Poster exhibition: Whose Shelf Is It On? (International Open Access week 20 – 26 October 2025)

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Abstract:

In just a couple of weeks, we celebrate International Open Access Week 2025 (20th-26th October), and we welcome you to get involved in questioning who owns our knowledge with our local theme 'Whose shelf is it on?'.

The theme should motivate you to question and consider the knowledge that you use and produce, and more critically think about who actually owns it, who has the right to access it and reuse it? Some of the perspectives you may wish to consider are copyright, intellectual property, open access publishing and data sharing.

Pause for a moment to look at our posters in the Luxembourg Learning Centre on scientific discoveries through time that were set free for the common good, most of which you will be familiar with and use on a daily basis, some of these were even invented at our University!

Also visit our focus area for some interesting reading to deepen your understanding of whose shelf your knowledge really might be on. Our librarians are always on hand to support you in practical and philosophical information literacy questions.

This event is brought to you by the Luxembourg Learning Centre at the University of Luxembourg.

October 2025

Sticks and bones (ca. 18,000 BCE)

The first data records — humans marked bones and sticks to share knowledge.

Long before writing, people carved notches into bones and wood to track time, count resources, and transmit information. These simple tools represent some of the earliest open systems of recording and communicating knowledge.

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Cave paintings of Lascaux (ca. 18,000 BCE)

The first open gallery — humanity's earliest stories shared on stone walls.

Discovered in 1940 in southwestern France, the Lascaux caves display remarkable prehistoric art. These paintings, freely visible to the community of their time, represent one of the earliest known forms of shared human knowledge and creativity.

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Fast forward...

from *Viking runestones* etched with ancient wisdom, through the *Renaissance* explosion of ideas—Galileo gazing at the stars, da Vinci sketching machines of the future—past the birth of scientific journals and the roar of the *Industrial Revolution*...

We arrive in the 1900s...

Penicillin (1928–1940s)

From lab bench to the world — penicillin was shared freely, launching the antibiotic era.

Discovered by Alexander Fleming, penicillin became the first widely used antibiotic, saving millions of lives during and after World War II.

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The World Wide Web (1991)

A gift without a price tag — released openly, the web connects people across the globe.

Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web at CERN and made it publicly available, creating the foundation of modern global communication and information exchange.

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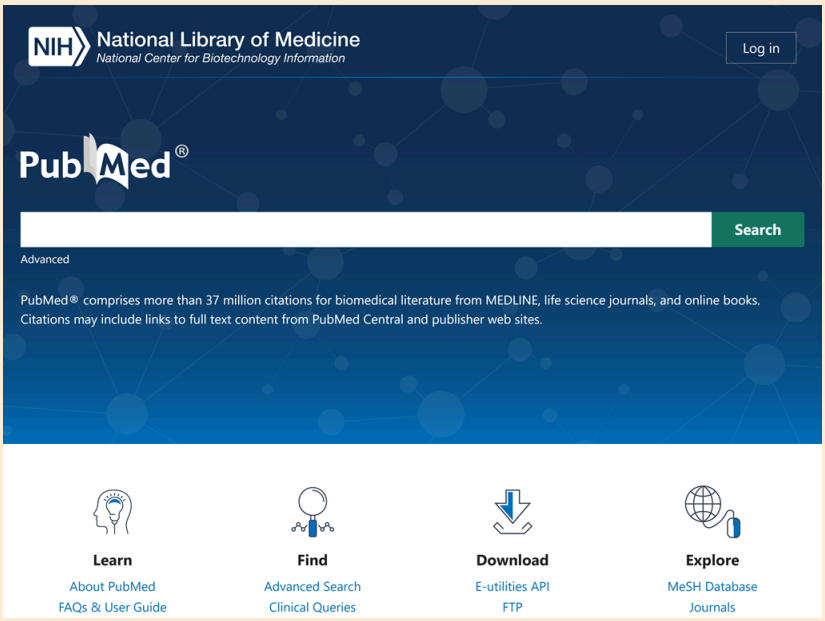
PubMed

(1996)

Science unlocked — millions of biomedical articles accessible to anyone, anywhere.



A free search engine providing access to life sciences and biomedical research, PubMed democratises scientific knowledge for researchers, clinicians, and the public.

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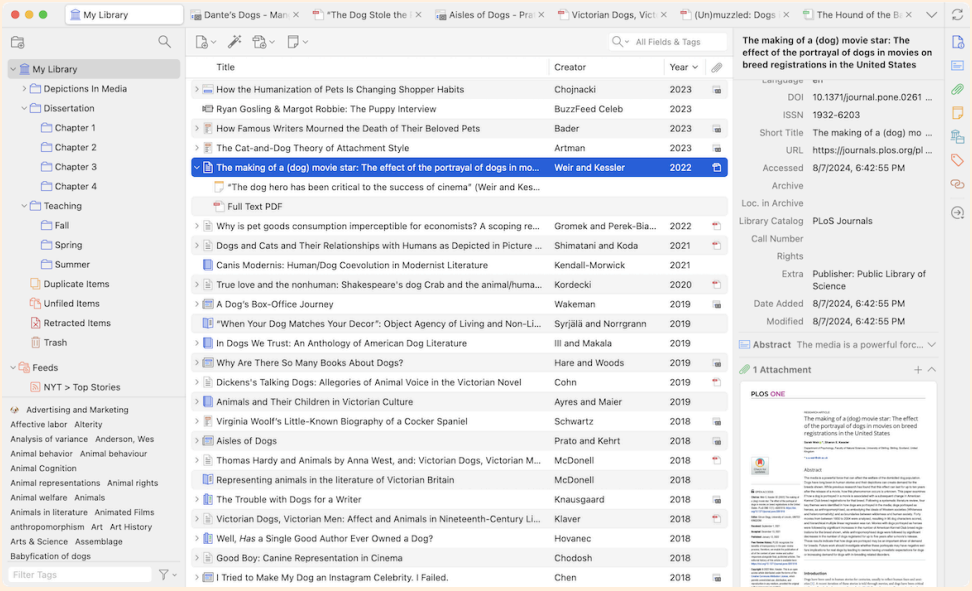
zotero

(2006)

Research, organise and share — a free tool that helps collect, manage, and cite research sources.



Zotero allows students, researchers, and scholars to save references, organise them, and collaborate seamlessly, making academic knowledge more accessible and easier to share.

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ORBilu

(2012)

Local knowledge, global reach — Luxembourg's research made freely accessible to all.

The University of Luxembourg's institutional repository offers open access to scientific articles, conference proceedings, reports, and other research output, promoting knowledge sharing worldwide, since 2012.

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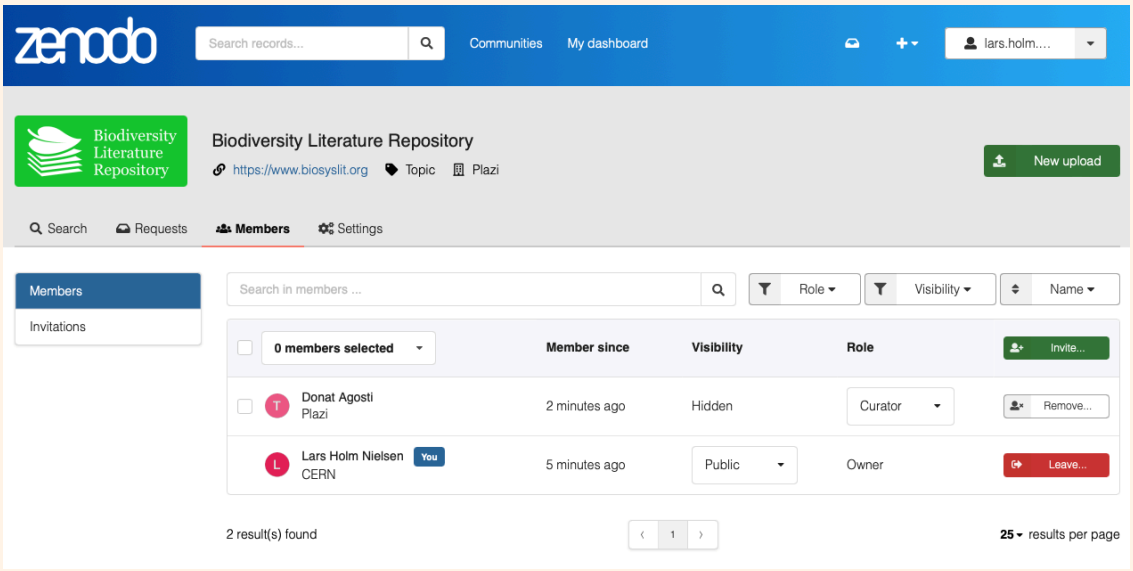
zenodo

(2013)

No paywalls, no borders — a global space to share and preserve research outputs.



Developed by CERN and OpenAire, Zenodo allows researchers to openly share publications, datasets, and software for long-term access.

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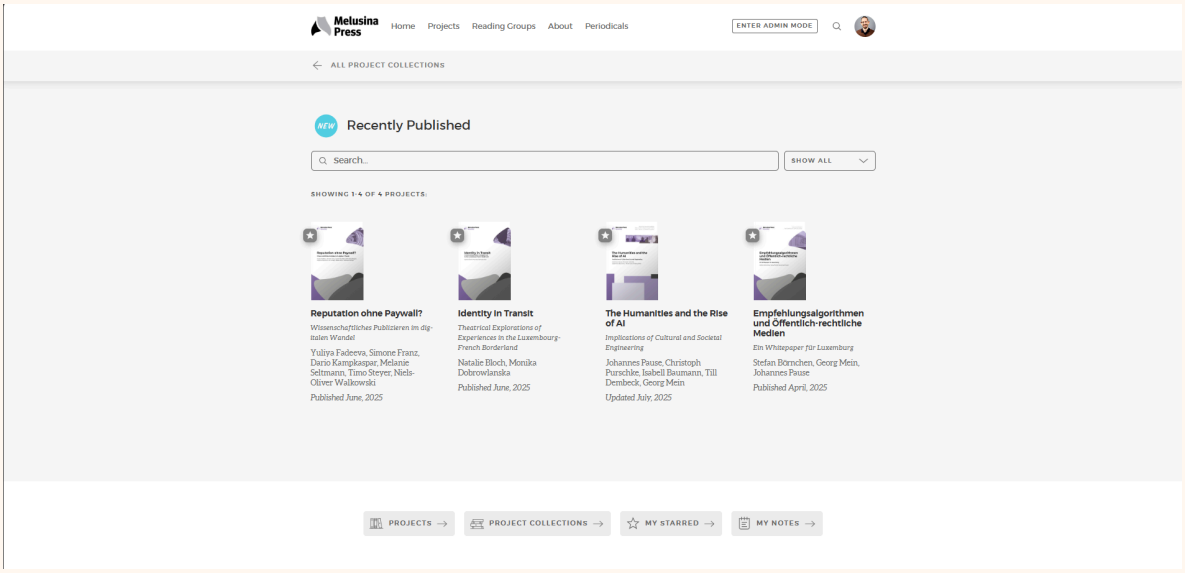
Melusina Press

(2019)

Publishing without walls — an open-access academic press born in Luxembourg.



Melusina Press promotes innovative, interdisciplinary, and digital-first publishing. By offering free access to books and research outputs, it supports a more open and collaborative academic culture.

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COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Technology (2020)

Collaboration at full speed — rapid sharing of data made breakthrough vaccines possible.

Open collaboration and early publication of research enabled the fast development of mRNA Covid-19 vaccines, protecting millions during the pandemic.

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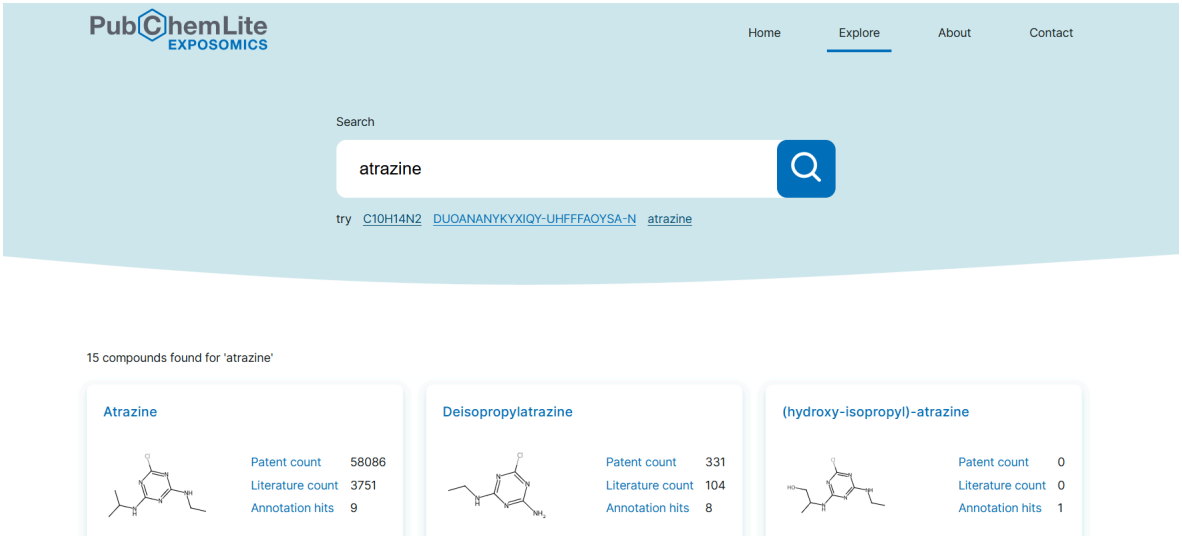
PubChemLite EXPOSOMICS

(2020s)

Chemistry at your fingertips — simplified access to chemical data for everyone.



PubChemLite is a global open access curated subset of PubChem hosted by University of Luxembourg, designed to simplify chemical screening by focusing on key categories from authoritative sources. It condenses over 100 million compounds into a compact, interpretable collection for efficient non-target analysis.

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Whether you're:

exploring quantum physics, rediscovering Shakespeare, or diving into digital frontiers, your library is the bridge between centuries of curiosity and tomorrow’s breakthroughs.

The next chapter begins with you.