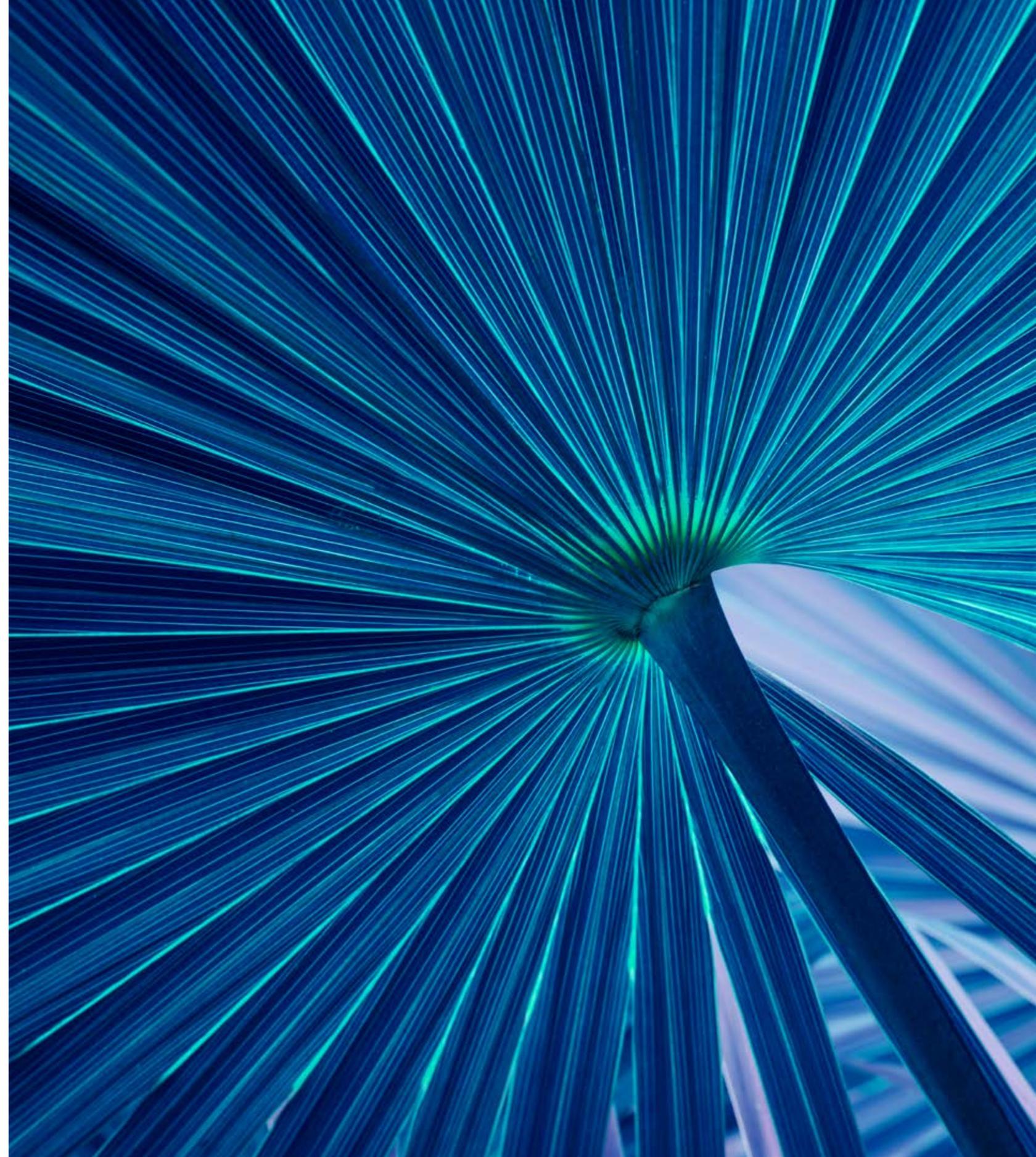


2024

# Annual Report

---

At Digital Science, we are building a future where research flows without barriers, ideas connect across disciplines, and discoveries spark solutions that change the world.





# Contents

<b>01</b>	<b>Welcome</b>		<b>03</b>	<b>Supporting the research community in 2024</b>		<b>04</b>	<b>Environmental, Social and Governance commitment</b>	
	Daniel Hook, CEO, Digital Science	3		Improving research outcomes	9		Reducing our carbon footprint	19
	Stefan von Holtzbrinck, CEO, Holtzbrinck	5		Driving innovation	13		Our culture	22
<b>02</b>	<b>About Digital Science</b>			Supporting Open Data practices and standards	16		Sustainable Development Goals	24
	Our Vision	6						
	Our Mission	6						
	Our Values	6						
	Our History	6						





# 01. Welcome

**Daniel Hook, PhD**  
CEO, Digital Science

---

**Welcome to Digital Science’s first Annual Report. Within this document, we celebrate a few of the many ways in which we have worked to support the global research ecosystem.**

Digital Science was formed in 2010 with the bold and ambitious aim to revolutionize the way research is done – being a friend to researchers who were faced with a dizzying array of digital needs and few professionally supported tools to meet those needs. Along our journey, we have learned that to deliver on our goal of supporting researchers, we must also support the broader ecosystem, including research administrators, policy makers, librarians, governments, funders, non-profit organizations, and scholarly publishers. More recently, it has become clear that researchers in enterprise organizations also need help in creating impact around their work. Since we believe research is the single most transformational force for the long-term improvement of society, it makes sense to take this broad view of the ecosystem and to offer support wherever we can.

Many colleagues at Digital Science come from the research community. As such, we not only recognize the challenges that we develop data and tools to support, we have firsthand experience of solving those problems. We also recognize that our role in the ecosystem is making a difference to those that make a difference.

Our Annual Report offers a focused glimpse into the impact we've made in support of the research community across a single year – this can only be a set of snapshots, but we hope that these are at least informative and perhaps even inspiring. It's also the fulfilment of a promise we made in 2024 at a pivotal moment: having launched Digital Science's Open Principles in alignment with the Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information, we made several key commitments to the open research community.

**We believe that a trusted stakeholder in the research ecosystem must be responsible, transparent and sustainable.** This is from our Open Principle on establishing trust, in which Digital Science committed to having an Annual Report to increase transparency for our stakeholders.

Another of our Open Principles speaks to Digital Science's relationship with stakeholders:



*We believe that stakeholder benefits should be at the forefront. Our community-centered approach ensures our solutions directly address the challenges researchers currently face.*

Based on ongoing dialogue, we are working with our stakeholders to improve research outcomes by strengthening evaluation processes and supporting research integrity; fostering innovation through enhanced academic workflows and sophisticated analytical tools; and championing open data practices that promote collaboration, reduce duplication, and accelerate scientific progress.

To further strengthen our alignment with the communities we support, we committed in 2024 to the formation of an external Advisory Board, which was established in the same year. This board comprises six experienced leaders who represent our complex stakeholder environment, assisting Digital Science to improve engagement and alignment with these communities. Comprising global experts with a wealth of knowledge and experience, the Advisory Board's contributions have already proven invaluable.

I am excited to share with you our wide and varied contributions to the needs of the research ecosystem and our communities, whether through reports we've developed, our commitment to innovation and the responsible use of artificial intelligence, our strong support for open research and data sharing, and much more. I hope this report will help you to understand how seriously we take our mission, and that advancing knowledge and the sharing of that knowledge is critical to driving progress for all.



## Stefan von Holtzbrinck CEO, Holtzbrinck

---

**Digital Science and its people continue to inspire me, not only in what they build, but in how they work.**

At a time when the world is facing unprecedented challenges, Digital Science stands for openness, collaboration, and progress. Every day, its teams work to support researchers across academia and industry with solutions designed to accelerate discovery and solve real-world problems.



*Driven by curiosity and guided by a strong sense of purpose, Digital Science champions a global research ecosystem that values integrity, inclusivity, and impact.*

The role of AI in research is rapidly evolving, and Digital Science is well placed to lead with both innovation and responsibility. Its AI-powered tools and expertise are grounded in a thoughtful, principled approach, one that prioritizes the needs of research communities while remaining mindful of the broader implications of this powerful technology.

Even as it grows, Digital Science has never lost sight of its roots: a deep commitment to the people and principles that define the research community.

This Annual Report highlights just some of the progress made in 2024. I hope you find it as meaningful as I do.



# 02. About Digital Science

## Our Vision

Digital Science believes research is the single most powerful transformational force for the long-term improvement of society.

## Our Mission

We enhance the positive impact of research and innovation on humanity by enabling the research community to make smarter decisions and communicate outcomes that inspire change.

## Our Values

Our work is built on a foundation of core values that shape everything we do. These guide our daily actions, define our partnerships, and strengthen our commitment to the global research community.



Brave in the pursuit of better



Collaborative and inclusive

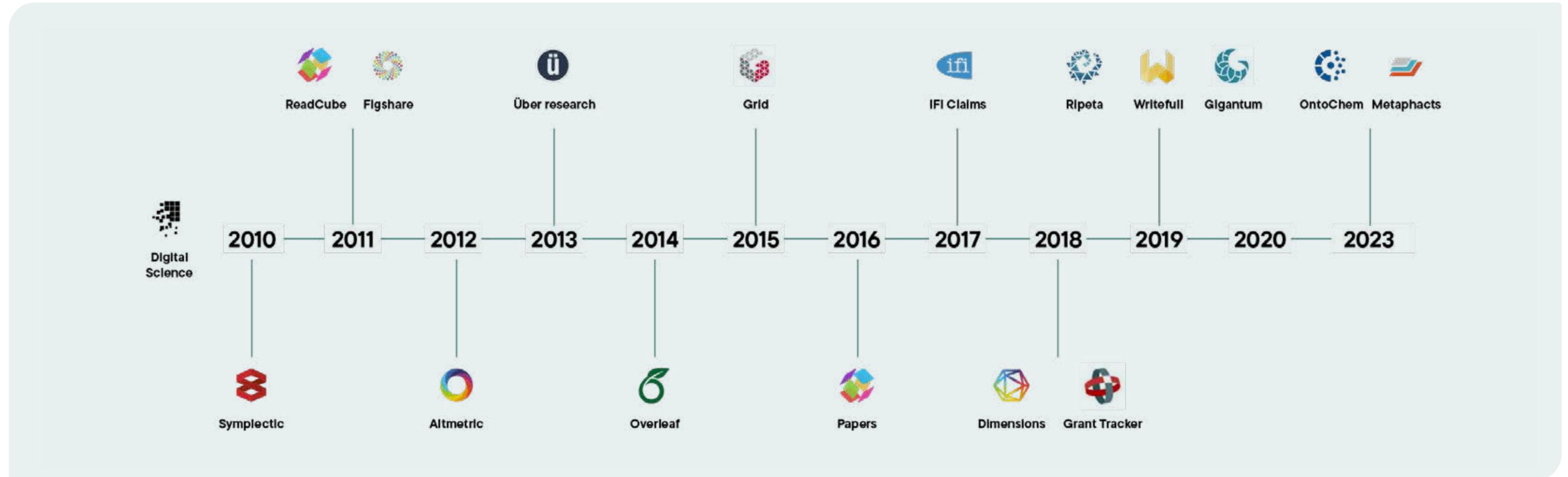


Always open minded



From and for the community

## Our History



Digital Science was launched in 2010 by members of the research community with a bold mission: to revolutionize the way science is done. We’ve emphasized a community-driven approach right from the start, actively listening to our community’s needs and shaping our offerings based on their real-world challenges. From tracking research impact to supporting open research and data sharing, mapping the research landscape, enabling collaboration, and providing deep insights, analysis, and discovery, Digital Science has grown into a powerhouse of innovation, supporting every corner of the research ecosystem.

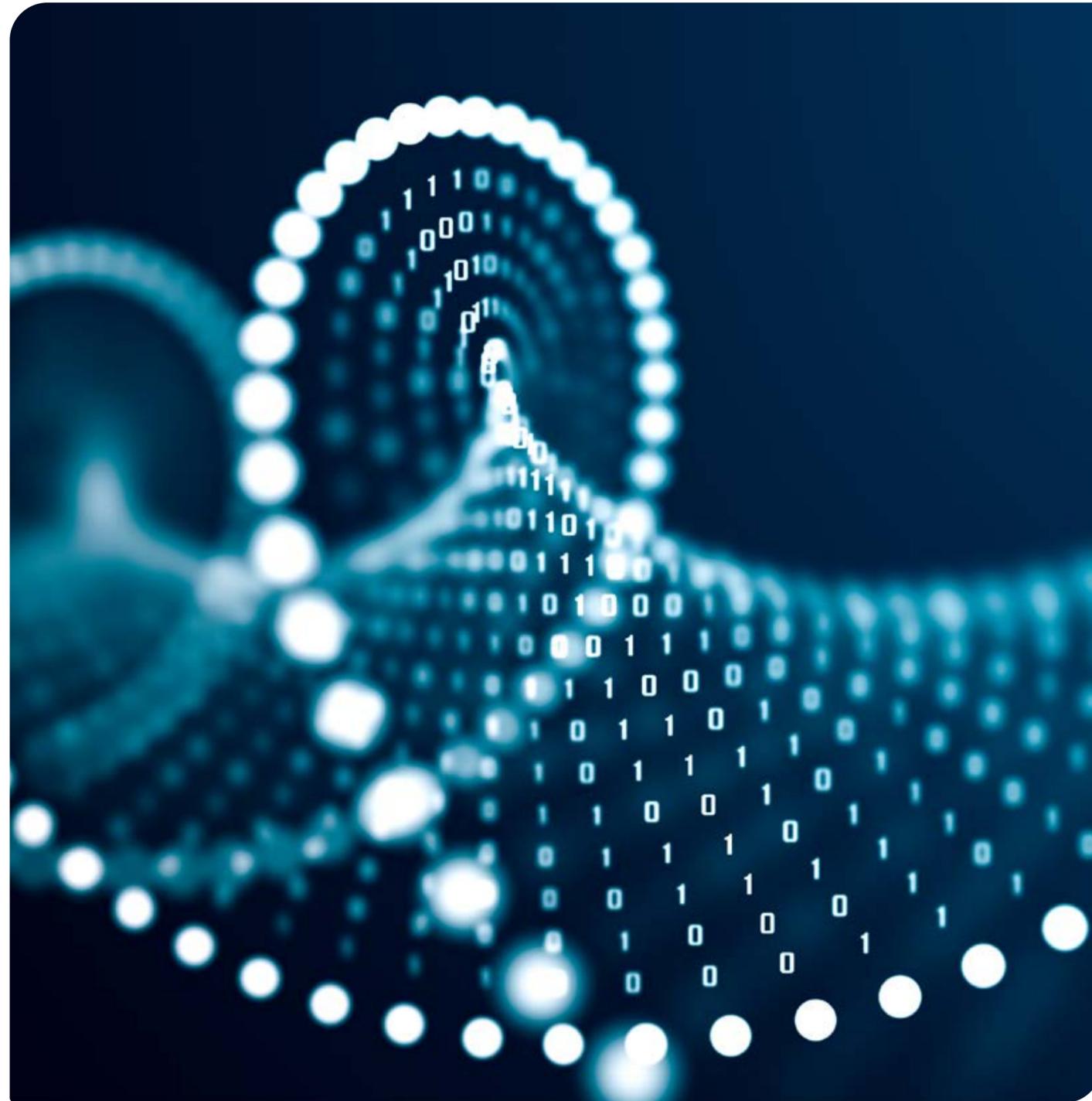
Today, one of our strongest areas of growth is industry, as we leverage our technology and the power of AI to help enterprises work smarter, collaborate better, and push the boundaries of discovery.



# 03. Supporting the research community in 2024

Digital Science exists to support the research ecosystem, from academics advancing their fields, to the institutes, funders, governments and publishers around them. We engage with these communities to understand their needs and shape our offerings based on their real-world challenges.

At present, what we hear from our community falls, largely, under three broad headers. **Improving research outcomes**, whether through improving research evaluation or supporting research integrity efforts; **driving innovation** to enhance academic research, streamline workflows and deliver analytical insights; and, **supporting Open Data practices and standards** so researchers can effectively build on each other's work, avoid duplication and efficiently validate and extend their findings.



## Improving research outcomes

Measuring and evaluating impact helps researchers to identify strategies that will yield significant outcomes and allocate resources effectively. Institutions and funding bodies can make data-driven decisions about research priorities and investment, ensuring support flows toward the most promising and productive areas. Feedback loops between impact measurement and research design empower the community - to improve research quality and relevance, and make smarter decisions that inspire change.

Scientometrics provides a framework for evaluating research performance through quantitative analysis of scientific publications, citations, research productivity and impact. By analyzing publication patterns, citation networks, and collaboration structures, scientometrics can identify research trends and gaps; map networks and collaborations; evaluate research performance; aid decision-making; identify influential research; support evidence-based budget allocation; and, underpin research portfolio optimization.

The Research on Research Institute (RoRI) was launched five years ago as a joint initiative between Wellcome, the University of Leiden, the University of Sheffield and Digital Science, to transform the way that research is funded, communicated and evaluated. Now in its second phase, RoRI is engaging with an expanding global network of researchers, funders, publishers, and data providers all with a commitment to improving research systems and cultures. In 2024 RoRI was established as a nonprofit community interest company (CIC), with Digital Science CEO Daniel Hook serving as the inaugural Chair of the RoRI CIC board. [↗](#)

Digital Science's commitment to the academic community led to the launch in 2024 of the **Research Transformation** campaign, a global initiative to understand and support how research is evolving. Through a survey of nearly 400 academics across 70 countries and in-depth interviews, the campaign explored key themes such as AI, openness, impact, research security, and collaboration. The insights gathered culminated in the publication of a report, **Research Transformation: Change in the era of AI, open and impact**. The report gives a voice to the academic community and highlights the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing research landscape, while offering practical recommendations for adaptation.

In 2024, the **Scientometric Researcher Access to Data** program was launched as we merged two former no-cost access routes to Altmetric and Dimensions. The initiative offers scientometric researchers streamlined, no-cost access to Altmetric and Dimensions data empowering them to more easily answer system-wide research questions about scholarly literature and its impact.

We worked with the **Complexity Science Hub**, an independent research institute that studies complex systems, with the aim of contributing scientific insights for the benefit of society. Using publication data from Dimensions, the team developed **SciFlows**, which reveals patterns of researcher attraction and retention by institutions and countries. Interactive visualizations show the "flow" of researchers between different locations and their institutions. The platform also enables tracking over time, enabling users to uncover trends from 1980 to 2022.

We sponsored a number of scientometric conferences, including ICSSI, STI/ENID, European Scientometric Summer School (ESSS), and WCRI, with colleagues presenting research on mentorship algorithms, a new retraction reason taxonomy, conflict of interest statements, and dataset citations at these events.

Within scientometrics, the emerging field of Forensic Scientometrics (FoSci) is the collective work of analyzing publications, data, images, and statistics to uncover errors, misinformation, or manipulations in scientific publications. It offers actionable insights into systemic vulnerabilities in scholarly communication.

In her explainer blog, **Dr Leslie McIntosh, VP of Research Integrity, Digital Science**, wrote:



*"In this era of increased scrutiny, defining and embracing forensic scientometrics – FoSci – becomes essential in strengthening trust in and around science."*

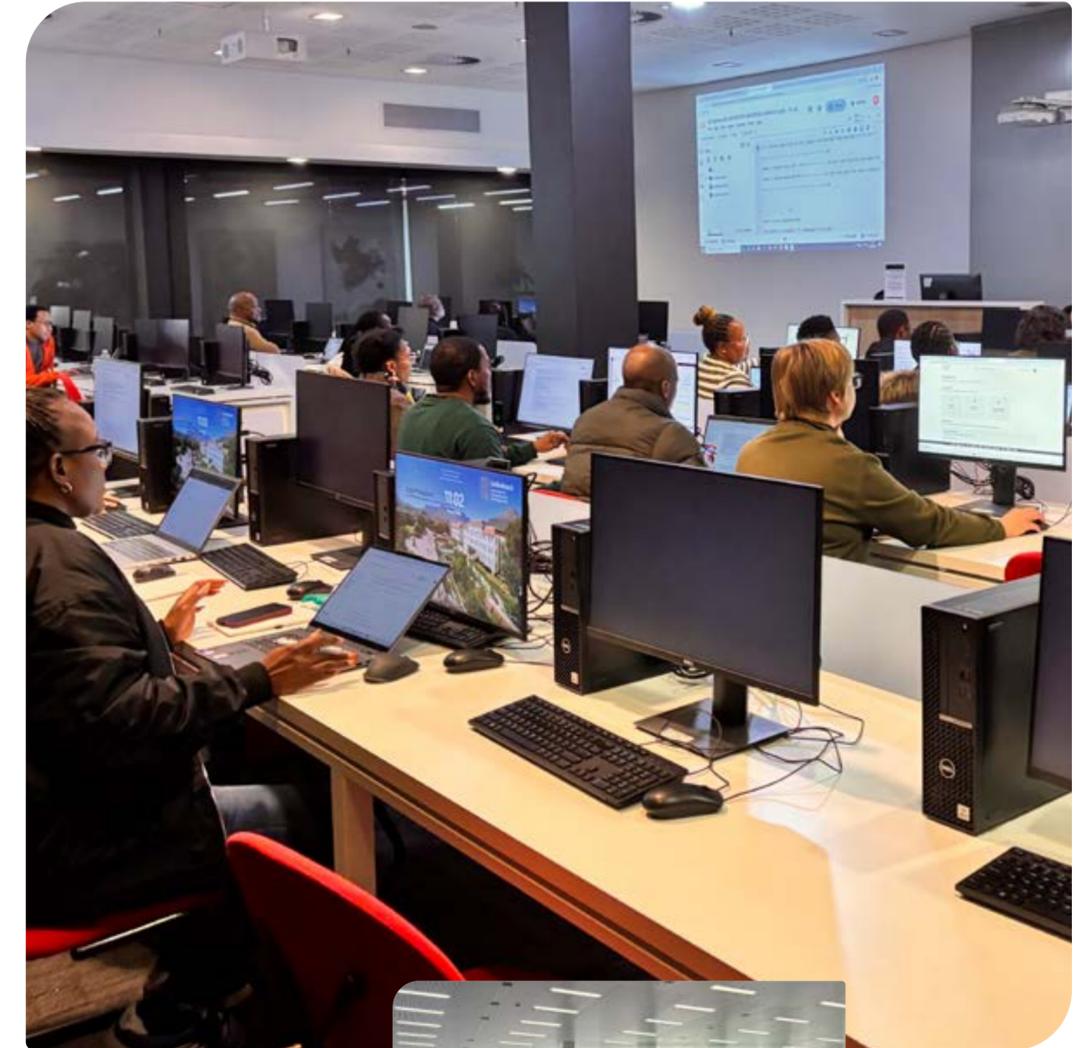
This year marked significant progress in our work with the FoSci community, notably, the **Author Check** tool was developed and refined based on their emerging needs. It builds on the foundational work of the **Problematic Paper Screener**, a key project that we supported, as well as research into papermill networks.

### Notable research on research produced using Digital Science data:

- Dimensions is compared with other datasets and the use of multiple sources for impact measurement, analyzed by [Gómez-Déniz & Dorta-González, \*Scientometrics\*, 2024](#), compares.
- Social media use by academics and the relationship between tweeting and citing research was explored by [Hare et al, \*Quantitative Science Studies\*, 2024](#).
- The policy citations of almost 19,000 research outputs from 17 Finnish universities were analyzed using Overton and Altmetric by [Maleki & Holmberg 2024](#).
- [Bascur et al. 2024](#) investigate the use of diverse data sources to control biases and create science maps tailored for different needs.

### Digital Science staff publications include:

- Evidence of a new set of sneaked references — references in the metadata or full text of publications rather than the references — discovered in the scientific literature: [Besançon et al. 2024](#).
- A model to identify fabricated networks within authorship-for-sale enterprises and methods to limit their expansion and propagation: [Porter & Hook 2024](#)
- [Porter & McIntosh 2024](#) discuss what they term the ‘initial era’, the period from 1945-1980, where authors are referred to by initial and surname rather than full name, why it arose and how it has declined.



## Case Study: Preparation for REF 2029

*“In 2021, we submitted just over 700 FTEs in 17 Units of Assessment, 1678 outputs and 67 impact case studies. If we tried to do that using the old method I dread to think what would have happened, so Elements was really invaluable in getting our REF submission in.”*

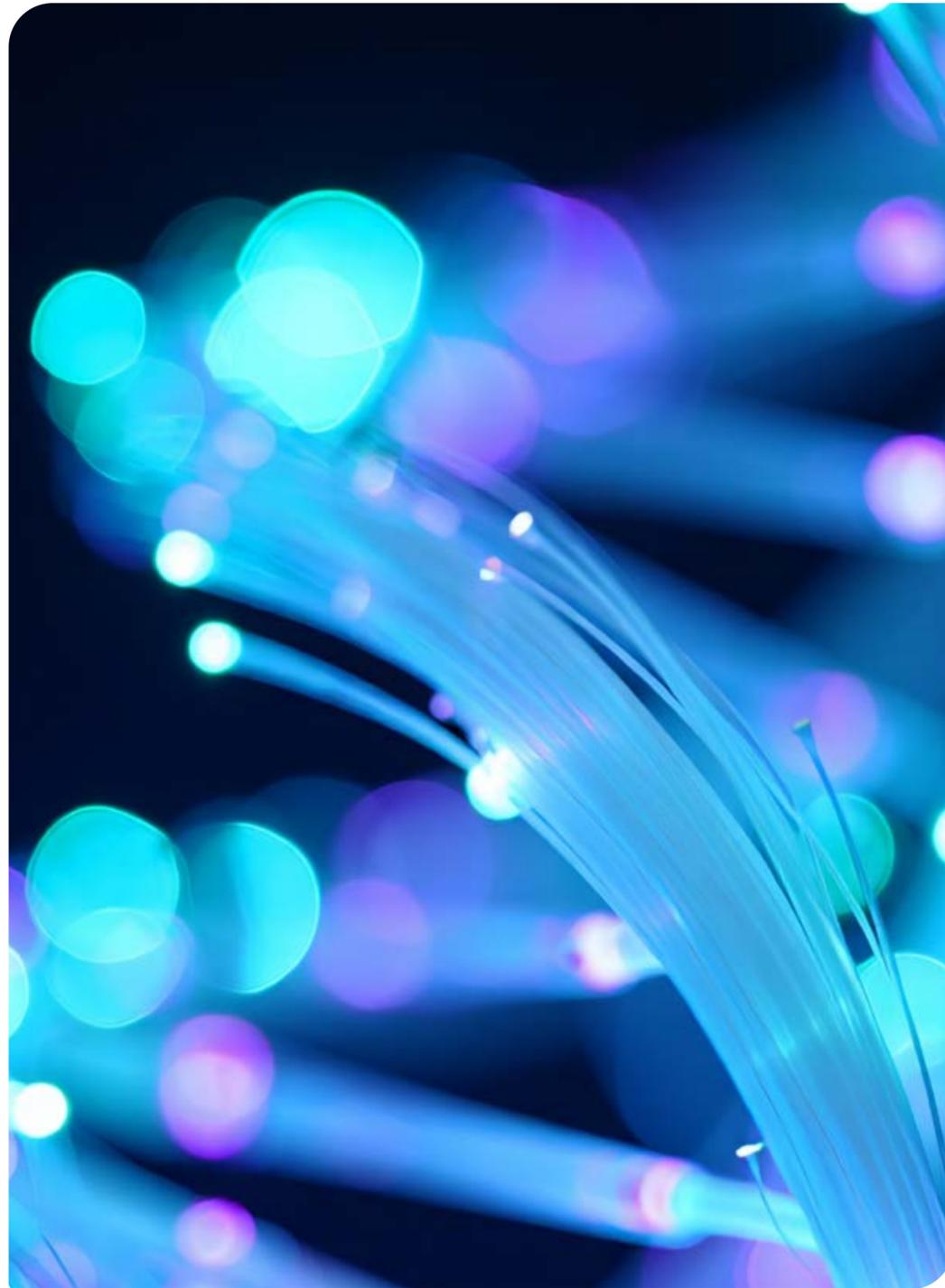
**Phineas Wenlock, Research Systems Manager,  
University of Essex**

The UK’s Research Excellence Framework (REF) evaluates the nation’s research outputs, using an approach that has evolved since it was introduced in 2014. Symplectic Elements from Digital Science is a research management system used by funders and research institutions to gain a comprehensive picture of their organization’s data, which can also support them in research evaluation exercises such as REF.

In 2029’s REF, researchers will be decoupled from their research outputs, so in early 2024, we reconvened our Symplectic Elements REF Steering Group. This group includes volunteers from 29 UK institutions, ranging in size and disciplines who meet to discuss the changing requirements of the REF and how Symplectic Elements can continue to best support them in meeting their goals.

After each revision by funding bodies, we identify requirements and outline new functionality that will enable our clients to meet and respond to the requirements of the REF as painlessly and productively as possible.

“There is no single way for a vendor to prescribe functionality to the research community, so it’s far better to be consultative and work together in partnership,” says Jonathan Breeze, Executive VP Academic at Digital Science. “Over time, working through REF2014 and then REF2021, we developed the trust from clients that we could work with them effectively to solve the challenges set by the funding bodies.”



## Driving innovation

Innovation can support and improve how academic research is conducted and shared, offering workflow solutions and analytical insights. It is a driving force at Digital Science; we support innovative teams and technology ideas and have pioneered the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into our solutions since 2013. Building on this foundation, we continue to work with a supportive culture and in collaborative partnerships to address the research community's needs and challenges.

In 2024 we expanded our efforts to harness and realise AI's potential, guided by principles of responsible development and deployment, to give researchers the most powerful tools to help make society better for all. We're committed to responsible AI through:

- **Ethical standards:** Digital Science prioritizes transparency and fairness in AI development and deployment.
- **User empowerment:** We design AI solutions that augment human intelligence, keeping users at the center of decision-making.
- **Continuous improvement:** Our ongoing engagement with the community ensures we're refining AI-based applications, addressing emerging needs and challenges.

**Overleaf** simplifies collaboration for the academic writing process, providing templates and tools to support research writing, including papers, theses, assignments and grant proposals. Following the acquisition of Writefull in 2023, in 2024, we introduced features powered by Large Language Models for the first time to our 20 million users. Writefull is now fully integrated into Overleaf and provides grammar and language suggestions tailored to academic prose. Our users remain in complete control of the writing process while supported by AI writing tools.

Juergen Wastl, VP Research Evaluation and Global Challenges, gave the inaugural talk in a new seminar series: **AI - threats and opportunities** at the **University of Vienna** focused on AI in academia. ([link](#) to Uni Vienna repository, [youtube](#)) He was interviewed with the University's Library leadership team about the seminar series and appeared on the Austrian National broadcaster's radio show "Dimensionen" on the topic of AI threats and responsible approaches.

## Digital Science Catalyst Grants

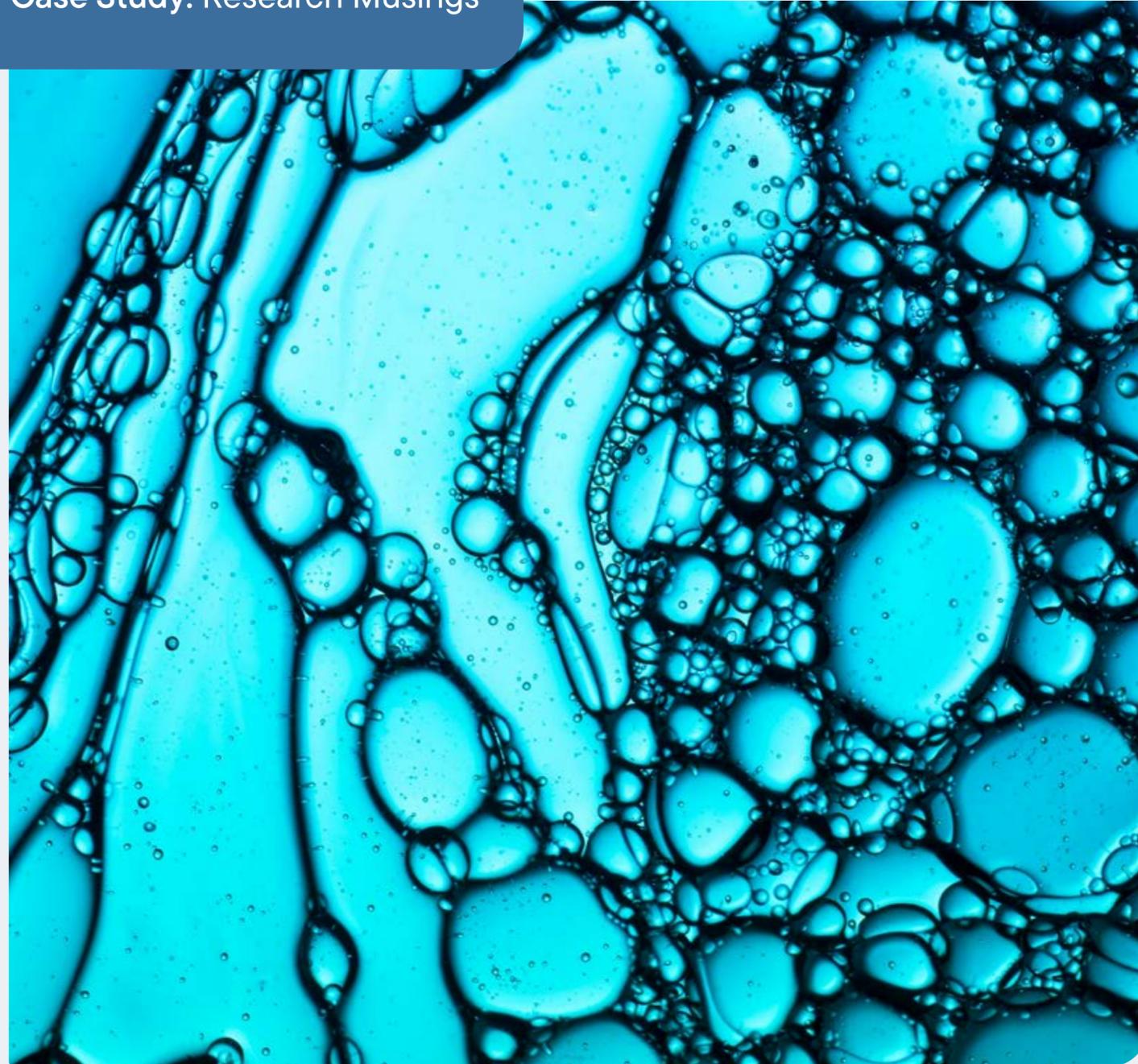
Digital Science Catalyst Grants support innovation in new software tools and technologies to advance research and create meaningful change. The program supports and invests in early-stage ideas in the novel use of technology, with an award of up to £25,000 for the most promising ideas that aid research and further its impact on society.

2024's [Catalyst Grants](#) were awarded to two teams developing technology ideas working on safeguarding research integrity and strengthening trust in science.

### The winning applications were:

- **PostPub** – has an established Retraction Dashboard to spread awareness of research integrity. They will extend their visualizations, highlighting gaps in data sharing practices of researchers across countries and journals, and to flag irregular activity.
- **VIRUS (Visualization of Irregular Research Under Scrutiny)** – is a real-time visualization system for scientific sleuths and research integrity teams. The system keeps records of papers flagged as questionable, and their impact on scholarly measures – such as citations, altmetrics, and policy attention – to better understand the potentially harmful impact these papers can have.

## Case Study: Research Musings

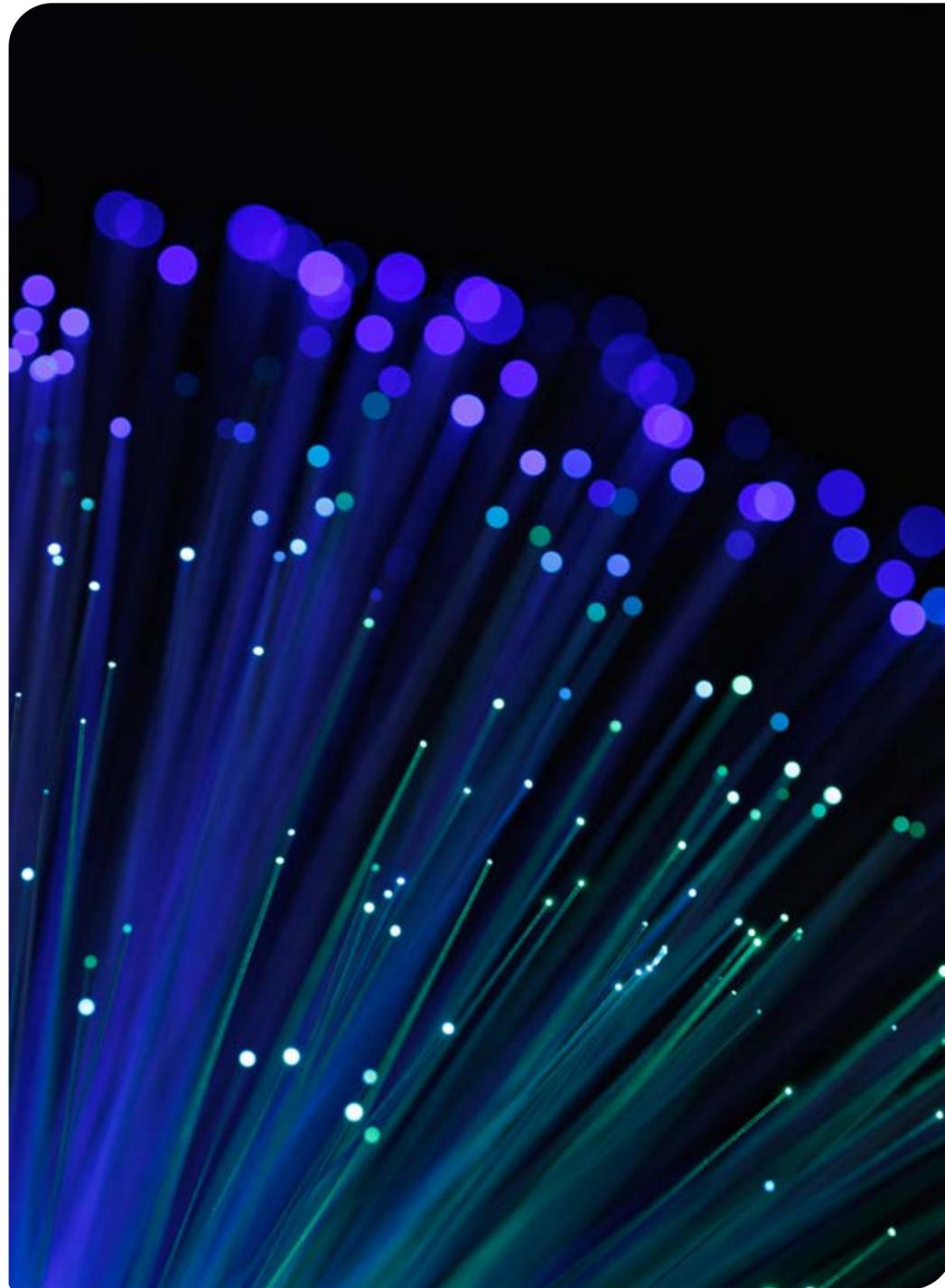


The Research Musings substack was created so that a group of Digital Science colleagues could share their passion for exploring and analyzing scholarly communication. It launched in November 2024, with H el ene Draux, Senior Data Scientist, Juergen Wastl, VP Research Evaluation and Global Challenges, and Kathryn Weber-Boer, Director Scientometrics - Scientometric Researcher Engagement all contributing their insights. Though initially designed to test short ‘data bites’, the team now also includes “Research Policy Bites” for less data-heavy content, and “AI bites”, all with a commitment to sharing the code and data (values) behind its interactive graphs. We are proud of the emphasis on transparency, accessibility, and the open sharing of code to cultivate a stronger, more engaged community. Research Musings has gathered traction since its launch: with 14 contributions released within its first three months.

In engaging with and subscribing to Research Musings, the community can stay updated in the field of biometrics, discover insights and learn how to improve data quality.



The longer term aim for this initiative is to build a stronger, more engaged community through an emphasis on transparency, accessibility, and the open sharing of code



## Supporting Open Data practices and standards

Research information should be accessible to all, with data, code, and insights made available in ways that promote inclusivity and reproducibility. Our success in this is outlined below. Research is generating greater volumes of data than ever before and academics need support in its management as well as knowing that standards mean that they can find and use data generated by others to strengthen and advance their own work.

In 2024 we pledged support for the [Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information](#), recognizing that open research information is essential for fostering innovation, ensuring the integrity of the scholarly record, and upholding the principles of accessibility and equity in research. In doing so, we launched our own four [Digital Science Open Principles](#), community ownership, open infrastructure, stakeholder focus, and trust. In aligning with global initiatives and promoting our own principles we are part of an important movement to drive open research to be the norm.

The annual [State of Open Data Survey](#) - a collaboration between Digital Science, Springer Nature and Figshare - provides an insight into motivations, challenges, perceptions, and behaviors of researchers towards open data. In our 2024 special report we reported how open data practices are becoming a recognized global standard for scholarly output, and that there are now real incentives developing for open data practices. At the same time, the report revealed the ongoing disparities in available resources that impede progress. True to our values, the raw survey data from 2024 is openly available on Figshare, along with some of the data used for our analysis, so that it can be explored and filtered for different contexts.



## Published contributions to open standards

The Generalist Repository Ecosystem Initiative (GREI) Data Repository AI Taxonomy was co-authored by us in 2024 and funded by the NIH. It developed an AI taxonomy tailored to data repository roles to guide AI integration across repository management. The repository provides a structured framework for implementing AI in repository workflows.

We also co-authored: *The Best Practices for Data Submission in Generalist Repositories: A Checklist*, a resource with the ability to improve data submissions into general repositories. Available at <https://zenodo.org/records/14278907>

Digital Science joined Wellcome, the Kahle Austin Foundation, and other partners in launching the [IOI Fund for Network Adoption](#) to support shared open data infrastructure globally. Funding for this specifically targets research communities in Africa and Latin America, representing our commitment to democratizing research infrastructure.

We collaborated with the UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN) on a series of **Open Research Indicator Pilots** in 2023 ending in late 2024. The pilots brought together 15 institutions and five solution providers to explore the feasibility of monitoring practices under four priority areas: data availability, FAIR data, preregistration, and CRediT author contributions.

Our team contributed both data and analytical expertise via the **Dimensions** and **Figshare** platforms, supporting the development and testing of potential indicators across over 27,000 research outputs. Our close collaboration with the UKRN continues to cement Digital Science as a trusted partner in this space, allowing us to actively contribute to global conversations with research evaluators and university ranking bodies on more meaningful, responsible ways of recognising and supporting good research practice.



# 04. Environmental, Social, and Governance commitment

For Digital Science, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) commitment isn't just about compliance, it's about aligning business practices with our mission of advancing research and knowledge creation in a responsible, sustainable way that benefits the global research community. In maintaining strong ESG credentials, we build trust with our stakeholders in the research and academic communities, who value ethical and sustainable operations.

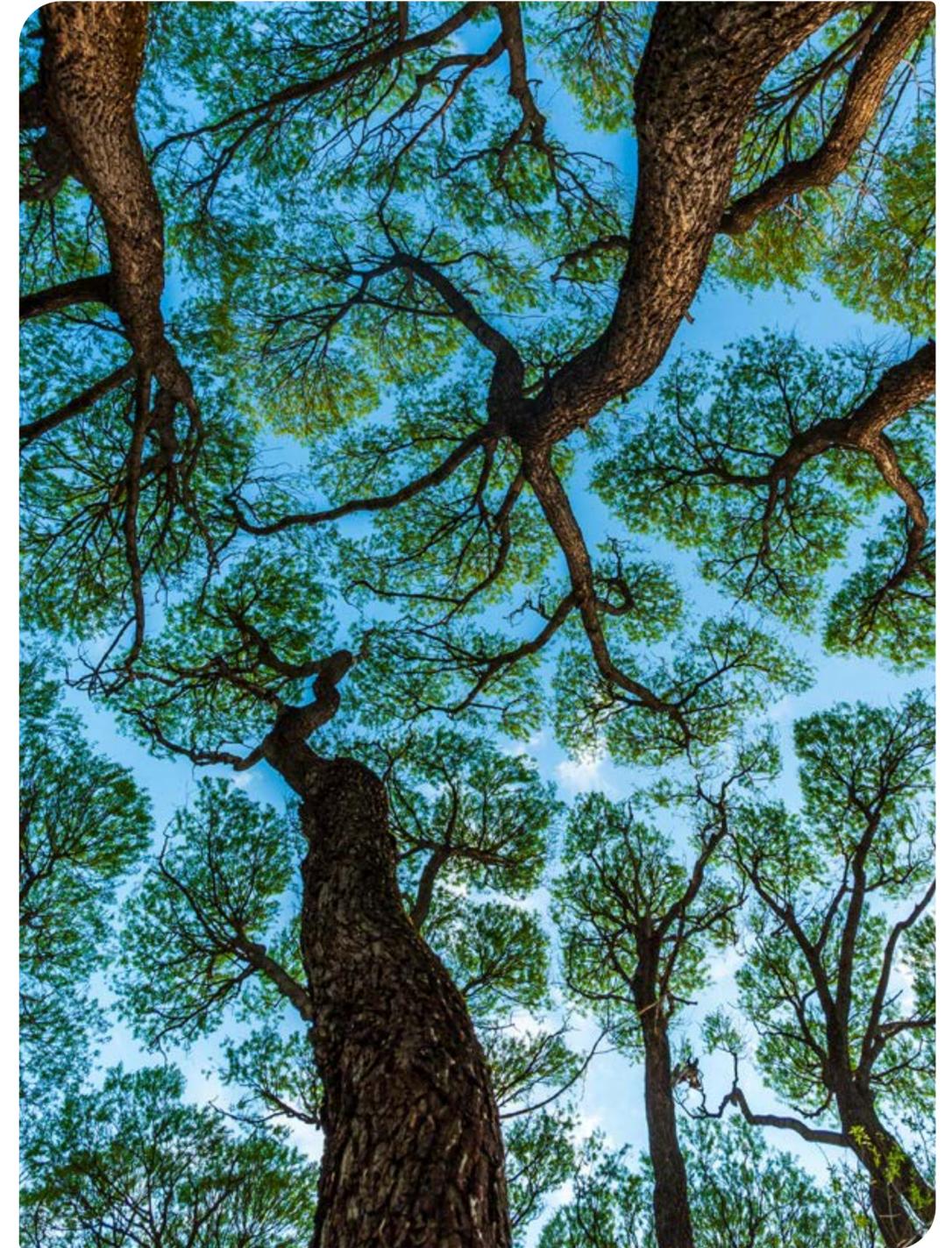
## Reducing our carbon footprint

Digital Science is committed to environmental sustainability through responsible practice.

We have committed to setting near term and net-zero targets with the Science-Based Target initiative, to ensure we are aligned with the Paris Agreement goals. We will also track and report our progress on wider environmental, sustainability and governance matters through certifications and ratings such as EcoVadis.

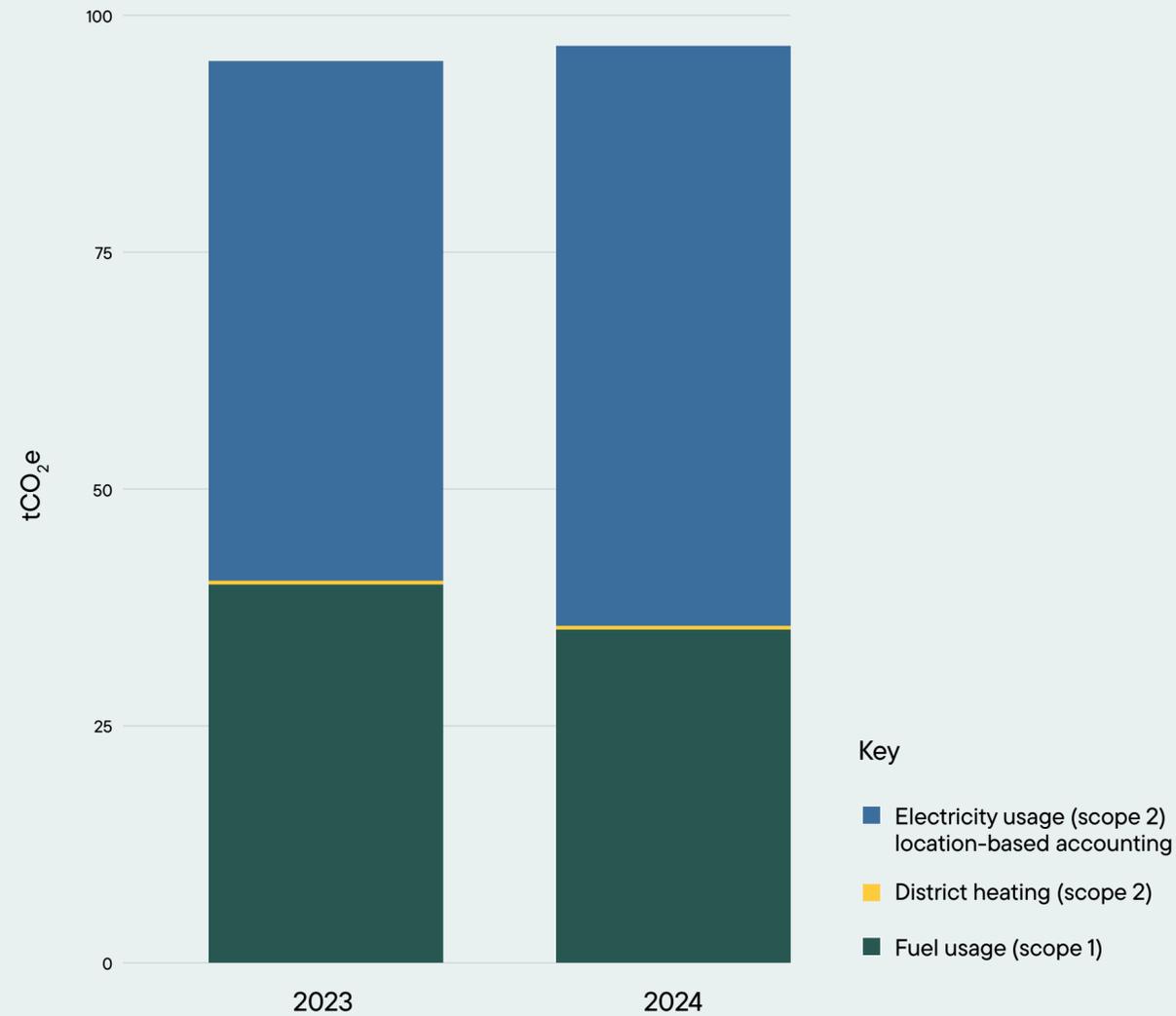
As with all companies within our parent company Holtzbrinck, we will be subject to the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). A materiality analysis highlights that our most material aspects are Own Workforce, Business Conduct and Climate Change.

Our 2024 carbon emissions, reported in line with the GHG Protocol, are presented on the following page.





## GHG emissions



Scope 1 & 2 emissions (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)	2023	2024
Fuel usage (scope 1)	40.0	35.1
District heating (scope 2)	0.3	0.3
Electricity usage (scope 2, location-based accounting)	55.3	61.8
<b>Total scope 1 &amp; 2 emissions (location-based accounting)</b>	<b>95.6</b>	<b>97.2</b>

Our energy consumption in 2024 was 134.1 MWh in relation to Scope 1, 243.1MWh for Scope 2, and an estimated 1396.9MWh for Scope 3. We have bought unbundled renewable electricity certificates equivalent to 100% of our usage of purchased electricity in 2023, and will do so again for 2024. Additionally, 541 tonnes of highly-quality offsets were purchased in relation to our Scope 1, Scope 2 and select Scope 3 emissions for 2023. A similar purchase will be made in 2025, in relation to our 2024 emissions.

Note: all figures are correct as of September 2025. Subsequent updates to the methodologies used by the Watershed ESG Platform may lead to future restatements

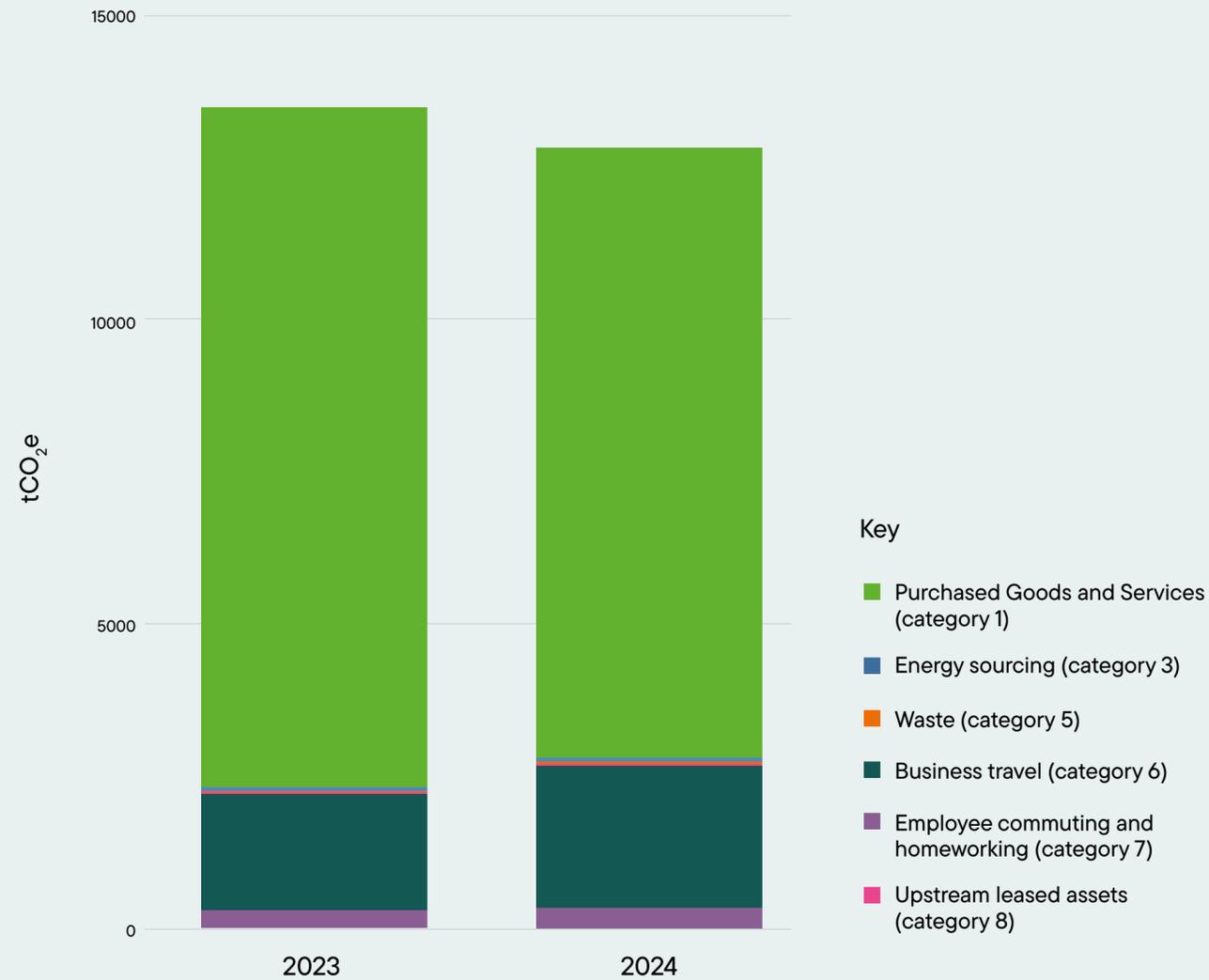
Waste type and treatment	Unit	2023	2024
Mixed recyclable (sent for recycling)	tonnes	5.5	7.7
Food waste (sent for anaerobic digestion)	tonnes	0.6	0.4
General waste (sent for incineration or landfill)	tonnes	24.8	40
Water (discharge volume)	cubic metres	574.9	248.1

Office waste figures are based on actual data for some major offices, plus additional extrapolation based on employee headcount.

The wastes generated are typical office wastes; hazardous waste is considered negligible (old IT equipment is sent for reuse wherever possible; hazardous facilities waste is managed by our office landlords).



## GHG emissions



Scope 3 emissions (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)	2023	2024
Purchased Goods and Services (category 1)	10,992.3	10,109.7
Capital Goods (category 2)	81.8	53.9
Energy sourcing (category 3)	27.2	28.4
Waste (category 5)	12.6	20.8
Business travel (category 6)	2,146.3	2,275.6
Employee commuting and homeworking (category 7)	303.7	408.9
Upstream leased assets (category 8)	11.8	11.6
<b>Total scope 3 emissions (location-based accounting)</b>	<b>13,575.8</b>	<b>12,908.9</b>

All material scope 3 categories are shown, including both mandatory and optional reporting items. Optional reporting items include the use of hotels for business travel (270.2 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2023, 214.4 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2024) and employees working from home (243.0 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2023, 249.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2024). N.B. Digital Science does not distribute printed products.

Scope 3 calculations use the location-based approach except where a market-based factor was provided by a supplier.

## Our culture

Digital Science has offices and staff in Australasia, Europe, and the Americas. With over 700 talented people based in 39 countries, in 2024 we tried to balance the benefits of whole company face-to-face meetings with the associated environmental impact of travel, by alternating with smaller retreats.

In April 2024, Digital Science brought the Product and Technology teams together for an offsite retreat in Gabicce Mare, Italy. For a company that works remotely, such moments in person are rare and valuable, strengthening collaboration, inclusion and wellbeing by creating space for conversations and experiences beyond the screen. CEO Daniel Hook opened the event, which combined PechaKucha lightning talks, self-organized unconference sessions and a mix of team activities.



*“Digital Science has a way of creating spaces that don’t feel like work, yet deliver so much. Gathering in Gabicce Mare off-season gave us room to meet, collaborate and enjoy each other’s company. It’s the kind of experience that stays with you long after you’re back behind a screen.”*

**Alexander Kujath, VP Technology Operations & Planning**

We agreed that an external Advisory Board would help us in improving our engagement and alignment with the communities we support. So, during 2024 we worked to bring together a panel of six experienced leaders to represent as much of the diversity of Digital Science’s complex stakeholder environment as possible. The Board will meet four times each year to discuss key issues facing the wider research ecosystem, providing insights and recommendations on a variety of topics crucial to the strategic growth and operational excellence of Digital Science.

**Daniel Hook, CEO, Digital Science says:**

*“Our Advisory Board comprises global experts who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience. Their role is to provide strategic guidance and challenge to help us continue our path of innovation and openness, ensuring we’re providing the most responsible and reliable innovations to the communities that invest their trust in us.”*

In 2024, Digital Science invested in infrastructure to strengthen our culture and inclusion, setting the stage for significant advancements in the coming years. Dedicated roles were established towards the end of the year, with the creation of a Head of Culture, Community and Inclusion to strategically oversee our diversity and inclusion initiatives as well as nurture and evolve our organizational culture as we continue to grow and scale. We also made strides in defining our cultural bedrock and empowering employee-led initiatives.

We initiated a key project to define our cultural identity, by articulating behaviors that embody our company's core values: Brave in the Pursuit of Better, Always Open Minded, Collaborative and Inclusive, and From and For the Community.



To further empower our employee communities, we collaborated with Project 23, a diversity, equity and inclusion agency, to enhance the operational functionality and strategic vision of our Employee Resource Groups (ERGs). We currently have five active groups:

- Disability & Neurodiversity
- Pride @ DS (for our LGBTQIA+ colleagues)
- Ethniverse (for our racially or ethnically minoritized colleagues)
- Sustainability & Environment
- Women @ DS (our largest ERG)

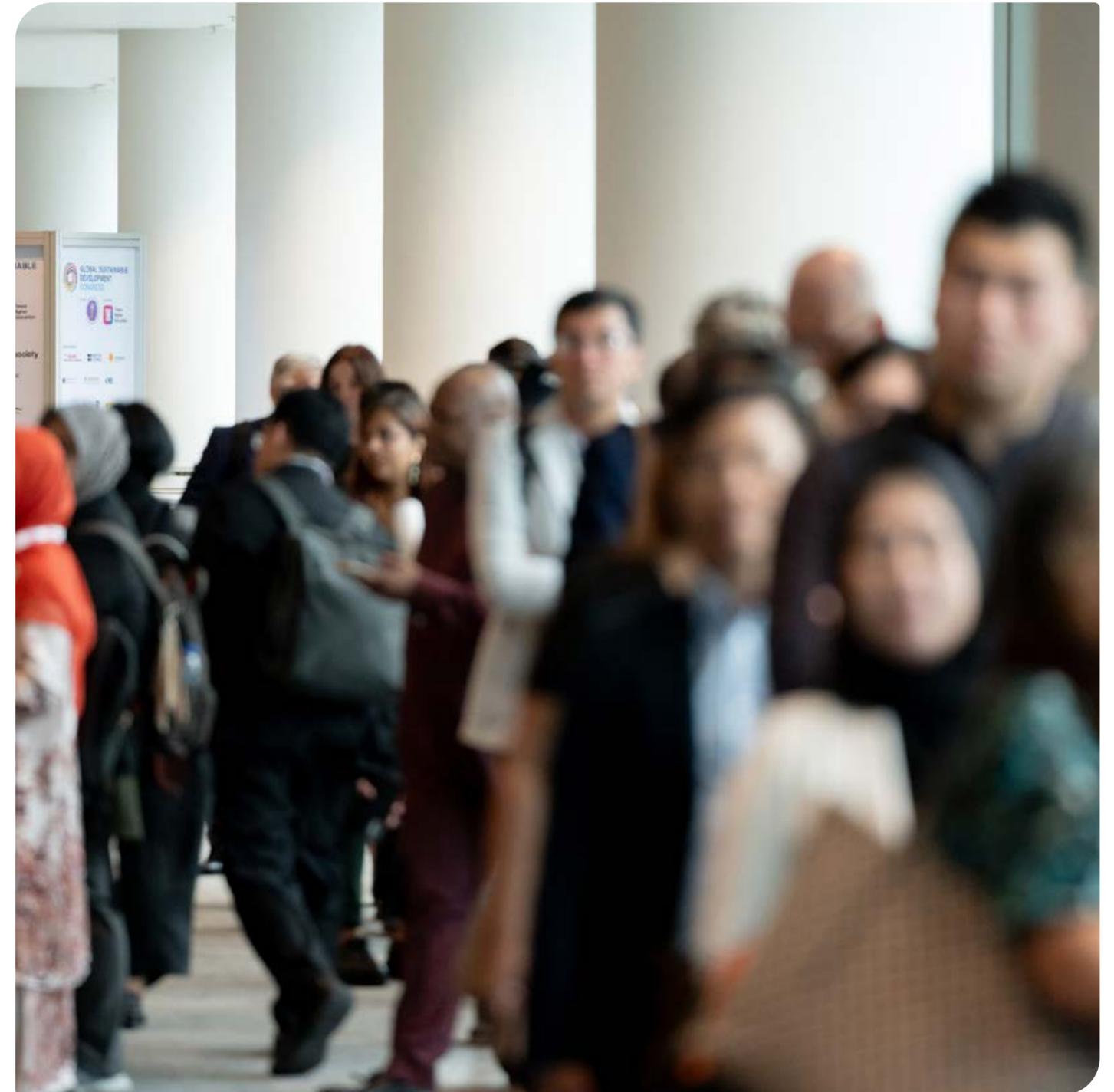
These are vital to fostering a sense of community, providing educational opportunities, and serving as a crucial feedback mechanism and consultative body for people-related activities within the business.

## Sustainable Development Goals

As part of Digital Science's commitment to advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we co-hosted a powerful data-driven panel session at the 2024 Times Higher Education Global Sustainable Development Congress, alongside Hong Kong Baptist University and Western Sydney University. The latter is a globally recognized SDG leader, having ranked No.1 four times in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings (which now include over 2,000 participating institutions).

The session explored how data-informed approaches to university rankings and research evaluation can drive more inclusive and socially relevant outcomes. Drawing on real-time data, we highlighted how SDG-aligned research can be more transparently and equitably tracked - calling attention to disparities in global research participation and female authorship. The congress was attended by over 50 global stakeholders, and our panel emphasized the growing importance of integrating open research practices, strategic planning and *inclusive* metrics into institutional evaluation.

Beyond this event, we continue to build strong relationships with influential ranking bodies and SDG influencers, using Dimensions data, SDG classification tools and analytics to champion Global North/South imbalances and shape more responsible, action-oriented approaches to measuring research and societal impact.



## Case Study: Training Centre in Communication (TCC) Africa



Our strategic partnership with the Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa) marked a significant milestone in its fifth anniversary in 2024. The collaboration has proved instrumental in strengthening research capabilities across Sub-Saharan Africa. It delivers targeted training to enable researchers to increase their impact, advance open access adoption and contribute valuable African scholarship to the Dimensions Database, making it a more comprehensive and representative resource for the global academic community.

**Our joint initiatives from July to September have yielded significant results:**

- Engaged and trained over 570 early-career researchers across seven African nations, providing hands-on experience using Dimensions to find grants, track publications, and measure research impact.
- Championed Open Access and normative publishing practices to enhance researcher visibility, ensuring their work is effectively indexed and discovered through Dimensions.
- Expanded the collection of African journals and research within Dimensions by forging strategic partnerships with key higher education stakeholders across the continent.
- Advanced the conversation on equitable scholarly publishing through key participation in major events, including the Kenya National Research Festival 2024 and the OASPA Conference.

**The success of our collaboration with TCC Africa underscores our shared commitment to building a more inclusive and powerful research ecosystem. We are proud to support the African academic community and will continue to invest in initiatives that drive discovery, visibility, and impact.**



## Citations for FoSci work

*Scholarly Kitchen*. 2024. (referenced) [Resetting and Recharging Research Communications in the Sun of Los Angeles: A FORCE11 Conference Report](#)

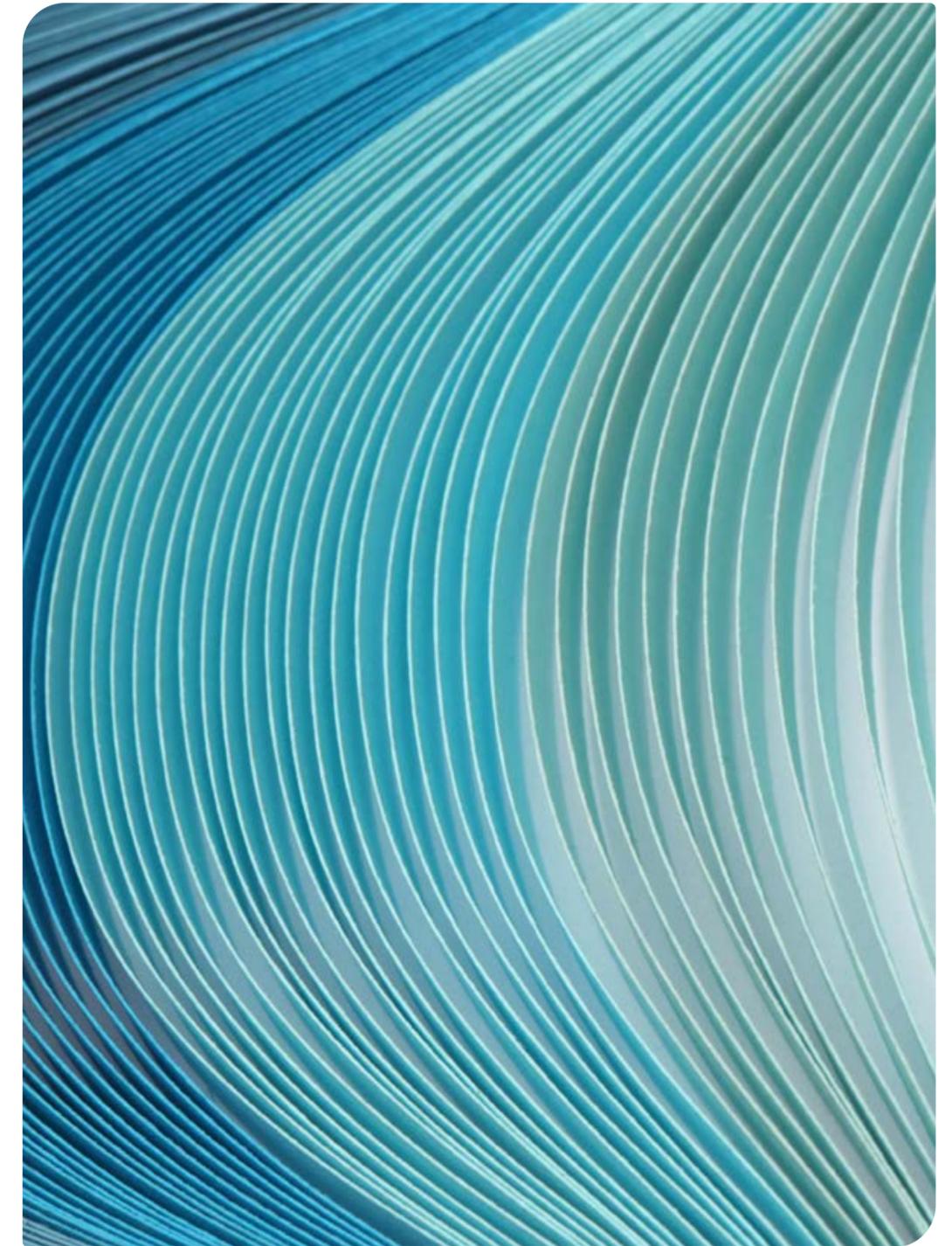
Il Folgio. 2024. [L'integrità nella ricerca scientifica e la necessità di una nuova disciplina](#)

McIntosh, Leslie D. (2024): FoSci – [The Emerging Field of Forensic Scientometrics](#) *The Scholarly Kitchen*

McIntosh, Leslie D. (2024): [Science Misused in the Law](#)

McIntosh, Leslie and Hudson Vitale, Cynthia. 2024. Forensic Scientometrics -- An emerging discipline to protect the scholarly record. *arXiv* <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2311.11344>

Porter, Simon and McIntosh, Leslie. 2024. Identifying Fabricated Networks within Authorship-for-Sale Enterprises. *Scientific Reports* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-71230-8>





## About Digital Science

Digital Science was launched in 2010 by members of the research community with a bold mission: to revolutionize the way science is done. We've emphasized a community-driven approach right from the start, actively listening to our community's needs and shaping our offerings based on their real-world challenges.

From tracking research impact to supporting open research and data sharing, mapping the research landscape, enabling collaboration, and providing deep insights, analysis, and discovery, Digital Science has grown into a powerhouse of innovation, supporting every corner of the research ecosystem.

Today, one of our strongest areas of growth is industry, as we leverage our technology and the power of AI to help enterprises work smarter, collaborate better, and push the boundaries of discovery.

---

## Get in touch

Visit [digital-science.com](https://digital-science.com) for more information.

