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► **To cite this version:**

Raphaël Tournoy, Céline Barthonnat, Marion Gageot, Agnès Magron. Episciences: Diamond Open Access Overlay Journals. Global Summit on Diamond Open Access, Oct 2023, Toluca, Mexico. 2023. hal-04326029

HAL Id: hal-04326029

<https://hal.science/hal-04326029>

Submitted on 6 Dec 2023

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Episciences: Diamond Open Access Overlay Journals

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Episciences is a complete platform for editing and publishing scientific overlay journals covering all disciplines. Created by the Center for Direct Scientific Communication (CCSD) in 2013, Episciences has been publishing journals using the diamond open access model since the beginning. Episciences is available in the OpenAIRE catalogue of services and the EOSC Marketplace.

Overlay journals are scholarly publications that host their content on open repositories. Episciences supports arXiv, HAL, Zenodo, and forthcoming bioRxiv and medRxiv for preprints. It also extends the document types to include software and datasets (Software Heritage, Dataverse).

Episciences in a nutshell

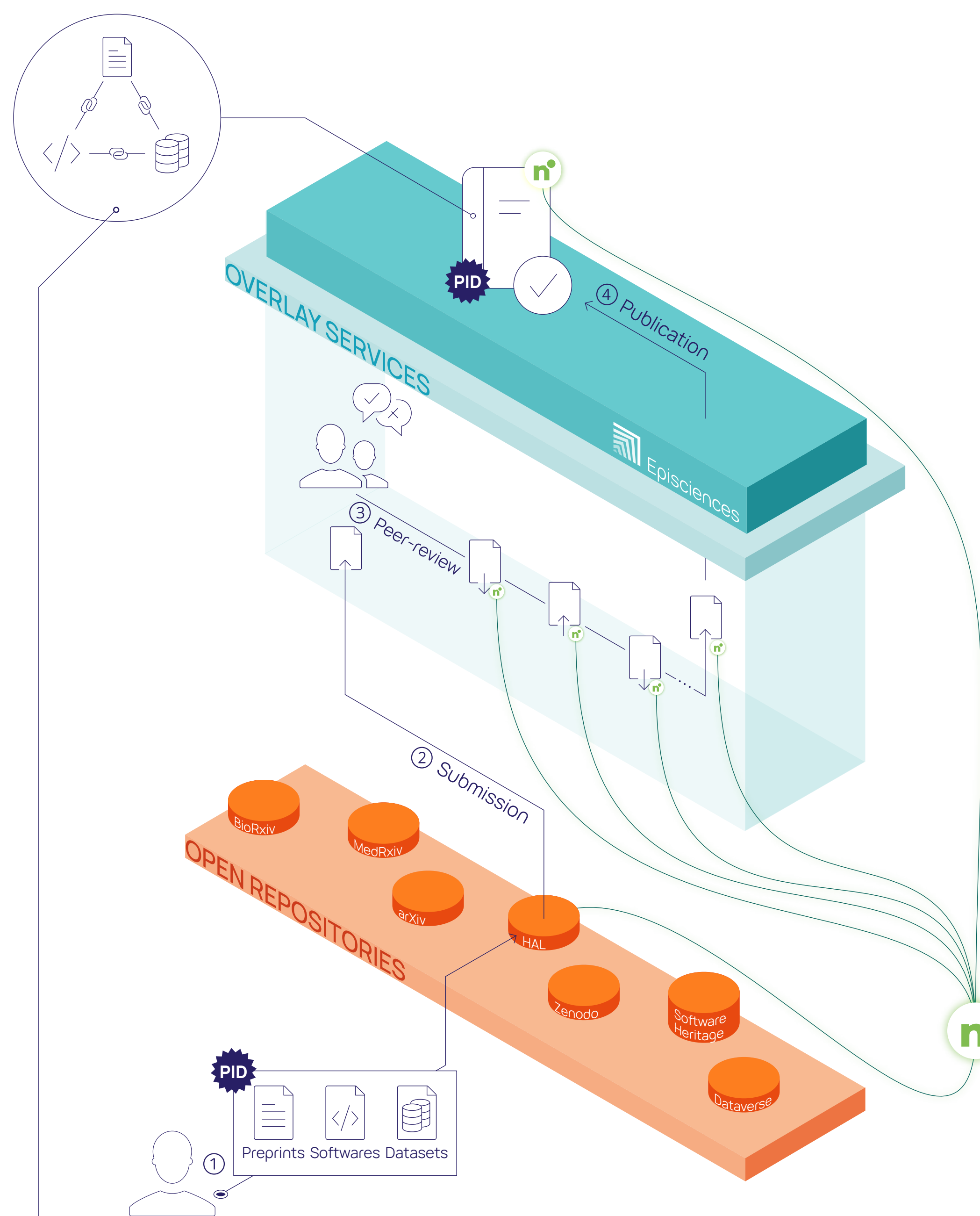
Over	12,000	submitted articles
		including
30 journals	6,000	published articles

Editorial support and training

Episciences offers global assistance: daily support, bug reporting service via GitHub, editorial advice on Open Access publishing requirements, help with grant applications, database indexing (DOAJ, OpenAIRE, DBLP, zbMATH Open, etc.)

Workflow

- ① The publication process of overlay journals involves that the documents to be peer-reviewed are already made available by the authors in an open repository/infrastructure with a Persistent Identifier (PID).
- ② The PID is then used by the author to initiate a new submission on an overlay journal. The metadata from the open infrastructure is automatically retrieved using the OAI-PMH protocol and other API.
- ③ The editorial board of the journal will invite reviewers for a single blind or open peer review of the submission. Several rounds of peer review may take place, leading to several updated submissions to the open repository and journal.
- ④ At the end of the process, if the article is accepted and published by the journal, the Episciences platform will propose metadata updates on the source repository. For instance to add the PID (DOI) of the article, the journal name and references—adding value to the original document.



notify COAR Episciences & HAL use case

HAL and Episciences have implemented the COAR Notify protocol, enabling a streamline communication between the open repository and the overlay journal service. The process involves a notification system between the two open platforms.

Episciences → HAL

Episciences uses the protocol to announce to HAL that a peer-reviewed preprint has been published by a journal. Once the notification from the journal has been processed by HAL, the preprint on the repository is updated with the metadata from Episciences.

HAL → Episciences

HAL uses the protocol to announce to Episciences that an author wants to submit a preprint to an overlay journal for peer-review and publication. At the end of the preprint submission on HAL, the author selects an overlay journal. The notification sent from HAL to the journal will automatically initiate a journal submission on behalf of the author.

Based on an open protocol, this implementation can be reused to connect any publishing platform to any other compatible open infrastructures, and can also be used to encourage linking publications, datasets and software codes.

Linking publications, datasets, softwares

To promote the reproducibility of science, Episciences makes it easy to link a publication with a dataset and a software. For datasets, this is possible for any data repository that provides a PID. For source codes, it relies on the service provided by Software Heritage, an open infrastructure for archiving and referencing software, which provides Software Heritage Persistent Identifier (SWHID).



HALOWIN project funded with support from the French National Fund for Open Science



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