

Liberté Égalité Fraternité

scanR - Explore public data on French research and innovation

https://scanr.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr

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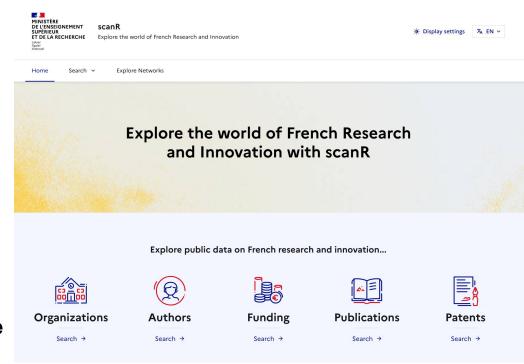
Providing an open portal and service to the higher education and research community in France

The web application scanR is a **research portal**

designed to help understand the French research and innovation ecosystem

It gathers open information around 5 main objects: **structures**, **authors**, **public funding** from calls for projects, research **publications** and **patents**

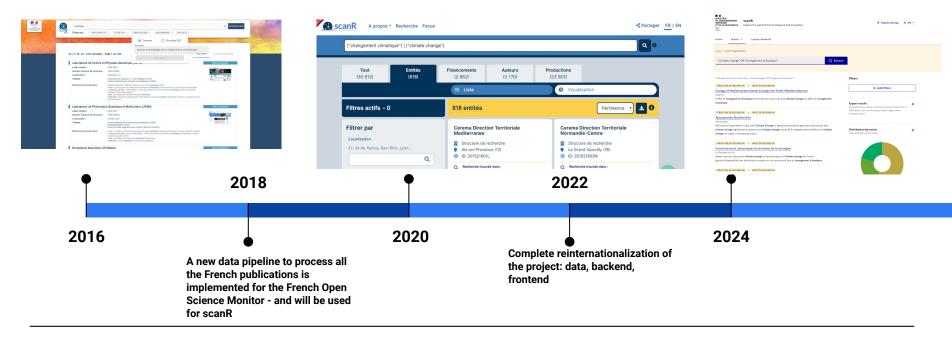
Launched in 2016, scanR adopts an open approach: method, data, source code, API ⇒ the services and data provided can be used in other contexts by many other players in the ecosystem.





The vision behind scanR remains the same but the service keeps evolving

Since 2016, the vision behind scanR remains the same offering an open service to provide a 360° view of research and innovation in france





scanR the French research portal

This tool has several facets:

- the **data** itself, which aggregates, cross-references and standardizes numerous sources
- Let the **User Interface** (website) which facilitates data exploration via a search engine and dataviz
- 💬 fast, high-performance **infrastructure** providing technical APIs for a variety of use cases
- the **community of users** that also provide feedback



Producing rich and linked metadata is the hidden part of the iceberg



PID are key for each of the 5 types of objects are indexed institutions/labs, authors, publications, patents, funding



Many global sources are collected / harvested. Web scraping, PDF mining, Large dumps, APIs etc ...

Merging information (deduplication, enrichment of complementary information between sources)



The links between the objects (e.g authors to publications and affiliations) generally needs to be computed (AI, heuristics ...). Errors can be made.



Other enrichment can bring added values Language detection, topics, classification, open access/licence, dataset and software use ...

Again some Al used, and again errors can be made.



The User interface is the tip of the iceberg



The first use case for scanR (from 2016) is the search engine

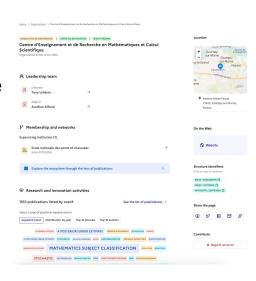
- ⇒ search interface to find an object
- ⇒ full description page of the object

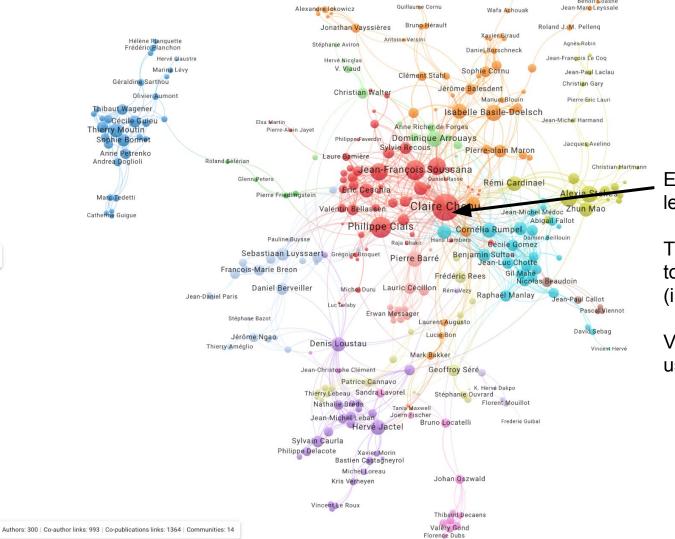


A new use case: mapping research communities to give more insights than simple flat statistics (top authors, top keywords ...)?

The idea is to give insights about the underlying structure of the search results:

- detecting "groups" or clusters
- describing those groups
- analysing how those groups relate to each other





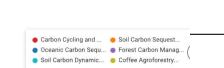
Query: carbon AND

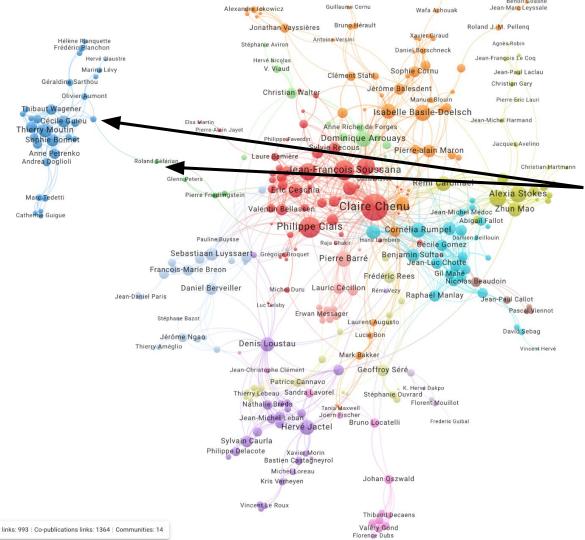
sequestration

Each node is an author of at least 1 publication in the corpus

The size of the node is relative to the number of publications (in the corpus)

VosViewer (from CWTS) is used to visualize the network

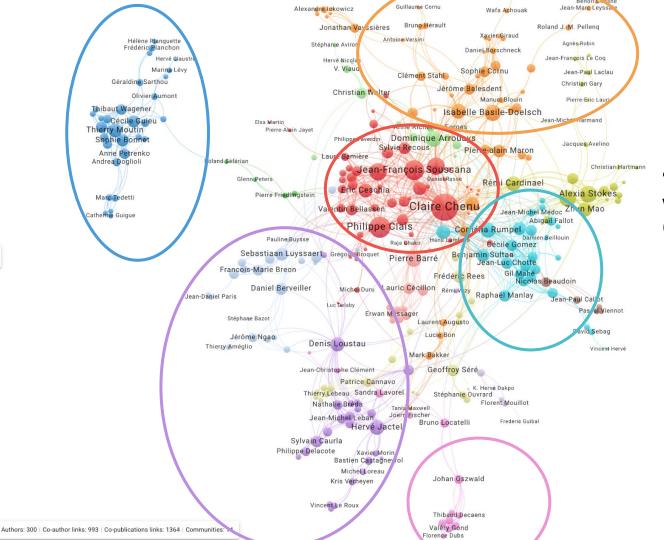




Query: carbon AND sequestration

Two nodes are linked if they co-appear in the publication (co-author)

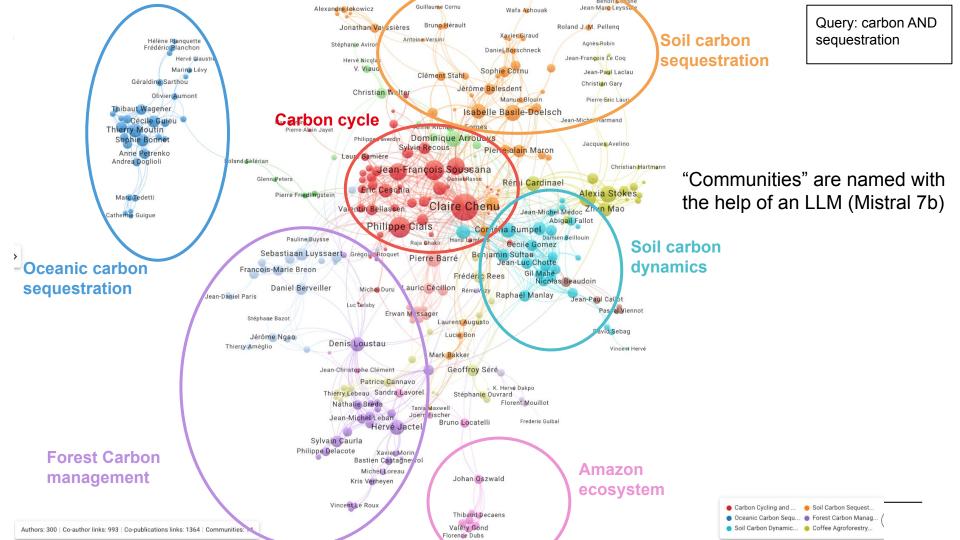




Query: carbon AND sequestration

"Communities" are detected with the Louvain algorithm (modularity optimization)







Query: carbon AND sequestration

"Communities" are described with a few metrics:

main nodes, keywords, number of publications, number of citations ...

All the results can be extracted to Excel for further analysis / merge with other datasource etc...

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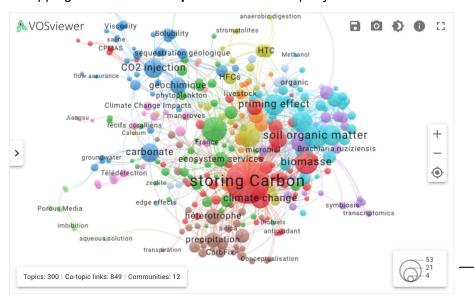
A generic way of mapping data

Query: carbon AND sequestration

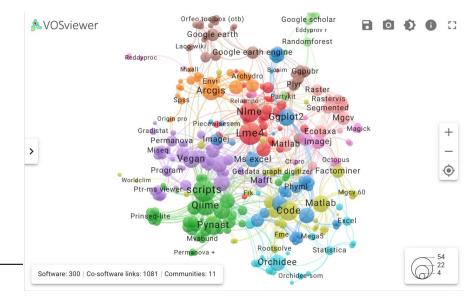
The same way of representing data can be applied to **topics**, **laboratories**, **countries**, **fundings**, **software** ...

Two nodes are linked if they co-appear in a publication from the corpus

Mapping the network of topics for the same query



Mapping the network of **software** for the same query





How does it work at scale?

Network analysis on very large corpus tend to be very computationally consuming as the number of nodes and edges increase.

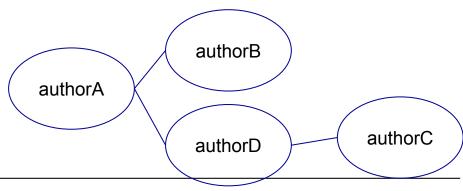
As a web application, scanR has to keep the user waiting time reduced to a few seconds maximum.

scanR does not build the network not from the corpus itself: it would need to loop through all the publications one by one

Instead, it builds the network from the list of the top pairs of entities, with an Elaticsearch

aggregation

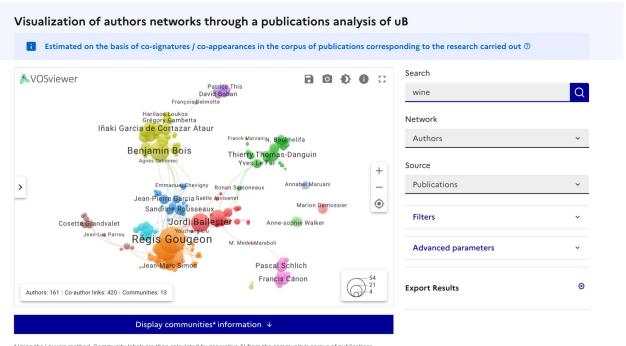
e.g Top co-authors authorA - authorB authorA - authorD authorC - authorD





From a national to a local tool

The same tool can be deployed at an institutional level: only the publications from the institution are analyzed (example with uB - university of Burgundy)



^{*}Using the Louvain method. Community labels are then calculated by generative AI from the community's corpus of publications



Infrastructure on cloud gives the flexibility we need

Public cloud infrastructure (OVH) hosts:

- the data processing pipelines
- the elasticsearch indices
- and the UI application

Several clusters part of a managed Kubernetes service

Using a cloud provider gives us access to **flexible resources** and easier deployment of microservices (**docker**)

We use open source (like the VosViewer!) and produce open source: all our source repositories are public on github



User feedback is a valuable source of information

Users are encouraged to send feedback to improve and correct data.

A dedicated webapp for the feedback management has been implemented.

Some feedback have pattern, like correcting affiliations. We develop a dedicated app, the works-magnet to collect this information.

https://works-magnet.dataesr.ovh





Works-magnet to improve affiliations metadata

You can search

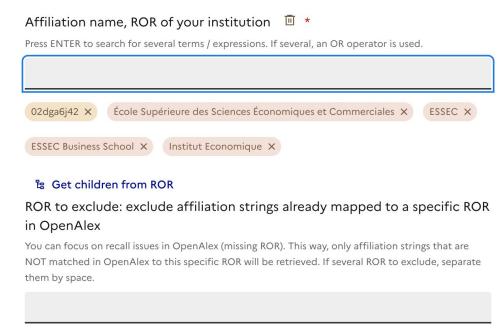
- by string
- by ROR id

You can add ROR children

You can exclude ROR id

Use cases

- I want to make sure all the publications from ESSEC have the ROR https://ror.org/02dga6j42
- I want to make sure all the publication with the ROR https://ror.org/02dga6j42 are from the ESSEC institution





Error detection within the works-magnet

OpenAlex Raw affiliation	ROR computed by OpenAlex $\uparrow\downarrow$	Click to improve I edit RORs	Modified by user? $\uparrow\downarrow$	Works ↓೬
essec business school department of accounting and management control [source: OpenAlex]	https://ror.org/02dga6j42 [2] (École Supérieure des Sciences Économiques et Commerciales - FR)	• 02dga6j42	0	• W4386014955 [2] • 10.2139/ssrn.45460 [2] • W4366396136 [2] • 10.2139/ssrn.44116 [2]
essec higher school of economic and commercial sciences university of douala [source: OpenAlex]	ROR https://ror.org/02dqa6j42 [2] (École Supérieure des Sciences Économiques et Commerciales - FR) ROR https://ror.org/02zr5jr81 [2] (University of Douala - CM)	02dga6j4202zr5jr81	0	• W4385801793 [2] • 10.47191/ijmra/v6 [2] • W4385777206 [2] • 10.5281/zenodo.823 [2]
essec higher school of economic and commercial sciences university of douala [source: OpenAlex]	https://ror.org/02dga6j42 [2] (École Supérieure des Sciences Économiques et Commerciales - FR) ROR https://ror.org/02zr5jr81 [2] (University of Douala - CM)	02dga6j4202zr5jr81	0	• W4385801793 [2] • 10.47191/ijmra/v6 [2] • W4385777206 [2] • 10.5281/zenodo.823 [2]



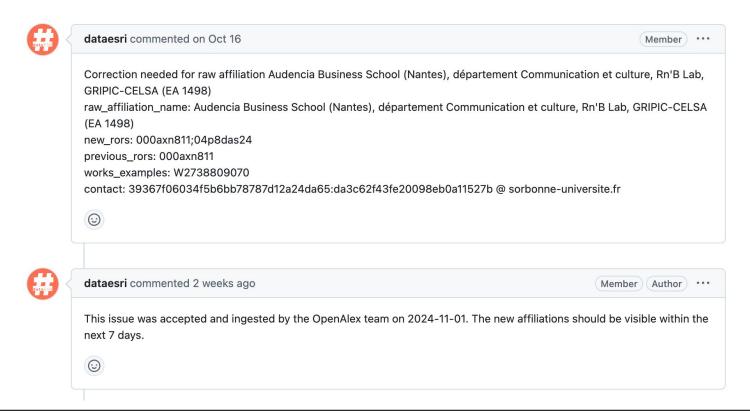
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essec higher school of economic and commercial sciences university of douala [source: OpenAlex]	ROR https://ror.org/02dga6j42 t2 (École Supérieure des Sciences Économiques et Commerciales - FR) ROR https://ror.org/02zr5jr81 t2 (University of Douala - CM)	• 02dga6j42 • 02zr5jr81	0		• W4385801793 [2] • 10.47191/ijmra/v6 [2] • W4385777206 [2] • 10.5281/zenodo.823 [2]
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Département Ingénierie et science des données



7000+ feedback for now Monthly ingestion by OpenAlex





scanR usage

- around 50,000 monthly visits
- API used by research institutions and companies
 - finding partners
 - expert finding
 - identifying risk of conflict of interests
 - marketing targeting
 - ...



Key take aways (1 / 3)

a) No use of proprietary sources brings benefits!

- building a national research portal with a top down approach (no CRIS systems) without any proprietary data is possible (IA, cloud computing ...)
- work on the data quality
- that allows to openly share the results (indicators, code, data) but also services can be built on top of the resulting data and API



Key take aways (2 / 3)

b) An iterative process is needed to improve and extend the results

- scanR has been built step by step, layer after layer since 2016
- The ML models constructions are themselves iteratives processes
- Exploring hidden things is complicated, and the development of PID policy or implementation enables a more accurate description



Key take aways (3 / 3)

c) Collaborations at different scales are key

scanR harvests, creates and provides open data and open services. This fosters collaborations at many scales.

For example, large institutions use scanR services in their own infrastructure, which incites large actors (funders for example) to make their data open so that it can be disseminated, creating a virtuous circle around data enrichment and circulation.

scanR also uses existing large open infrastructures, especially for PID, like Crossref, RoR, ORCID and OpenAlex but also French infrastructures like idref and HAL. scanR uses shared data, but also code, like the online VOSviewer developed by the CWTS.

Smaller collaborations like user feedback are also key to building trust and higher quality metadata.



Contact & questions

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