explore as part of the partnership with ECSA - Masterclass

# SD Example Project: Masterclasses

The masterclasses are for leadership and management team members who want to kickstart Citizen Science at their institutions.

'Participants learn the concepts of Citizen Science, how to connect with external and internal stakeholders, and employ change management to facilitate Citizen Science integration.'
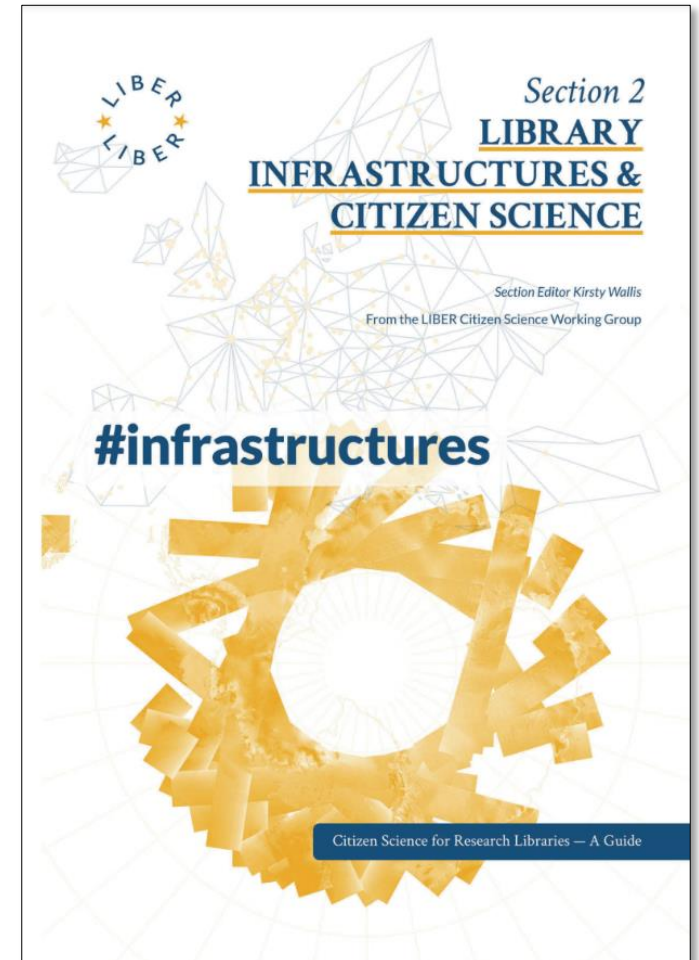
# Collections #1 - Thinking Creatively about Re-Using Existing Infrastructures for Citizen Science

- Handbook for Citizen Science Quality Assurance and Documentation (Adams et al. 2019).

- Make sure that citizen science data is searchable and discoverable online. Persistent identifiers and rich metadata ensure findability — F in FAIR.

- PPSR-Core: A Data Standard for Public Participation in Scientific Research (Citizen Science)

Editor Kirsty Wallace, UCL #CS4RL - Infrastructure: https://github.com/cs4rl/guide

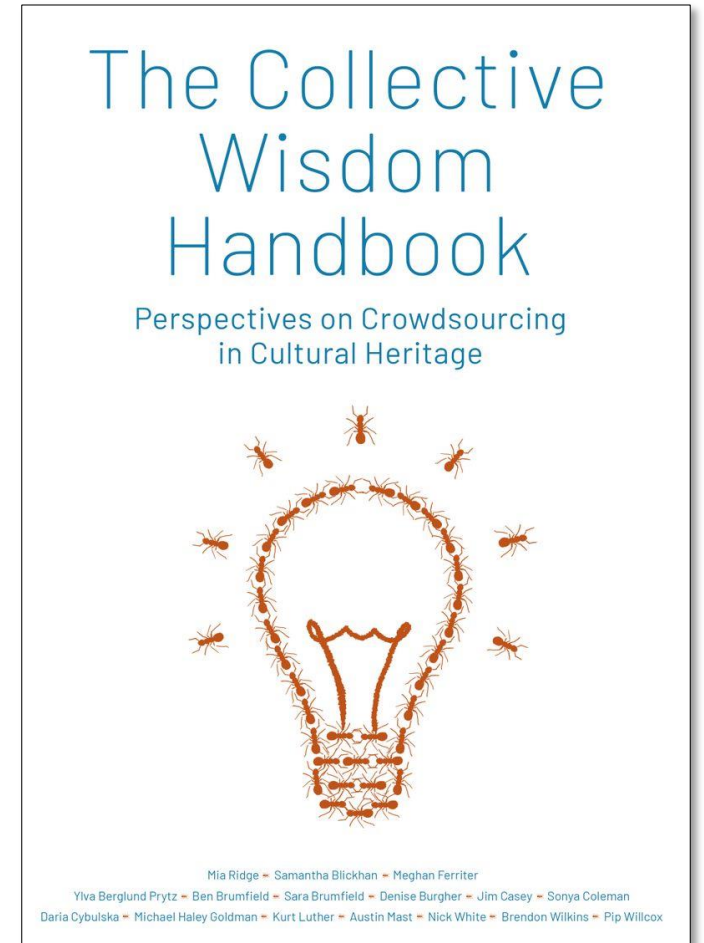# Collections #3 - GLAM: Crowd Sourcing

The project is a book '*The Collective Wisdom Handbook: perspectives on crowdsourcing in cultural heritage'* that was written in a book sprint, so collaboratively - a kind of crowdsourcing.

Project leader team member: Dr Mia Ridge is the British Library's Digital Curator for Western Heritage Collections and has written extensively on the topic of crowd sourcing in the cultural sector.
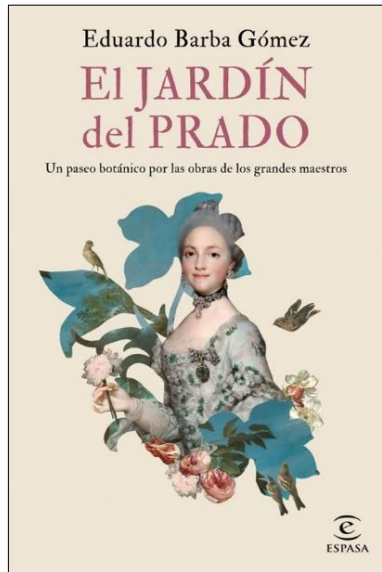
#CSWG former member: Dr Mia Ridge

*NB: Not a #CSWG project*

https://collectivewisdomproject.org.uk/

# Collections #3 - Climate Knowledge Graph and Cultural Annotation for Citizen Science
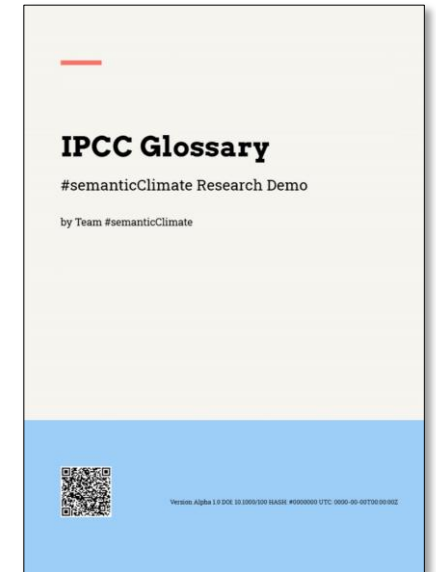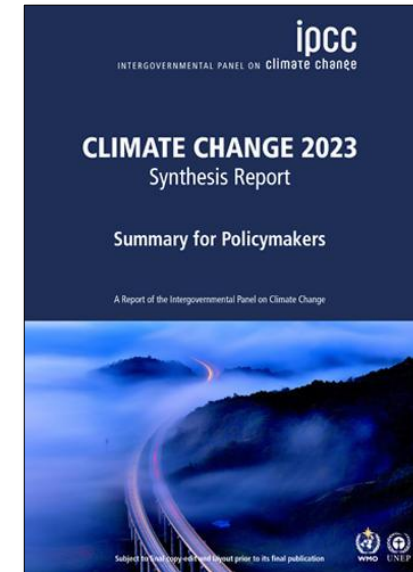
The Climate Knowledge Graph (CKG) is an R&D project to make a knowledge graph of the Open Access parts of the United Nations — Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), 10,000 page corpus.

We use Linked Open Data and Wikidata to enable this.
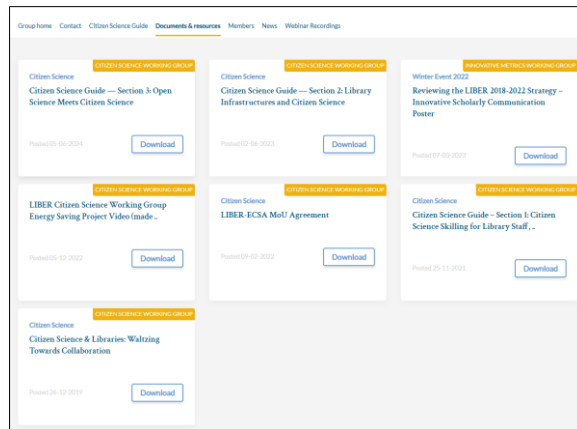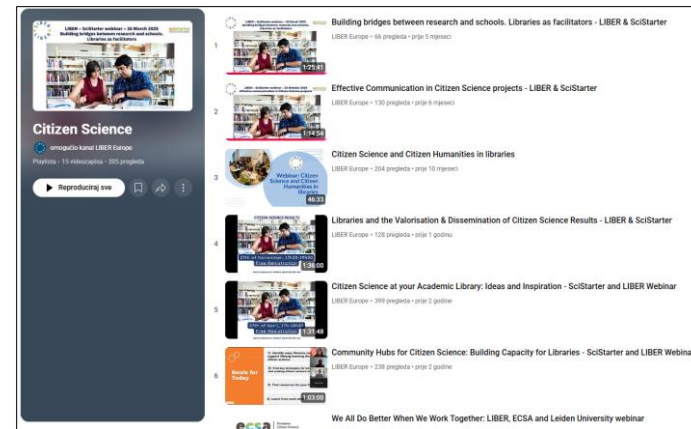
*NB: Not a #CSWG project*

[THE PRADO GARDEN](#)
Eduardo Barba Gómez

[https://tibhannover.github.io/climate-knowledge-graph/](https://tibhannover.github.io/climate-knowledge-graph/)

Semi-structured corpus to semantic publication for citizen science annotation

# Resources

Documents & Resources

Webinar Recordings – LIBER YouTube Channel, playlist #CitizenScience





Best poster award on LIBER 2024 conference in Limassol, Cyprus

Breaking Boundaries: Advocacy for Citizen Science in European Higher Education Libraries

Available:
https://zenodo.org/records/14184732

# Spread the Know-How!

Are you passionate about Citizen Science and how together we can support research librarians in acquiring the training they need?

Please get in touch and help spread the know-how!

**Acknowledgements**

- Former chair and co-chairs:
  - Chair, Paul Ayris - 2019-2022
  - Co-chairs, Tiberius Ignat and Thomas Kaarsted - 2022-2024
  - Co-chairs, Alisa Martek and Dragana Janković co-chairs - 2025
  - Co-chairs, Alisa Martek and Simon Worthington co-chairs - 2025-2027

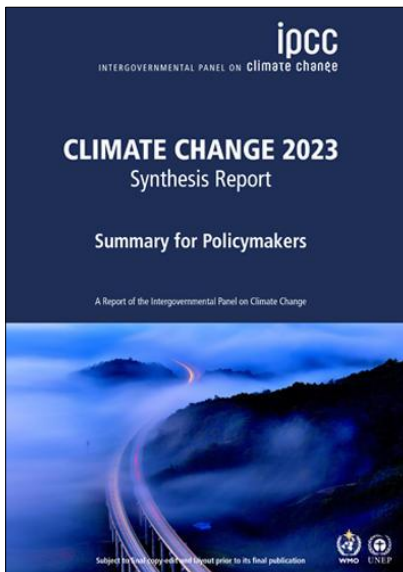# Thank you for your attention.

# END

# Partnerships, workshops, masterclass

- **SciStarter** – organized three series workshop – recordings on YT channel
- **European Citizen Science Association, ECSA**
  - **LIBER** and **ECS Academy** Masterclass in Paris, 7-8 May 2024
  - ECLAC – LIBER Citizen Science Masterclass, online, 18-20 Nov 2024
  - Developing Citizen Science – series of CS seminars, the first one in Budapest, March 2025
- Many workshops – recordings on YT channel
- Great advocacy – publications, events, posters

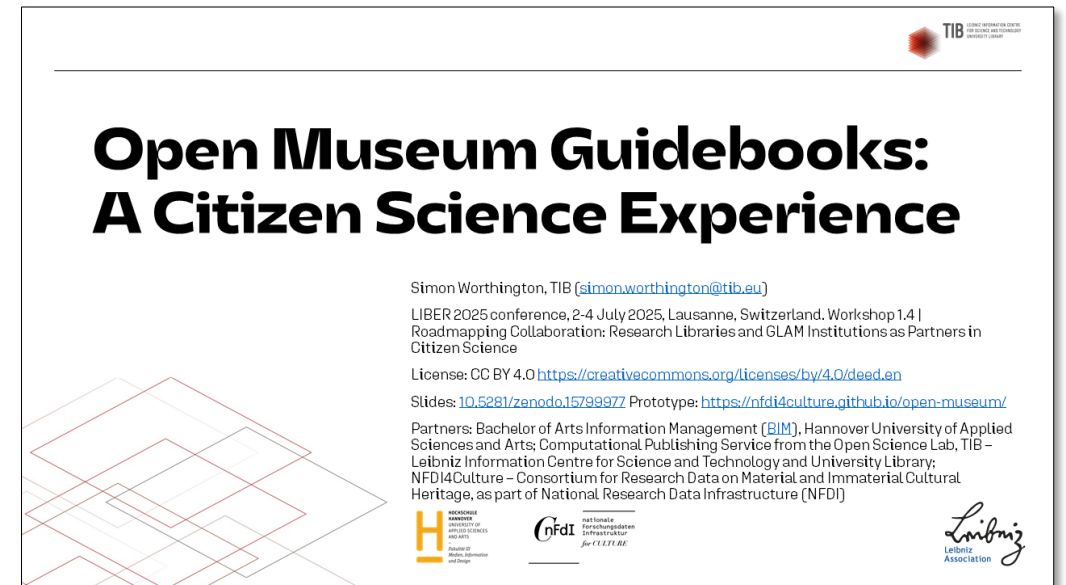# Collections & Citizen Science: Connections?
# A personal perspective

## Climate Knowledge Graph



Semi-structured corpus to semantic publication for citizen science annotation

https://tibhannover.github.io/climate-knowledge-graph/

## Open Museum



Linked Open Data for exhibitions and citizen story telling

https://nfdi4culture.github.io/open-museum/