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LA Referencia: Latin American Network of Repositories and the Open  
Science Ecosystem in Latin América

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# LA Referencia: Latin America Open Science Repository Network



Open Science Repository Network formed by an association of government authorities of Science, Technology and Innovation, founded on 2012 through the signing of a Cooperation Agreement, as a result of the project financed by the IDB (2010-2013) led by RedCLARA

**MISSION:** To give visibility to the public funded scientific production in Latin America, through the cooperation and articulation of a federated network of institutional and data repositories, based on regional agreements and national open access strategies.

# LA Referencia Members 2022






A forum of political and technical discussion integrated by the governments of Latin American and external partner countries

La Referencia is founded on a series of political agreements signed by the high authorities of science, technology, and education of the member governments.

LA Referencia is legitimated as a forum for the discussion and implementation of incentive policies and strengthening of the global Open Science ecosystem.

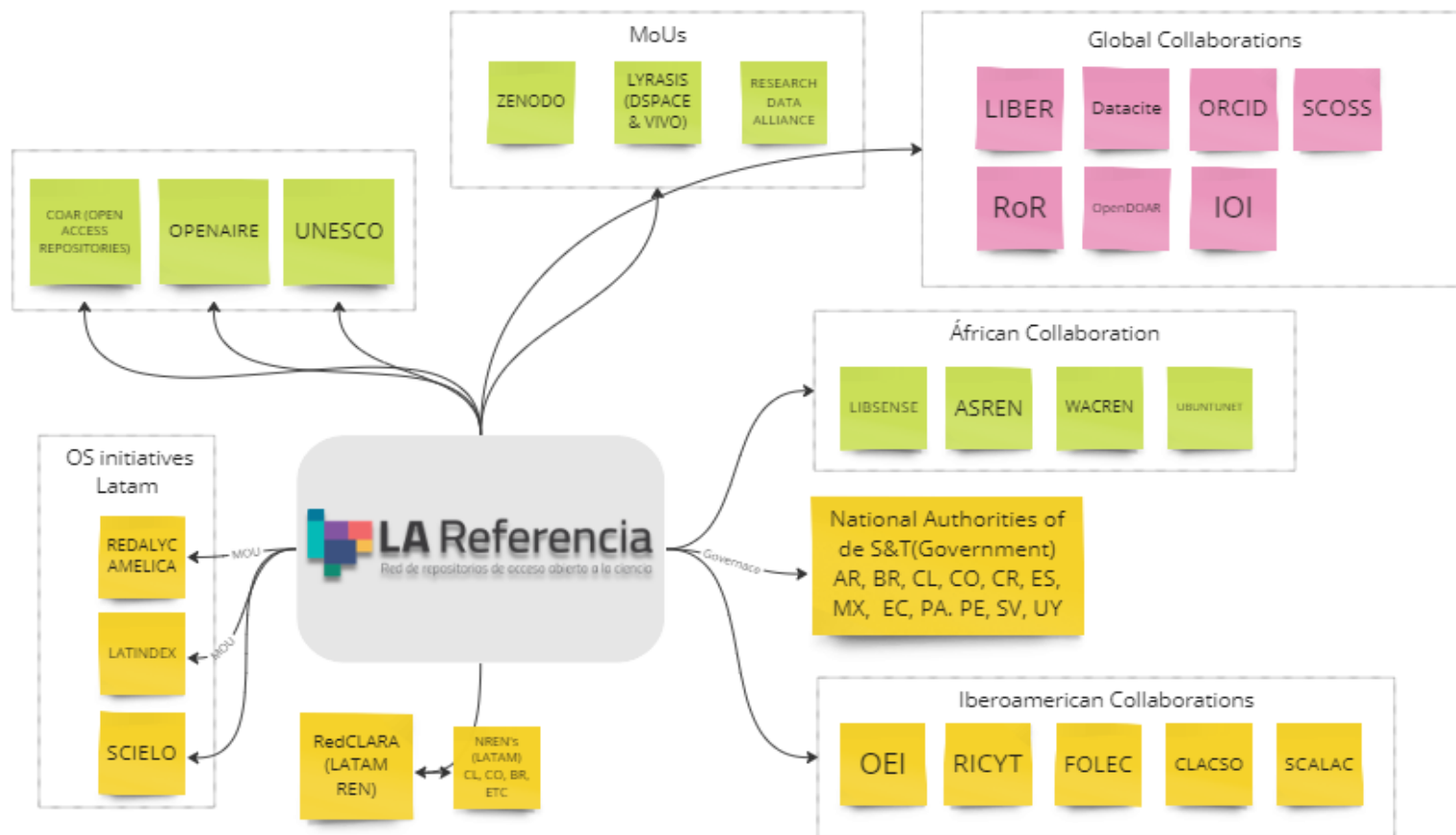


# Visibility of regional scientific production at a global level

- The main objective of LA Referencia is to give visibility in open access to Ibero-American scientific production at a global level, thus contributing to give content to the world ecosystem of Open Science.
- LA Referencia operates under the principle of a federated network where each national node provides scientific production metadata
- The regional node acts as a regional aggregator building value-added services on the collection and interoperating with other regional and global networks, always directing access to the original sources of content, the repositories.

An open software platform for the aggregation, quality control, enrichment, and interoperability of scientifically produced metadata

- LA Referencia developed an open software platform LRHarvester, which is the result of more than 8 years of collaborative development. It is an integral solution that is installed on each node of the network and is increasingly being adopted outside of Latin America (Spain, Portugal, soon in Africa).
- Currently we are working to address the growing need for integration with research management systems (CRIS) and the possibility of producing indicators that serve decision-making and research assessment.



# Latin American Open Science Ecosystem

Collaboration agreements  
and interoperability



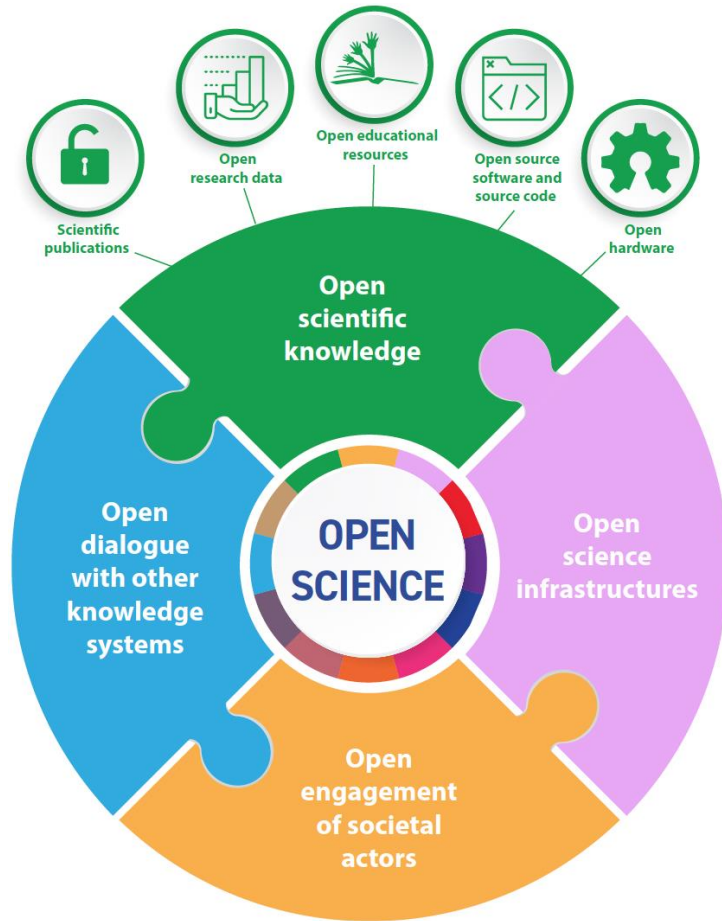
## Objectives:

- Establish collaboration ties around the Open Science ecosystem
- Improve interoperability between journal systems and the repository network
- Ensure that repositories contain the scientific production published in journal systems



# UNESCO RECOMENDACION S

LA Referencia (through the member countries) is working in collaboration with UNESCO to offer a methodology for diagnose and monitoring UNESCO recommendations.



# The Digital Open Science Ecosystem in Latin America and the Caribbean

- <https://zenodo.org/record/7263151#.ZACToi8yGt4>
- RedCLARA, SCALAC, LA Referencia



**THE DIGITAL OPEN SCIENCE  
ECOSYSTEM IN LATIN AMERICA AND  
THE CARIBBEAN**

**NOVEMBER 2021**

Tabla A.1. Políticas e infraestructuras de acceso abierto e instituciones de gobernanza de la CTI en LAC

País	Dispone de:						Institución responsable de la:			
	Política nacional de acceso abierto	Marco legal sobre acceso abierto	Políticas institucionales de acceso abierto	Agregador nacional de repositorios	Agregador nacional de revistas	Sistemas de gestión curricular	Gobernanza	Financiación	Evaluación	Política o fomento del acceso abierto
Argentina	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	MINCYT	MINCYT, Agencia I + D+i, CONICET	MINCYT, Agencia I + D+i, CONICET	MINCYT
Brasil	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	MCTI	MCTI, Finep, CNPq, CAPES, FAPs	CAPES	IBICT
Chile	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	MinCiencia	ANID	CNA + ANID	ANID
Colombia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	MINCIENCIAS	MINCIENCIAS GOB. TERRITORIALES	MINCIENCIAS	MINCIENCIAS
Costa Rica	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	MICITT	MICITT, CONARE, Universidades	MICITT	
Ecuador	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	SENESCYT	SENESCYT	SENESCYT + CACES	SENESCYT
El Salvador	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	CONACyT	CONACyT, Universidades	CONACyT	CONACyT
México	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	CONACyT	CONACyT	CONACyT	CONACyT

*Open access policies in Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union*

European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, *Open access policies in Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union – Progress towards a political dialogue*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2023, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/90667>



## Open Access Policies in Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union

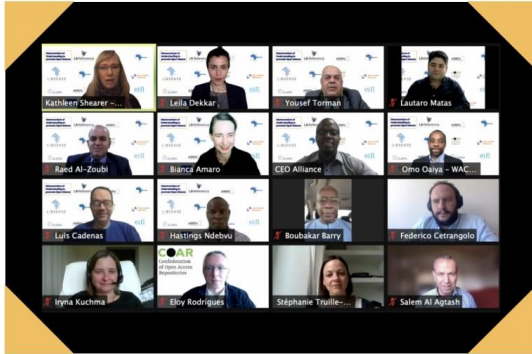
Progress Towards a Political Dialogue

Independent Expert Report

# African NRN's MoU

ÁFRICA Y AMÉRICA LATINA ACUERDAN UNA COLABORACIÓN MÁS ESTRECHA EN TORNO A LA CIENCIA ABIERTA

By Comunicaciones | Apr 12, 2021



**LA Referencia / RedCLARA** and the three African regional research and education networks – **WACREN, UbuntuNet Alliance** and **ASREN** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2021

The MoU provides a framework for ongoing **information sharing** between the African Research & Education Networks (RENs), through the LIBSENSE Initiative and LA Referencia / RedCLARA, and the **potential adoption of the LA Referencia open-source discovery software in Africa.**

The collaboration is being **fostered by COAR**, the Confederation of Open Access Repositories, and with **support from the pan-European GÉANT network, OpenAIRE and the EU co-funded AfricaConnect3 project.**



## LA Referencia – RDA Alliance

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- MOU between RDA Americas and LA Referencia
- Research Data Management Training
- Strategic alliances between RDA and LA Referencia member countries





# LA Referencia

## THE FEDERATED NETWORK OF LATIN AMERICAN OPEN SCIENCE REPOSITORIES

It was founded 10 years ago and brings together twelve countries along with RedCLARA, our regional research and education network. It provides a tool that facilitates the international harvesting, validation, and enrichment of metadata from repositories. It offers value-added services and responds to the interoperability challenges of the new OpenAIRE guidelines. This tool is increasingly being adopted outside of Latin America (Spain, Portugal, Africa). It addresses the growing need for integration with research management systems (CRIS) and aims to produce statistics to serve national decision-makers when evaluating research.

By supporting LA Referencia, you will help us develop new services such as a decentralised, sustainable and global persistent identifier service based on blockchain and extend the current usage statistics service to other infrastructures/regions contributing to a more equitable international publishing system.

**LA Referencia** provides some essential elements for the development of the international Open Science ecosystem.

# WHY HAS IT BEEN DEEMED AN ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE?

**LA Referencia** enables open science as a public good through its federated network of open access institutional repositories in Latin America. It is governed and funded by Latin American governments and supports the implementation of Open Science policies. **SCOSS** funding will help develop two innovative services around sustainable persistent identifiers and usage statistics, promoting bibliodiversity, and the development of new indicators based on open science. LA Referencia is aligned with the **SCOSS** theme FAIR Open Access repository services.

# SCOSS

# Decentralized Persistent ARK identifiers

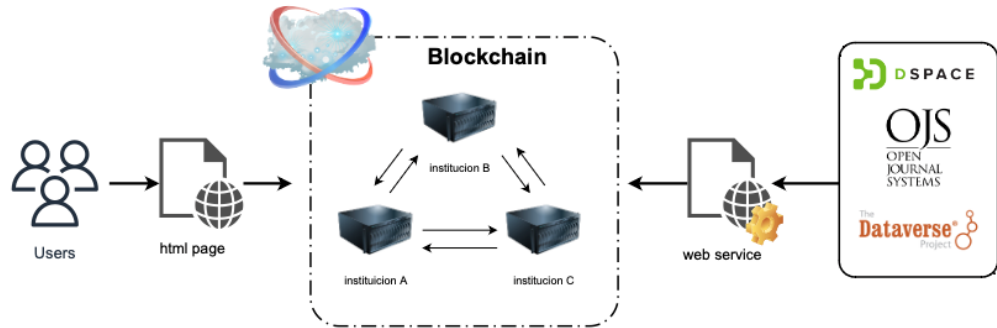


Fig. 10. dARK components.

- <https://zenodo.org/record/7686101#.ZACdui8yGt4>

# REGIONAL CHALLENGES

- Create national legal frameworks on open science in all countries
- Obtain national, regional and international funding to support open science activities
- Build a common infrastructure for large research data storage and interoperability
- Create a stronger national infrastructures with proper technical human resources
- Increase metadata quality and interoperability, increase OpenAIRE4 guidelines coverage in the region
- Recover Latin America's research data deposited in national and foreign infrastructures
- Training researchers/data specialists on data management policies



Thank you!!! – Gracias!!

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“Our strength is the acknowledgement  
and respect of the differences as a  
foundation of international  
collaboration”