

Public comment: Proposed POSI 2.0 revisions

Overview

Document for Review: Proposed POSI 2.0 revisions for public comment

The [POSI \(Principles of Open Scholarly Infrastructure\)](#) adopters group provided feedback on possible revisions to the current principles. Some of the potential changes are substantial. Broader community feedback would also be useful. We would like to hear from organizations that have considered POSI but have not adopted it, and any other people or organizations with thoughts about POSI and how to improve it. This document has been drafted based on the feedback gathered to date and is intended to be the basis of getting community feedback on the proposed changes and suggestions for other changes. The POSI adopters group will review the feedback and decide on and draft a revised set of principles. Taking this approach will ensure that the principles effectively address the needs and concerns of the adopters—those with practical experience in following the principles— and the broader scholarly community.

Please [refer to the website for the current 1.1 version of POSI](#).

Please read this document and then [reply via the survey form](#) by March 5, 2025. Thank you.

Contents

Public comment: Proposed POSI 2.0 revisions	1
Overview	1
Contents	2
Items to be considered for revision to the principles	2
1. Scope and Application to Types of Organizations	2
2. Add a distinct principle on Transparent Operations to distinguish it from Transparent Governance, and clarify that transparent governance involves openly providing documents and policies	3
3. Clarify and strengthen the Principle of the Living Will	4
4. Formal Incentives to Fulfill Mission and Wind Down	4
5. Expanding the Concept of Resources in the Sustainability Section to Include Volunteers	5
6. Clarify “Time-Limited Funds are Used Only for Time-Limited Activities” to account for the length of time that it can take to reach sustainability	5
7. “Goal to Create Financial Reserves” should call for there to be a policy for the level of reserves	6
8. Addition of Separate Item on Interoperability and Open Standards Under ‘Insurance’	6
9. Clarify “Open data (within constraints of privacy laws)” to include security as well as privacy laws.	7
10. Clarify “Available Data” to call for data to be deposited with a 3rd party	7

Items to be considered for revision to the principles

1. Scope and Application to Types of Organizations

Proposed Change/Modification:

- Review the principles to ensure they are appropriately scoped and applicable to different types of organizations (e.g. government agencies, a department that is part of a larger organization) and initiatives and provide guidance on how organizations and initiatives can indicate when certain principles don’t apply and how this affects the self-assessment.

Notes:

- Consider whether the principles are general enough to be relevant for a range of different types of organizations and initiatives (e.g. volunteer supported services, services that are part of a larger organization, government agencies, or standards organizations).

Community feedback section: *Please provide your perspective on how the principles might better reflect the diverse nature of open infrastructure organizations.*

2. Add a distinct principle on Transparent Operations to distinguish it from Transparent Governance, and clarify that transparent governance involves openly providing documents and policies

Proposed Change/Modification:

- Add a distinct principle about transparent operations to distinguish it from transparent governance. Define what is meant by transparent operations.
- Clarify that transparent governance includes making governing documents and policies open available.

Notes:

- Transparent governance refers to the openness in the decision-making processes, governance structure, selecting representatives for governance and the mechanisms of how decisions are made. For example, this could include making governance documents (e.g. bylaws, articles of incorporation, mission statements, board meeting summaries and approved motions), and policies and procedures (e.g. election processes) openly available.
- Transparent operations could encompass aspects like making detailed financials, fees, business models, operating policies and procedures, and strategic and product roadmaps openly available. .
- Consider how the principle can help demonstrate organizational accountability and openness in day-to-day operations.

Community feedback section: *Please provide any feedback or additional suggestions related to the inclusion of a new principle for transparent operations as a separate principle under the "Sustainability" section.*

3. Clarify and strengthen the Principle of the Living Will

Proposed Change/Modification:

- Clarify this principle so that it applies not just when an organization is wound down but to any transfer of assets, data and services to another organization whether planned or not.
- Clarify this principle to encourage organizations to constrain the types of successor organizations they are able to transfer operations and assets to, or to highlight how these restrictions apply to the type of legal entity they are.
- Strengthen this principle with more detail about how successor organizations should be defined and whether dissolution and liquidation clauses are necessary.

- Clarify this principle by providing more details of what a “Living Will” should include and examples of existing plans.

Notes:

- This principle aims to promote transparency and preparedness, ensuring stakeholders are aware of the conditions that would lead to an organization’s closure and how assets would be managed.
- A comment from the feedback on the 1.1 revision of the principles suggested the principles include a dissolution and liquidation clause similar to: "In case of liquidation, the assets can only be distributed to another non-profit entity without private shareholders, who have a similar dissolution and liquidation clause."
- There are different ways this principle can be met. Certain types of organizations will be subject to laws requiring that assets be dispersed to another non-profit with a similar mission. However, a clear statement on dissolution and liquidation in bylaws, consistent with the governing law of an organization, would be useful.

Community feedback section: *What are your thoughts on the proposed revisions to the Living Will principle? What should this be standardized across all applicable POSI organizations?*

4. Formal Incentives to Fulfill Mission and Wind Down

Proposed Change/Modification:

- Revise this principle to focus on organizations and initiatives regularly reviewing their value to the community to assess if they are still necessary.
- Remove the reference to “direct incentives to deliver on the mission and wind down”.

Notes:

- There is some skepticism about the practicality of this principle, as it’s unclear what formal incentives would encourage an organization to cease operations voluntarily. Many adopters have interpreted this as the need to regularly review community demand for their services and committing to not “outstay their welcome” should demand no longer exist..
- Feedback with any examples of formal or direct incentives for an organization to fulfill its mission and wind down is welcome..

Community feedback section: *Are there any known examples of organizations that have implemented formal incentives to wind down? Is the proposed change reasonable?*

5. Expanding the Concept of Resources in the Sustainability Section to Include Volunteers

Proposed Change/Modification:

- Add a separate principle to address volunteer (and other in-kind) resources, not just financial resources.

Notes:

- For organizations that rely heavily on volunteers, these individuals are a critical resource that should be recognized in sustainability planning.
- Acknowledging volunteers as a key resource emphasizes the importance of maintaining and supporting this workforce as part of the organization's long-term viability.

Community feedback section: *Do you agree with adding a separate principle in the sustainability section to include consideration of volunteers as a key resource? What additional considerations should be included to address the role of volunteers?*

6. Clarify “Time-Limited Funds are Used Only for Time-Limited Activities” to account for the length of time that it can take to reach sustainability

Proposed Change/Modification:

- Clarify the principle, or add information to the FAQ, to clarify that it can take a long time to reach financial sustainability and that time-limited funds could be used to build capacity or implement a sustainability model.

Notes:

- There are multiple paths to financial sustainability and time-limited funds like grants can be used for building capacity to reach sustainability and that this process can take a long time.

Community feedback section: *Do you agree with the suggested clarification and would it be better as a revision of the principle or an FAQ?*

7. “Goal to Create Financial Reserves” should call for there to be a policy for the level of reserves

Proposed Change/Modification:

- Clarify the principle to call for a policy on the level of financial reserves with the actual level of reserves determined by the organisation's or initiative's governing body .

Notes:

- Organizations, initiatives and services vary greatly in their size and scope and policies on financial reserves should reflect this.
- Specifying a fixed amount for reserves is too inflexible.

Community feedback section: *Do you agree with the suggested clarification?*

8. Addition of Separate Item on Interoperability and Open Standards Under 'Insurance'

Proposed Change/Modification:

- Add a separate principle addressing interoperability and open standards (both de facto and formal) within the "Insurance" section.

Notes:

- Interoperability and open standards are critical for ensuring that various scholarly systems and organizations can work together seamlessly. This addition would formalize the expectation that organizations maintain or work towards interoperability.
- This principle needs to recognize that "interoperability" can be a vague term so it's important to provide some clarity about what it means in the POSI context.
- This principle could also emphasize the importance of adhering to community standards (both de facto and formal) to ensure compatibility and integration with other open infrastructures.

Community feedback section: *Please provide any feedback or additional suggestions related to the inclusion of interoperability and standards as a separate principle under the "Insurance" section.*

9. Clarify "Open data (within constraints of privacy laws)" to include security as well as privacy laws.

Proposed Change/Modification:

- Clarify the principle to include security issues as well as privacy.

- Call for organizations to have a policy on what happens to private data in the case of a transfer to another organization.

Community feedback section: *Do you agree with the suggested clarification?*

10. Clarify “Available Data” to call for data to be deposited with a 3rd party

Proposed Change/Modification:

- Clarify the principle to include a call for data to be archived with a 3rd party.

Notes:

- Data should be deposited with a third party to ensure its availability if the original organization fails or its sustainability is in doubt.

Community feedback section: *Do you agree with the suggested clarification?*