



# Open Life Science Publication Database (OLSPub)

Information event on 12th of June 2025



## Framework

- Changes in research infrastructures
- PubMed
- Alternatives to PubMed
- Role of ZB MED

## Project proposal

- Key data
- Objectives
- Work packages

## Next steps

## Conclusion

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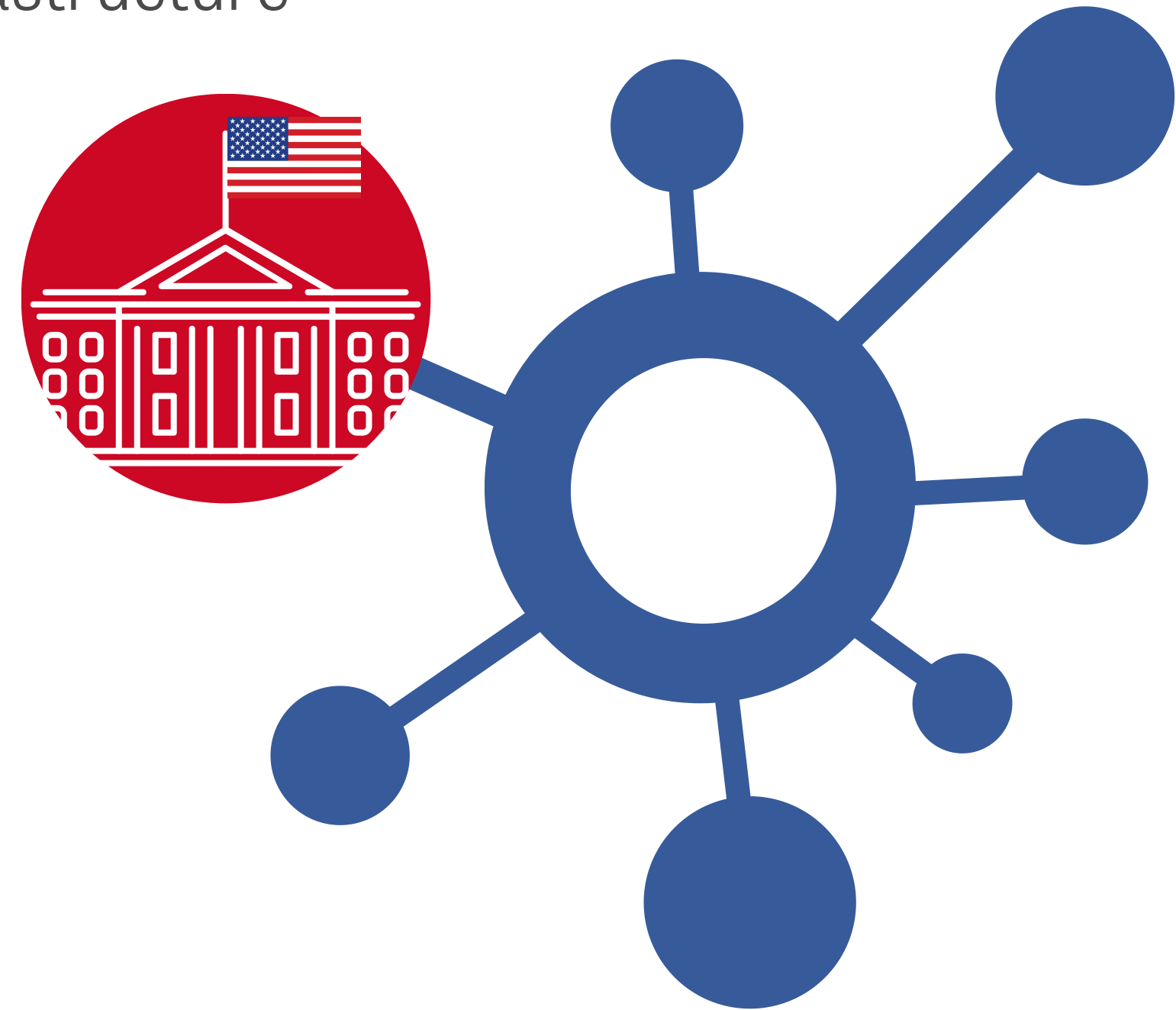
I know of some colleagues  
who go to PubMed first thing every morning  
to check whether important keywords are still available.  
Keywords such as gender studies, bias, women, diversity  
and inclusion could  
be on the index.

Siw Waffenschmidt, [Source](#)

# Framework: Changes in research infrastructures

From a research infrastructure shaped by globalisation to a sovereign, resilient and global research infrastructure

- ▶ Budget cuts for research and libraries in various countries
- ▶ Suspension of US research activities on topics such as diversity
- ▶ Loss of contact with researchers from the USA
- ▶ Blocking access to US databases for individual countries
- ▶ ...



- ▶ Published by: National Library of Medicine, USA
- ▶ Highly used database for life sciences:
  - 10 million search queries per day
  - Contents: over 30 million bibliographic references from medicine, health, biology and much more
  - Core component: MEDLINE database with article data from over 5,200 journal titles
- ▶ Intensive reuse for other offerings such as EuropePMC, Open Alex, and many more.
- ▶ Major concerns about restrictions on PubMed in the community



# Framework: Alternatives to PubMed

▶ EuropePMC (EMBL-EBI) / OpenAlex (OurResearch)

- based on PubMed data



▶ Embase, Scopus (Elsevier B.V.) / Web of Science (Clarivate)

- are not free of charge



Embase



Scopus®



WEB OF SCIENCE™

▶ LIVIVO (ZB MED)

- based on PubMed data



None of the databases are open source, which means their existence depends on financial supporters.

# Framework: Role and expertise of ZB MED ([www.zbmed.de](http://www.zbmed.de))

Discovery System /  
Data Science



Translation of German MeSH



Networking in: data science / Nation research  
infrastructure / in the publishing environment



02

Experience with PubMed data

PubMed

04

Life Sciences



06

Publicly funded /  
Open Source



# Project proposal: key data

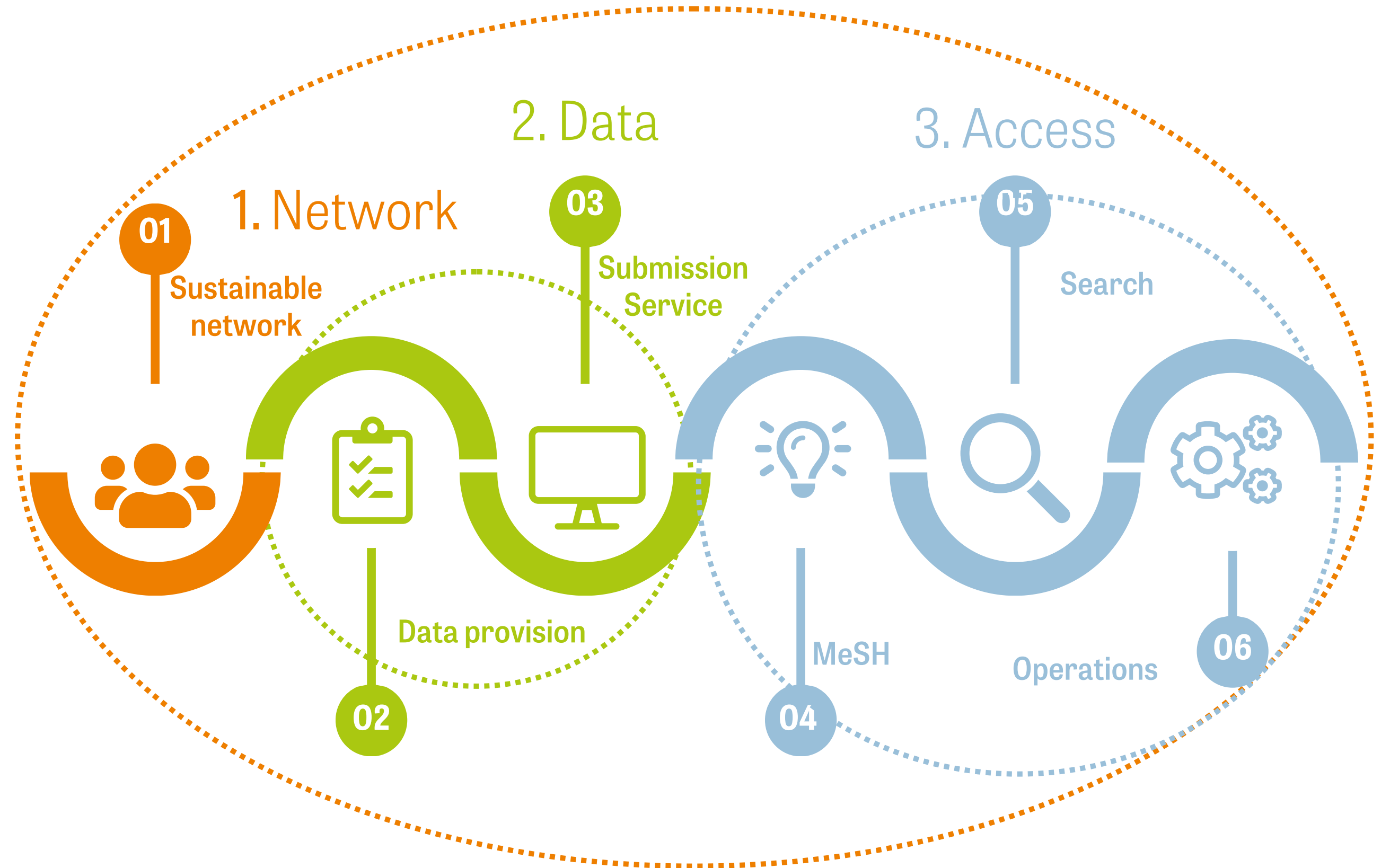
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- ▶ 18-month term
- ▶ **Goal: Development of a basic version of a PubMed alternative, including data consolidation**
- ▶ Fully open source and open data (with restrictions on metadata where applicable)
- ▶ Fully transparent, including **publication of the proposal**  
**<https://zenodo.org/records/15533303>**
- ▶ Submission of the English-language application to the DFG at 28th of May 2025
- ▶ Start communication BEFORE submitting the project application in consultation with the DFG in order to
  - alleviate concerns about researchers having less time and space.
  - find other initiatives, if necessary.
  - get started quickly.



# Project proposal: work packages

- ▶ Community collaboration as the most important work package
- ▶ Data as the central core of the alternative to PubMed
- ▶ Foundations laid for MeSH annotation
- ▶ Search function based on PubMed search
- ▶ Infrastructure enabled by de.NBI



# Next steps: Short to mid-term

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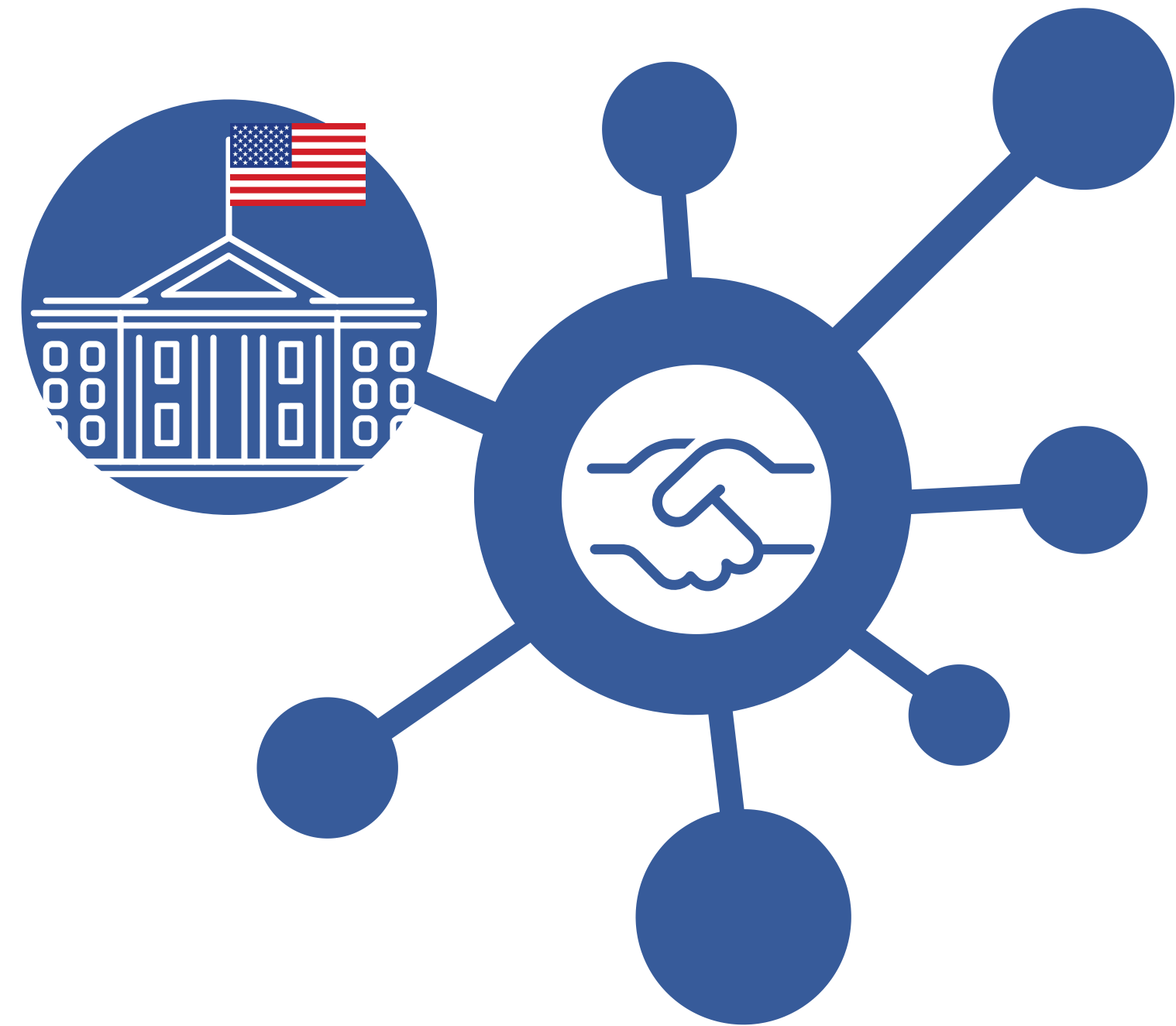
- ▶ Communicating the importance of a resilient, open research infrastructure in the life sciences to the community, publishers and policymakers
- ▶ **Monitoring of possible changes in PubMed and/or MeSH**

## Current information at:

- ▶ <https://www.zbmed.de/en/forschen/laufende-projekte/olspub>
- ▶ Mailing list: [https://www.listserv.dfn.de/sympa/info/project\\_olspub](https://www.listserv.dfn.de/sympa/info/project_olspub)

# Next steps: Long term

- ▶ If PubMed remains (hopefully), the foundation that has been laid could be built upon to create a life sciences database for publications in other languages (German, French, Italian), etc.
- ▶ If PubMed is restricted, OLSPub (working title) could support the NLM.

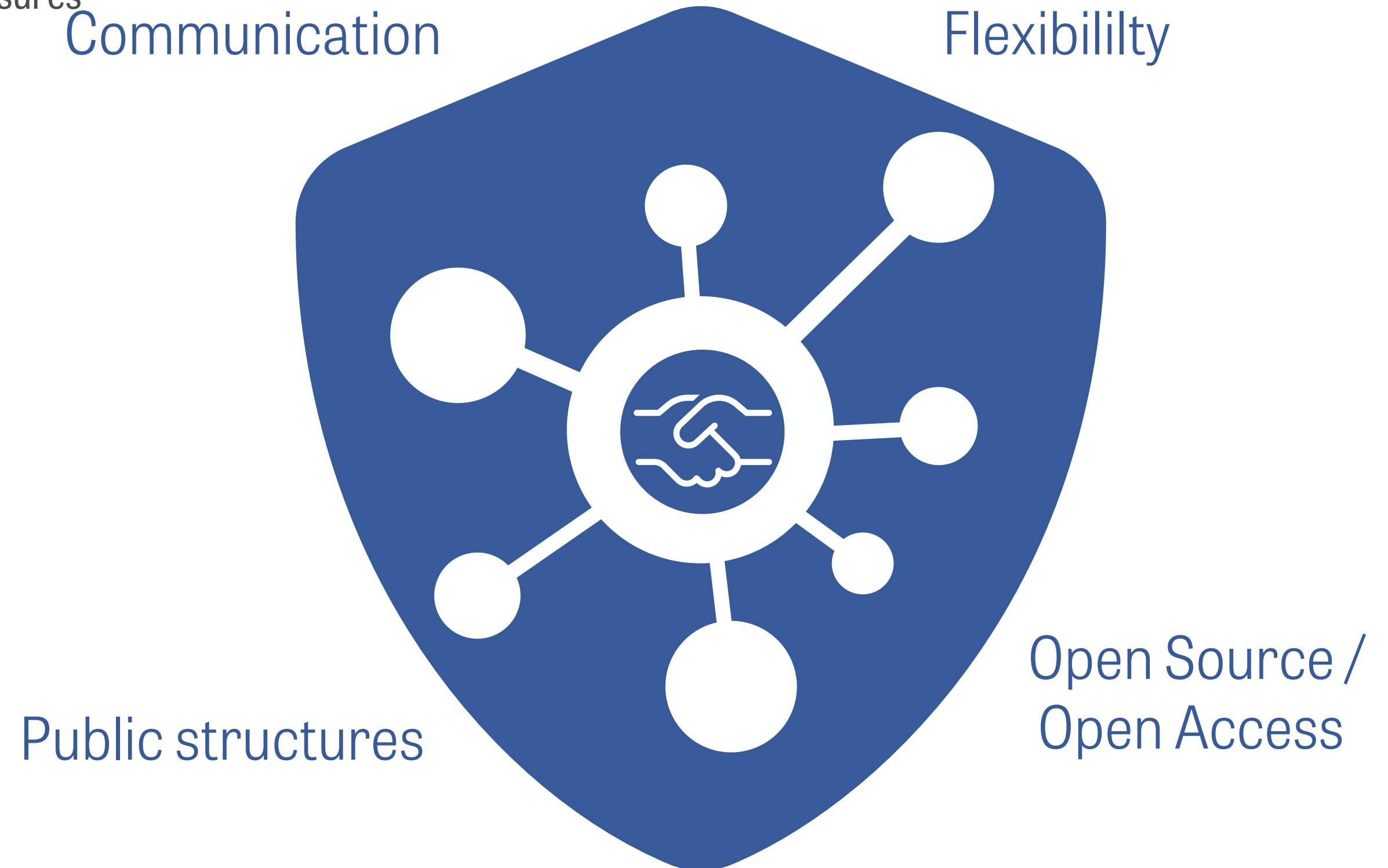


# Conclusion

- ▶ Unusual times call for unusual measures

- ▶ Resilience in research requires:

- Communication,
- Flexibility,
- Public structures AND
- Open source / Open access.





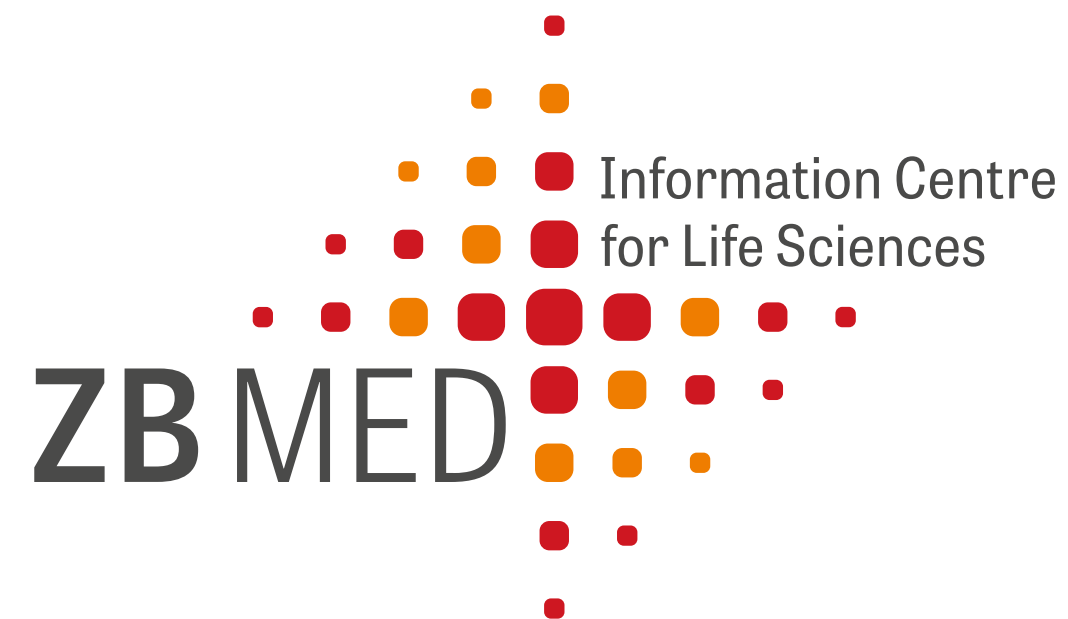
# Thank you

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