

Unlocking Openness: connecting people, data, and ideas at the University of Genoa

04 June 2026

Marcella Rognoni - Anna Maria Pastorini
Genoa University Library System

A strategic look at the Ligurian University in the global context

Genova (Genoa)

Inhabitants: 820.000

University: 1

Students: +32.000

Staff: 1200 FTE

Teachers: 1400 FTE



Liguria has a population of 1.5 million people and is one of the most densely populated regions in Italy.



Genoa is the main economic and administrative center

The University of Genoa is the only university in the entire region, but it has three additional teaching campuses located in **Imperia**, **Savona**, and **La Spezia**.

10 DATA ABOUT Genoa University



1481

date of
fondation



1

unique public
university in
Liguria



+32.000

bachelor's & master's
degree + phd
students



+130

bachelor's & master's-level
degrees



22

faculty departments



5

faculty
libraries



16

read & publish
agreement to
support Open
Access



4

campuses in 4 cities:
Genoa, Imperia, La Spezia,
Savona



+4300

professors, researchers
and fellows



+3.5 millions

2024 budget for ER subscriptions

























UniGe Library System

INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE

UniGe Library System (SBA)



Administrative & Accounting Office

- **Procurement & Payments**
Unified centralized service supporting all system libraries in the network.
- **Budget Management**
Financial planning, expenditure monitoring, and university resource allocation.



Integrated Systems & Open Science

- **ILS & Discovery**
Management of the Integrated Library System (ILS) and discovery platform.
- **E-Resources & Licensing**
Digital license administration and coordination of Transformative publisher agreements.
- **Open Science Promotion**
Fostering open access to scientific publication data and research outputs.

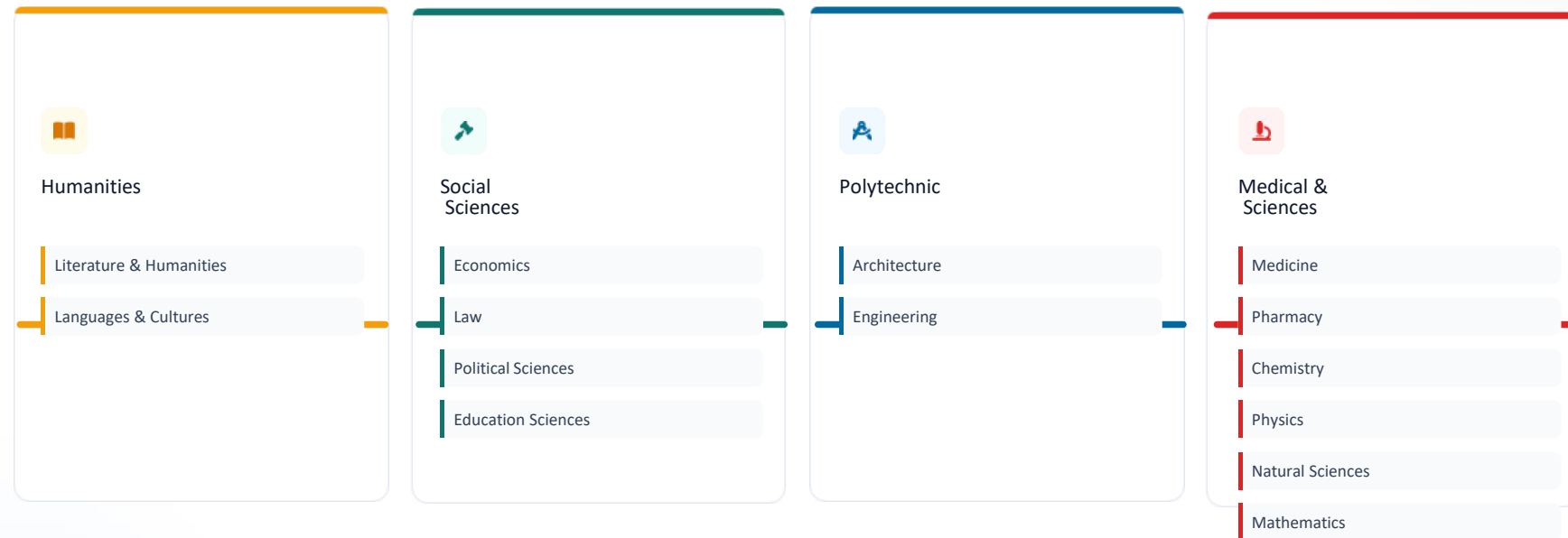


Cultural Heritage & Historical Archives

- **Preservation & Digitization**
Preventive conservation and safe-guarding of rare, antique, and valuable materials.
- **Archive Management**
Classification, sorting, cataloging, and promotion of historical archival collections.
- **Events & Public Engagement**
Curating exhibitions, academic seminars, and cultural outreach initiatives.

The 4 Central Libraries

Distribution of academic disciplines and reference library organizational hubs



Integrated Systems Platforms

Centralized infrastructure supporting resource discovery, cataloging, and academic research

LIBRARY MGMT

ILS

Alma

Unified cloud-based platform for managing print, electronic, and digital library collections dynamically.

INTERNAL SYTEMS

PUBLIC SEARCH

Discovery

Primo

"Uno per tutto" search portal enabling single-point discovery of entire bibliographic database assets.

unopertutto.unige.it

CRIS / PUBLICATIONS

IRIS

Cineca

Institutional repository capturing, preserving, and showcasing the complete scientific research output.

unige.iris.cineca.it

OPEN DATA

Dataverse

DSpace / OpenSource

Comprehensive open-access repository curated specifically for hosting and publishing research datasets.

openscience.unige.it

Cultural & Historical Archives

Dedicated digital preservation campaigns to secure rare and valuable historical assets

Institutional Objectives

-  **Preventive Preservation**
Protecting rare manuscripts, maps, and ancient literature collections.
-  **High-Resolution Digitization**
Running programmatic imaging campaigns to convert fragile texts into digital copy.
-  **Historical Archive Indexing**
Systematically ordering, describing, and metadata-tagging historical funds.

CORE PLATFORM



DOGE

Historical Digital Library

The institutional platform for accessing digital cultural heritage collections, historical documents, maps, and rare archived volumes.

Visit doge.unige.net 

PLATFORM DEEP-DIVE

DOGE: Architecture & Collections

Technical ecosystem and scope of digitized historical, periodical, and archival materials

In primo piano

Aggregazioni Fondi Periodici



La nave e la navigazione

Nave e navigazione nel Settecento europeo vengono presentati per approfondire l'evoluzione delle tecniche nautiche e delle pratiche di...



Tractatus

Rara raccolta di "Tractatus" a carattere giuridico, pubblicata a Venezia fra il 1548 e il 1550 su iniziativa di un gruppo di editori...



Atlanti

Gli Atlanti dell'Ottocento sono testimonianze fondamentali della geografia e della cultura visiva del secolo. Attraverso una selezione di...



Botanica e piante nelle collezioni dell'Università di Genova

I documenti qui presentati raccolgono alcune opere dedicate alle collezioni di botanica dell'Università di Genova evidenziando metodi di raccolta...



Software Engine

Built on the open-source **DSpace GLAM** framework, explicitly customized to index, organize, and showcase diverse cultural heritage objects and media.



Ecosystem Splicing

- ✓ Seamless live dialog & catalog sync with the ALMA ILS platform.
- ✓ Full data integration with SBN (Italian National Library System).

Digitized Materials Scope



Rare & Ancient Books



Historical Periodicals



Manuscripts



Drawings



Historical Archives

Personal Archives



Photographs & Slides

Le strutture

I cataloghi

I servizi

Le risorse

Per chi pubblica

DOGE

Contatti

News

Area riservata



ARTICOLI PIÙ RECENTI



Cerca subito in UNOPERTUTTO

28 Settembre 2024



Cos'è l'Open Science?

1 Settembre 2025



I numeri di SBA

25 Giugno 2025



Assistenza bibliografica

PROSSIMI EVENTI



Portal Navigation Architecture



Structures

Le strutture

- > **5 School Libraries**
Distributed specialized hubs serving Humanities, Social Sciences, Polytechnic, Medicine, and Basic Sciences.
- > **Campus Libraries**
Dedicated service points in regional hubs: Savona, Imperia, and La Spezia.
- > **Study Spaces & Hours**
Real-time booking schedules, nighttime reading rooms, and visitor access protocols.



Services

I servizi

- > **Borrowing & Loans**
Local circulation, renewals, and national/international ILL via NILDE or RapidILL.
- > **User Support & Training**
Information literacy courses, citation formatting, and reference services.
- > **Academic Publishing**
Dedicated guidance for open-access publications, copyright, and Cineca IRIS support.



Resources

Le risorse

- > **UnoPerTutto Discovery**
Unified search gateway indexing paper collections, licensed e-books, databases, and e-journals.
- > **Digital Lending**
Seamless off-campus access to citation indexes, scientific videos, and MLOL newsstands.
- > **Historical Archives**
Direct links to custom digital library collections (DOGE) and institutional research portals.

DISCOVERY CORE

Online Resources & Search Tools

Centralized access to digital databases, electronic journals, and online lending

 SBA · UNIVERSITY



UnoPerTutto Discovery Tool

The ultimate search gateway indexing millions of records.
Allows instant full-text retrieval of subscribed books,
scientific articles, and local manuscripts.

unopertutto.unige.it 



Database Catalog (Banche Dati)

Advanced search section classified by scientific subject.
Easy connection to major indexed citations networks
(Scopus, Web of Science, PubMed, etc.).

Filtered by Academic School



Digital Lending & E-Manuals

Integrations with MLOL (ITALIAN MediaLibraryOnLine) for
digital newsstands and Pandoracampus for online
textbooks, allowing remote study via UniGePASS proxy.

MLOL

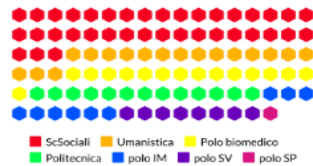
Pandoracampus

Off-Campus VPN

Seating Capacity & Library Attendance

Physical workspace capacity and total user entries across campus hubs

Gli spazi per lo studio



Scienze sociali 610
Umanistica 286
Polo biomedico 241
Politecnica 214
Polo di Imperia 150
Polo di Savona 128
Polo di La Spezia 20

1649 posti a sedere

884.460 accessi totali alle sale delle biblioteche

● 827 ore di apertura settimanale
● 47,5 ore apertura sera e sabato

più di 38.000 ore di apertura nell'anno

Study Space Metrics

1,649

Total Study Seats
Mainly in Social Sciences (610)

884,460

Total Admissions
Annual visits to study rooms

827 h

Weekly Opening Hours
Across all network libraries

>38k h

Annual Opening Hours
Comprehensive system uptime

Seating Breakdown by School & Campus:

- Social Sciences: 610
- Humanities: 286
- Biomedical: 241
- Polytechnic: 214
- Imperia: 150
- Savona / SP: 148

Bibliographic Resources Portfolio

Total volume scale across physical book, electronic journal, and database collections

Information Resource Assets

The University Library System maintains an expansive and balanced collection of academic and research-level bibliographic databases, books, and digital materials to fuel university workflows.



Over 1 Million Volumes Physical books and comprehensive monograph collections (*Volumi*).



Over 145,000 Electronic Journals E-journals supporting modern research and immediate digital downloads (*Periodici*).



192 Specialized Databases Access to indexed scientific publications, citations, and datasets (*Banche dati*).

Le risorse bibliografiche

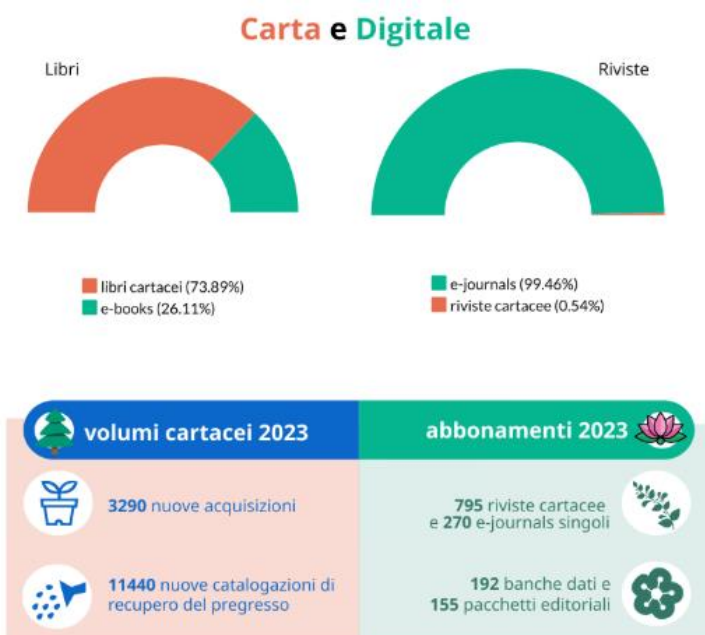
più di **1 milione** di volumi

più di **145.000** periodici elettronici

192 banche dati specialistiche

Paper and Digital Materials Breakdown

Ecosystem split between physical print collections and digital licensed resources (2023)



Format Distribution & Acquisitions

Print vs. Digital Split:

Monographs are split with **73.89% Print Books** and **26.11% E-books**. Serials have transitioned almost entirely online with **99.46% E-journals** vs. only 0.54% Print Journals.

3,290

New Acquisitions

Print volumes added (2023)

11,440

New Catalogings

Retrospective conversions

795 / 270

Print / E-Journal Subs

Active recurring subscriptions

192 / 155

DBs / Packages

Specialized databases licensed

SBA BY THE NUMBERS

Circulation & Inter-Library Workflows

Statistical activity of document discovery, reading loans, and interlibrary sharing

SBA - UNIVERSITY

Circulation & Sharing Volume

432,764

UnoPerTutto Searches

32,868

Active Loans

8,709

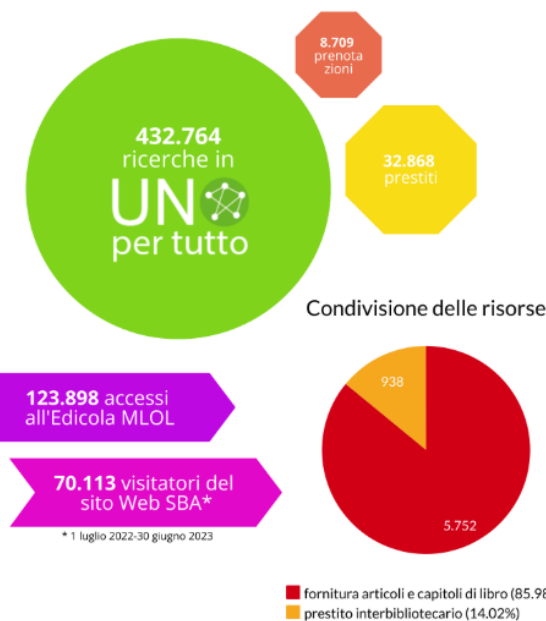
Book Bookings

Digital Presence:

The MLOL Digital Newsstand recorded **123,898 access sessions**, while the official SBA Web Portal attracted **70,113 unique visitors** during the academic term.

Resource Sharing & Cooperation (6,690 total items):

- Document Delivery (DD): 85.98% (5,752 digital articles/chapters provided via NILDE network)
- Inter-Library Loans (ILL): 14.02% (938 physical books shipped across networks)

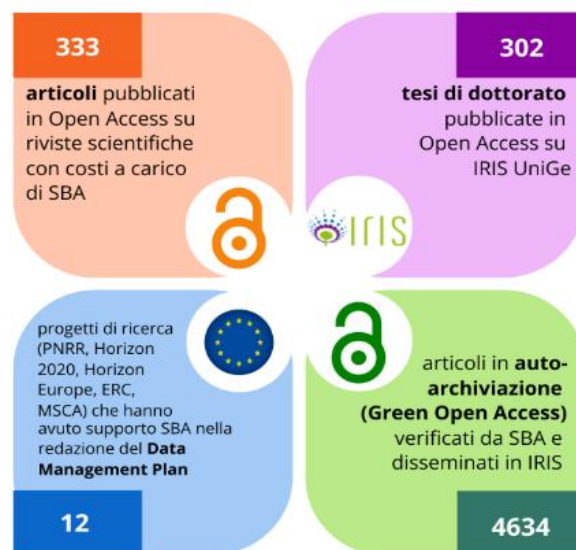


SBA BY THE NUMBERS

Open Science & Research Support

SBA contributions to scientific publication funding, self-archiving, and doctoral theses

SBA - UNIVERSITY



Open Access & Grant Support

333

Gold Open Access Articles

APC fees fully funded by SBA agreements

302

Doctoral Dissertations

Ph.D. theses published in OA on IRIS

4,634

Green OA Self-Archives

Self-archived papers verified on IRIS

12

Funded Research Projects

Supported in drafting mandatory DMPs

* Supported frameworks include: **PNRR**, **Horizon 2020**, **Horizon Europe**, **ERC**, and **MSCA** grants.

STRATEGIC VISION

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Unlocking Openness @ UniGe

The strategic promotion of free access to the University's scientific research outputs

The University of Genoa promotes the implementation of the principles of open and free access to scientific literature and of the research outcomes produced in the University, to ensure the widest dissemination possible and to facilitate research measurement and evaluation.

[UNIVERSITY OPEN ACCESS POLICY](#) - 2017

[UNIVERSITY RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT POLICY](#) - 2026

Core Institutional Goals

- **Global Dissemination:** Ensure maximum visibility and accessibility for produced academic literature, increasing global citation and research impact.
- **Streamlined Assessment:** Facilitate measurement and evaluation of scientific impact globally while preserving public accountability.
- **Digital Preservation:** Construct robust and reliable digital infrastructures for long-term dataset traceability and citation standards.

INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

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Two Decades of Open Science

Historical progression of milestones, mandates, and strategic commitments at Genoa University

2005

UniGe signs the *Messina Declaration* (adherence to the Berlin Declaration)

2017

The *Policy on open access to scientific literature of Genoa University* is issued

2019

The *openscience.unige.it* portal goes live and the activities of the *UniGe Open Science Group* begin

**2015**

The *IRIS UniGe Institutional Archive* is launched for the storage and dissemination of Unige scientific production

**2018**

Boost of the *green OA* with the management of the full-text and of the *gold OA* with the OA publication of the phd theses in IRIS UniGe

**2020**

The first *transformative agreements* are signed and the University Library System can bear the costs of OA publication for UniGe corresponding authors

DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

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Cross-Disciplinary Services

Operational synergies among the Research Area, Library System, and ICT Services

Research Office

- Research assessment and evaluation
- Grants management & support
- Genova University Press

Library System

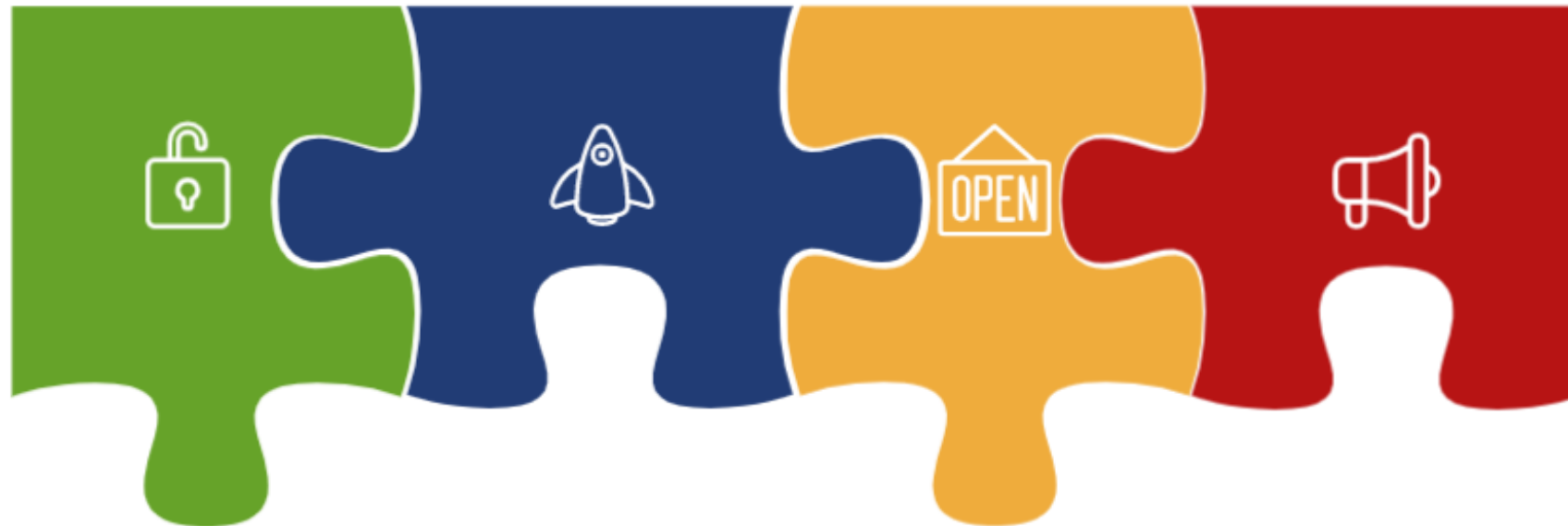
- Open Access publishing support
- IRIS UniGe support (green OA)
- Financial and strategic coordination of Gold & Hybrid OA read&publishing agreements
- Research data management support
- PhD / early carrier researcher training and awareness events as GenOA week

ICT Department

- Technological maintenance of the Opendata UniGe system environment.
- Open educational resources (EDUopen project)

Pillars of Open Science

Structured operational areas within the University Library System (SBA)



IRIS UniGe and green OA

A team of librarians checks the metadata and full-text files deposited in relation to the editorial policies and disseminates in OA

Data management

UniGe Library System supports researchers in FAIR data management and in the preparation of the data management plan

Gold OA support

UniGe Library System signs "Read & Publish" transformative agreements and bears APCs for authors who want to publish in OA

GenOA week

UniGe Library System organizes awareness events, such as the annual GenOA week with meetings, and workshops on Open Science topics

The IRIS UniGe Repository

Core infrastructure for research monitoring and Green OA self-archiving

- the UniGe OAI-PMH archive
- the public "catalog" for the "*deposit and publication of scientific research products and related metadata*"

The Library System actively trains early career researchers on Open Science topics and provides continuous counseling for uploading scientific products and verifying copyright settings.



Ph.D. Academic Workflows & Support

All doctoral theses are systematically self-archived within IRIS UniGe

- PhD theses uploads get a DOI
- All PhD theses are Open Access immediately or after a 12m embargo
- Automatic harvested by OpenAIRE & Magazzini Digitali (PhD theses national repository)

189.377

PUBBLICAZIONI

18.739

OPEN-ACCESS

2.917.782

DOWNLOADS

39.791

FULLTEXT

14.480

AUTORI

Preserving & Sharing Research Data

Opendata UniGe institutional repository and custom Data Management Plans support



Opendata UniGe Repository

State-of-the-art repository system designed for easy indexing, persistent identifier allocation (DOIs), and storage of scientific datasets produced by the University, complying with international FAIR standards.

- sw Dataverse
- Data-stewardship training (ongoing)
- Support to FAIR data management

OPENDATA.UNIGE.IT



Support Data Management Plan and Project review (OS practices)

Dedicated library guidance on drafting effective, compliant DMPs, which are mandatory for research projects funded by European frameworks (Horizon Europe) and national grants (PNRR)

DMP & GRANT REVIEW SUPPORT

Read & Publish Agreements

Supporting authors with publishing fees and Creative Commons license compliance

Consortium Synergy

CARE-CRUI national agreements allow UniGe researchers to publish Open Access in hybrid journals with no direct fee payments (APCs covered) across major academic publishers.

- Expert support for selecting optimal licenses (e.g., CC-BY).
- Advising on embargo periods, green-deposit alternatives, and authors' rights.



- Since 2020
 - 18 R&P agreements
 - +1220 articles [2020-2025]
 - +3.378.696,27 € [2020-2025]
 - +1700 support sessions
- the role of librarians in research support
 - the sustainability of Read & Publish agreements and today's scholarly communication landscape



ADVOCACY, CULTURE & OUTREACH FOCUS

GenOA Week: The Flagship Event

A deep-dive analysis of our premier institutional forum for open science advocacy, democratic knowledge sharing, and multi-sectoral public debate at Genoa University.

Genoa OA Week: shaping the future of shared knowledge

Aligning local excellence with European research objectives

Strategic alignment

Supporting EU's vision for the sharing of knowledge and open collaboration

Addressing challenges

Fostering practical solutions for data reproducibility, open access, and citizen science

2019: Open for Whom? Equity in open knowledge Building structural equity and preparing researchers for European Horizon Europe open mandates.

2023: Community over Commercialization Examining high APC inflation, commercial vendor lock-ins, and Diamond OA alternatives.

2025: Who Owns Knowledge? Broad national debate on research output governance, copyright retention, and preventing knowledge paywalls.

- [Piano nazionale della Scienza aperta 2021-2027](#) (National Open Science Plan, Italian only)
- UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science
- EOSC
- COARA Italian Chapter

Inside GenOA week: tracks, data, and collaboration

Multi-disciplinary tracks addressing contemporary hurdles in data sharing and policy



Core pillars

Interactive workshops, panels & round-table focusing on Open Science and [Open Culture](#) topics



Co-creation & expert network

Co-organized alongside leading scientific national stakeholders, maximizing inter-organizational learning

[Call for abstract is opening soon!](#)

Gathering policymakers, academic researchers, library staff, and data steward



Capacity building

Practical training sessions designed to bridge the gap between high-level policy and daily research workflows and support



12 DATA ABOUT GenOA week 2019-2025

**7**

editions

**53**sessions /
panels**6**

round tables

**390**panelists
from Italy and
abroad**260**presentations
and talks**5**

Italian institutions involved

**11**

extra events

**73**institutional
representatives,
session chairs**35**

posters

**7**key themes:
*"International Open
Access week"***190**average
attendance per
sessionPowered by
genially
EDUCATION**3188**

total participants

Join us at GenOA week

Partnering for a more Open Science

Contribute

Ready to be part of unlocking
openness by connecting
people, data, and ideas?

genoaweeek@unige.it



Marcella Rognoni

Head of Genoa University Library System Service



marcella.rognoni@unige.it



<https://biblioteche.unige.it/>

Anna Maria Pastorini

Genoa University Library System Service

Integrated systems for libraries and Open Science Office



anna.maria.pastorini@unige.it



<https://openscience.unige.it/>



**Università
di Genova**