# OPEN KNOWLEDGE FOR THE SOCIAL SECTOR

## The Use of Open Repositories
Improving shareability

Open repositories, like IssueLab, allow for free and open access to publications and data—not just by human beings accessing websites but also by machines that can mine and share data between repositories. This interoperability, where one repository can harvest data from another, opens the door to exchanging and sharing knowledge across a distributed system of entry points that we as funders and producers may not even know about.

Sharing knowledge products through an open repository can be done in a variety of ways. If your website currently includes a publications section, consider using an open repository to serve up this content. There are a number of off-the-shelf software packages and cloud-based services, like IssueLab, that can handle this task. Here are a few other ideas for your consideration.

1. Coordinate with IssueLab and use our open access platform to store, collect, and share knowledge products. This can also include a customized feed of titles and other metadata back to your foundation's website, the implementation of a searchable, browseable Knowledge Center on your website, and possible tie-ins with grants management software.

2. Identify additional open repositories where your foundation and grantees can share knowledge products, either by coordinating with repository owners directly, or setting up a data share through IssueLab.

3. Require that organizations you fund to build repositories (or clearinghouses, or "knowledge hubs") use an open access protocol so that the work shared through their websites can be easily harvested and repurposed elsewhere. This can be accomplished by ensuring that, for example, metadata is freely accessible to machines via an Application Programming Interface (API) that supplies data in a popular data format such as XML or JSON. Another approach could be to set up a data provider service that follows the Open Archives Initiative - Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH) protocol (see https://www.openarchives.org/pmh/).


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