OpenVIVO: Transparency in Scholarship

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Abstract

OpenVIVO is a free and open hosted semantic web platform anyone can join that gathers and shares open data about scholarship in the world. . OpenVIVO, based on the VIVO open source platform, provides transparent access to data about the scholarly work of its participants. OpenVIVO demonstrates the use of persistent identifiers, automatic real-time ingest of scholarly ecosystem metadata, use of VIVO-ISF and related ontologies, attribution of work, and publication and reuse of data – all critical components of presenting, preserving, and tracking scholarship. The system was created by a cross-institutional team over the course of three months. The team created and used RDF models for research organizations in the world based on Digital Science GRID data, for academic journals based on data from CrossRef and the US National Library of Medicine, and created a new model for attribution of scholarly work. All models, data and software are available in open repositories.

VIVO, scholarly ecosystem, transparency, data sharing, Semantic Web, ORCID, GRID, contribution role ontology

1 Transparency in Scholarship

Scholarship requires knowledge of previous work. The growth of scholarship worldwide and the proliferation of scholarly output types – from papers and monographs to preprints, conference papers, datasets, posters, and presentation slides – have fundamentally changed the scholarly ecosystem from an environment dependent on libraries to one that is dependent on the electronic resources made available by libraries to support discovery and knowledge transfer. This shift clearly drives a need for the representation of scholarly works using standard metadata formats to facilitate indexing and discovery.

For scholars to have knowledge of previous work, the work must be indexed and discoverable via electronic systems. Metadata regarding the work must be available. The metadata regarding scholarly work is typically not copyrighted or restricted by license. Many commercial systems are available to collect such open metadata, index it, and provide discovery tools powered by the metadata to scholars. However, the cost of such systems can be a barrier to many institutions.

Systems and data regarding scholarship should provide scholars with knowledge of previous work in a transparent manner, providing data regarding work that has been done. A number of recent efforts have contributed toward increased transparency. VIVO[34] provides an open data model for the representation of scholarship and an open API for accessing data in VIVO systems. ORCID[23] provides an open API to data marked open by users. figshare[8], PubMed[29], CrossRef[4], SHARE[24], and DataCite[5] each provide open APIs that can be used to identify and collect metadata regarding scholarly works.

The VIVO platform served as the framework for the study described herein. VIVO provides the means for organizations to host data regarding their scholarship, integrating VIVO with their internal systems to provide detailed, open information automatically from institutional repositories and enterprise systems, for their scholars, regarding their scholarship. Using VIVO ontological models for representing scholarship, open APIs, and persistent identifiers, OpenVIVO provides transparent access to the metadata of the scholarly works of its participants.

2 Ontological Models

OpenVIVO is a VIVO system and uses classes, object properties and data properties from the twenty ontologies that are used by VIVO[34] to represent the scholarship of its participants. OpenVIVO is a native semantic web application using a triple store to record all information. Triples conform to the VIVO Integrated Semantic Framework (VIVO-ISF)[20] and its associated ontologies. The OpenVIVO team used the VIVO-ISF to develop data models for all entities represented in OpenVIVO. Figure 1 shows a portion of the OpenVIVO ontological model centered on the person class with data properties associated with each class and object properties associating the person with other entities such as scholarly works, positions held, and contact information. [insert figure 1.]

Person Model for OpenVIVO

Figure 1: OpenVIVO Person Model showing relationships to contact information, profile photograph, positions, academic works, events, and research areas.

Working with Digital Science, the OpenVIVO team developed an ontological model using VIVO-ISF to represent the GRID[12] research organizational data, which is openly available. A new data property was added to contain the GRID identifier and a model was created to represent figshare[8] data; figshare subsequently added VIVO RDF as an output format to the figshare open API. Additional models were constructed from existing VIVO classes, object properties and data properties to represent journals, and datetimes. These models were used to develop processes for loading data into OpenVIVO and to provide datasets that others can use.

3 The OpenVIVO system

OpenVIVO is a hosted VIVO platform that anyone can join. It is provided freely to anyone who would like to have an OpenVIVO profile.

3.1 Project Goals

OpenVIVO was developed as a demonstration of VIVO[34] for the Force16[10] conference. The project team consisted of 16 volunteers from 10 institutions. The team established six project goals which were realized over the course of the three month project leading to the debut of OpenVIVO at the FORCE16 Conference, held in Portland, OR April 17-19, 2016.

1. Provide a VIVO experience for everyone, a demonstration of VIVO, a platform for experimentation, and an ownership experience for the VIVO team.
2. Use open persistent identifiers for all entities. The identifiers come from trusted sources: people (ORCID), works (DOI and PMID), organizations (GRID), journals (ISSN), and concepts (FAST). The team wanted to understand if the platform could be entirely populated by using persistent identifiers for all entities; this project clearly demonstrated that this is indeed possible.
3. Automatic, real-time ingest of metadata via public APIs.
4. Attribution of works by scholars using the contribution role ontology, to indicate their roles in works or projects.
5. Continuous publication of OpenVIVO metadata via CC-BY license.
6. Demonstrate consumption and reuse of OpenVIVO scholarly metadata.

3.2 VIVO Experience

Establishing an OpenVIVO profile is a straightforward process. Anyone with an ORCID[22] account can join Open VIVO by visiting the Open VIVO web site[31] and logging in with their ORCID username and password. Upon logging in, OpenVIVO creates the profile and individuals can customize their profile with their profile photo and other information. Data from ORCID can be marked public by users; it is the data marked public that will automatically get transferred to OpenVIVO via the ORCID public API. Individuals will then have an option to add a brief overview for themselves. It takes about thirty (30) seconds to make a full OpenVIVO profile.

The OpenVIVO project team chose ORCID authentication for several reasons: 1) to simplify the user experience for users of OpenVIVO, as users do not have another username and password to manage; 2) to eliminate password management for the OpenVIVO team, as forgotten passwords can be reset using existing ORCID capabilities; and 3) to provide an ORCID identifier for every person signing on to OpenVIVO, as the identifier provides a key value for using the ORCID public API[23] to populate OpenVIVO from the ORCID profile. Figure 2 shows an OpenVIVO profile. The user can add links to other web sites, position and title, photograph, an overview, research areas, and more. Works are added from ORCID at each signon. Publication visualizations such as publications over time, co-author networks, and a map of science are available. [insert figure 2.]

Figure 2: An OpenVIVO Profile. Users signon to OpenVIVO using ORCID usernames and passwords. Users edit their overview, title, and contact information. OpenVIVO automatically populates the profile from ORCID.

The VIVO experience for OpenVIVO is different from that of VIVO hosted by an institution. Design choices were made by the OpenVIVO project team to simplify VIVO for use as an unrestricted public site. One's profile may be edited in VIVO, to add detail regarding one's scholarship. These self-edits are typically curated by institutional representatives to ensure common language and formatting is used. The OpenVIVO project does not have an editorial team. As a result, self-edit was limited to those attributes that were simple data properties, such as contact information, and edits that could be made by selecting elements from force-choice drop down menus. Over fifty self-edits available in VIVO were turned off in OpenVIVO, a change resulting in clean data without the need for manual curation – although at the cost of significant simplification in the level of detail that can be provided by the scholar to the system.

OpenVIVO provides a platform for demonstration of new VIVO features. Shortly after the debut, the capability map for interactive exploration of expertise was added to the VIVO code base and to OpenVIVO. The capability map, modeled on the Find An Expert site at the University of Melbourne[26] is shown in Figure 3. [insert figure 3.] Several months later, document viewers were added to display content from Figshare[8]. In this way, features new to VIVO can be shown to the community before they are implemented at institutional VIVO sites.

Institutional sites may wait months to schedule and upgrade their VIVO sites. OpenVIVO can be upgraded by the VIVO team. OpenVIVO provides an ownership opportunity for the VIVO team at Duraspace[6], the non-profit membership organization that stewards the VIVO project and the VIVO community. System administration is provided by the VIVO team. No manual effort is used to create, curate or publish data, as these processes are completely automated.

Figure 3: The capability map allows users to select concepts of interest, displaying people whose work involves those concepts. Connections between people represent co-authorship. The map can be tuned, navigated and "drilled down" to individual investigators.

3.3 Hosting Environment

OpenVIVO is hosted on a dedicated server leased from Hetzner Online GmbH[13] and supported by VIVO members[33]. The specifications include a quad core processor, 32GB RAM and 500GB SSD (with 6GB/s transfer). This option was chosen for affordability and the very high storage bandwidth, which makes a significant difference to the performance of the triple store. The software environment was kept as simple and realistic to common usage as possible. As such, CentOS 6 (a community supported Linux using the RedHat Enterprise sources) is

installed, along with the following software, all from the CentOS repositories: *OpenJDK 8*, *Apache Maven 3.0.5*, *Apache Tomcat 7*, *Apache HTTPd 2.4*, and *MariaDB 5*.

3.4 Global Persistent Identifiers

Global persistent identifiers (GPID) are used in OpenVIVO to uniquely identify people, scholarly works, journals, and organizations conducting research. As a semantic web application, every entity in OpenVIVO also has a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI). GPID are attributes of the entities identified by URI. GPID serve to identify entities outside of OpenVIVO, and support data ingest, identification of entities by humans, and data linkage between OpenVIVO and other systems. OpenVIVO takes a strict approach to the use of GPID for the entities identified by them – such entities *must* have a GPID attribute. In each case, the attribute value appears as part of the entity URI.

ORCID, the Open Researcher and Contributor Identifier[22] is a sixteen character string, part of the ISNI name space. URI for person entities in OpenVIVO have the format <http://openvivo.org/a/ORCIDaaaa-bbbb-cccc-dddd>, where aaaa-bbbb-cccc-dddd is the value of the ORCID for the person entity. Persons without ORCID identifiers can not appear in OpenVIVO.

DOI and PubMed Unique Identifiers, Digital Object Identifiers (doi)[15] and/or PubMed Unique Identifiers (pmid)[28] are required for each scholarly work in OpenVIVO. Works without either a DOI or a PubMed ID can not appear in OpenVIVO. URI for works identified by DOI have the format <http://openvivo.org/a/doivalue> where *value* is the DOI value, typically beginning with 10. URI for works identified by PubMed ID has the format <http://openvivo.org/a/pubmedvalue> where *value* is the value of the PubMed ID. Works may have both a doi and a pmid.

ISSN, the International Standard Serial Number[16] is used to identify journals. The OpenVIVO team assembled a set of journals with ISSN using data from CrossRef[4] and from the National Library of Medicine in the United States[27], both publically available for download and reuse. Journals with an associated print ISSN from each set were modeled with the VIVO-ISF ontology by using the Karma data integration tool[14].

Global Research Identifier Database (GRID)[12] is used to identify organizations conducting research. GRID is an open, curated dataset of research organizations across the world, each with a unique identifier, the GRID ID. Working with the creators of GRID, the OpenVIVO team developed an RDF model for organizations using the VIVO ontologies[34]. The resulting collection of research organizations was loaded into OpenVIVO. Users of OpenVIVO can then select organizations from a list of the research organizations in the world. URI for organizations have the format <http://openvivo.org/a/gridvalue>, where *value* is the value of the GRID identifier for the organization entity. GRID updates its data monthly. OpenVIVO replicates these updates in the RDF in OpenVIVO for organizations. All organizations in OpenVIVO must have a GRID identifier.

Faceted Application of Subject Terminology (FAST)[18] provides a controlled vocabulary of research areas. OpenVIVO users can select from the FAST terminology using an external interface to FAST, enabling terms selected by users to be added to the OpenVIVO triple store. Figure 4 shows the OpenVIVO screen by which a user can search FAST for concepts and add selected concepts as research areas. The user has selected "clinical trials," and FAST has offered a collection of possible terms. The user has indicated two concepts to add as research areas. Triples defining the selected concepts are fetched from FAST and added to the OpenVIVO triple store, along with inferred triples. [insert figure 4.]

Manage Concepts

Concept (Type)	Vocabulary Source
Data curation	FAST Remove
Information storage and retrieval systems	FAST Remove
Information storage and retrieval systems--Libraries	FAST Remove
Institutional repositories	FAST Remove
Linked data	FAST Remove
Ontology	FAST Remove

External Vocabulary Services

☒ [FAST](#) (Faceted Application of Subject Terminology)

Label (Type)	Definition	Best Match
☐ Clinical trials	No definition provided.	✓
☐ Clinical trials--Data processing	No definition provided.	
☐ Clinical trials--Design	No definition provided.	
☐ Clinical trials--Evaluation	No definition provided.	
☐ Clinical trials--Government policy	No definition provided.	
☐ Clinical trials--Law and legislation	No definition provided.	

[... more](#)

[Can't find the concept you want? Select or create a VIVO-defined concept.](#)
 or [Return to Profile Page](#)

Figure 4: Selection of concepts from FAST to add to an OpenVIVO profile.

Table 1 shows the counts of various identifiers, including FAST concepts, in OpenVIVO as of the writing of this paper.

IDENTIFIER	ENTITY	VALUES
ORCID	People	403
DOI	Works	1,689
PMID	Works	48
ISSN	Journals	44,348
GRID	Organizations	58,125
FAST	Concepts	377

Table 1: *Use of persistent identifiers in OpenVIVO. The number of unique values of each identifier in the OpenVIVO triple store is shown.*

3.5 Real-time ingest of metadata

For ingesting works into OpenVIVO, public APIs from various publication databases are used to retrieve metadata. By these means, we are able to acquire high quality, consistent metadata, whilst users are asked to enter as little information as possible. This includes parsing a user's ORCID profile for DOIs, and using DOIs and PubMed identifiers to retrieve metadata.

ORCID. Whenever a user authenticates via ORCID, OpenVIVO queries the public API to obtain all of the data that the person has stored on their public profile. If it is the first time that somebody has logged on, then an OpenVIVO profile will be created, using their ORCID as part of the OpenVIVO URI, and populating as much of the biography information (name, email, location, about, etc.) as possible. For all of the works listed with a DOI, the list of DOIs is passed to the OpenVIVO "claim your works" workflow, where the user can approve that they are associated with the work, and add contribution information. On revisiting OpenVIVO, the list of works in the user's public ORCID profile is compared with the works that they are associated with in OpenVIVO, and they are only asked to claim works with DOIs that they are not currently associated with.

CrossRef/ DataCite There are a multiple ways of retrieving metadata associated with a given DOI. For providers like CrossRef who provide their own APIs, these can be queried directly, but require custom code for each provider. Alternatively, using content negotiation, metadata can be retrieved from the DOI resolver. This provides a single, consistent interface that covers many of the DOI registries - including the two most prominent providers, CrossRef and DataCite. In OpenVIVO, we use content negotiation with the DOI resolver to retrieve metadata in a JSON serialisation. This is then mapped to an intermediate format for the "claim your works" process.

PubMed PubMed is a major biomedical publication database, which can be queried via public APIs. While CrossRef and DataCite cover a wider range of disciplines, PubMed provides a much larger historical database within its scope. Within biomedicine, PubMed identifiers are often more widely known than the DOIs. For these reasons, there were many requests to include direct support for PubMed identifiers in OpenVIVO. This was achieved in two ways. First, the PubMed APIs were used to attempt to resolve the PubMed identifiers to DOIs. For consistency, where DOIs were available these were then used to retrieve the metadata via the DOI resolver. When a DOI is not available, the PubMed APIs are used to retrieve a JSON serialisation. This is then mapped to an intermediate format for the "claim your works" process. [insert figure 5.]

If you do not wish to claim a work, select "This is not my work".

DOI: 10.18131/g3s32r Article

We built it and they came! Building a Repository Solution for the Future

☒ Ilik, V
 ☐ Unlisted Author
 ☐ Editor
 ☐ Other Contribution

Please indicate the contribution that you made to this work

Hide roles

Author
☐ Writing Original Draft
 ☐ Figure Development
 ☐ Editing and Proofreading
 ☐ Translator
 ☐ Background and Literature Search
 ☐ Conceptualization

Preservation
☐ Archivist
 ☐ Digital Preservation
 ☐ Conservator

Data
☐ Data Curation
 ☐ Data Analysis
 ☐ Data Integration
 ☐ Metadata Application
 ☐ Statistical Data Analysis
 ☐ Data Quality Assurance
 ☐ Data Entry
 ☐ Data Collection
 ☐ Data Modeling
 ☐ Data Visualization
 ☐ Data Aggregation
 ☐ Data Standards Developer
 ☐ Funding Acquisition
 ☐ Study Investigation

Methodology
☐ Technique Development
 ☐ Guideline Development
 ☐ Study Design
 ☐ Protocol Creation
 ☐ Standard Operating Procedure Development
 ☐ Project Management
 ☐ Team Management
 ☐ Regulatory Administration
 ☐ Policy Development

Communication
☐ Marketing
 ☐ Graphic Design
 ☐ Documentation
 ☐ Networking Facilitation
 ☐ Website Development

Figure 5: The claim process. Once metadata has been retrieved for an identified work, the user is asked to confirm their author position - OpenVIVO attempts to guess from the metadata - and/or assign any contribution roles.

figshare. Using the figshare open API[9], the OpenVIVO team created a utility, *figshare2vivo*[2], for mining figshare and adding content to OpenVIVO. *figshare2vivo* can collect works from figshare based on ORCID identifiers of authors, or by tags on the works. Using a tag for a conference, such as #vivo2016 for the VIVO 2016 conference, all works for a conference can be collected. Collected works are then represented in RDF using an OpenVIVO model developed in conjunction with Digital Science, the parent company of figshare. The resulting RDF can then be loaded to OpenVIVO.

3.6 Contribution Role Ontology

OpenVIVO utilizes the Contribution Role Ontology (CRO) developed by the FORCE11 Attribution Working Group. This ontology extends the contributions to scholarship beyond manuscript authorship to capture the broadening of researchers participation in scientific discoveries that have not been previously recognized by traditional measures of scholarly impact. Representation of all scholarly contributions and activities and their relationships to people and organizations is crucial to the health of the scholarly ecosystem as a whole. The FORCE11 Attribution Working Group along with the OpenVIVO Task Force members reviewed existing scholarly contribution taxonomies and extended the CRediT taxonomy[1] to create a prototype contributorship model that covers a wide selection of fields of research.

With the CRO, scholars are able to annotate the record with their specific contribution to scholarly works beyond authorship for manuscripts. The prototype CRO ontology contains sixty (60) contribution roles which allow scholars to select the exact role they had on each of their scholarly works. These roles were a mix from the forty-two roles collected from the FORCE 2016 Conference participants at the point of depositing their work in the official digital repository for the conference proceedings, the roles collected during the Attribution Working Group workshop at the FORCE 2015 Conference, the CRediT taxonomy, and the MARC code list of relator terms developed by the Library of Congress that designates the relationship between an agent and a bibliographic resource[17]. For example, in the production of a paper each scholar can claim the exact role they played, which means that one can claim that they had a conceptualization role, data analysis role, or data aggregation role, just to name a few.

The contribution role ontology can be found under the umbrella of Open Research Information Framework (OpenRIF) [19], an open source community devoted to representing scholarly research and expertise ecosystems. OpenRIF works on developing and promoting interoperable and extensible semantic infrastructure, such as: the VIVO Integrated Semantic Framework (VIVO-ISF), an ontology for representing people, works, and the relationships between them; federated databases modeled on PARDI, the Portfolio Analysis and Reporting Data Infrastructure, for research impact and evaluation; and eagle-i, which aims to make research resources discoverable via a semantic search interface and represents their relationships to scholarly activities.

The image of the contribution role hierarchy is located on the OpenRIF's GitHub repository: <https://github.com/openrif/contribution-ontology/tree/reorganized-hierarchy> (see Figure 6). OpenVIVO has an open text box for entering new contribution roles. The roles that are added as

text will eventually be examined and evaluated by the ontology team for inclusion in the contribution role ontology. [insert figure 6.]

Figure 6: *Contribution Role Hierarchy.*

3.7 Publication and Reuse of Data

The data is published openly and hourly[32] which points to the fact that the OpenVIVO data is freely available and open for anyone to use. OpenVIVO is not just about linked data it is about linked open data. The data in OpenVIVO is open and it is aggregated into one platform to showcase the scholarship.

In order for the data to be reusable, the contents of the asserted and inferred graphs are exported from the triple store in N-Triple format. These exports occur hourly, and to automate this, we reused a VIVO tool (VIVO-Harvester) that can transfer data between serialized triple files and triples stores. This tool is usually used as part of an automated process to extract, transform and load data from external systems into VIVO. By switching the input to be a graph from the triple store, and the output an N-Triple serialization, the export can be scripted without writing an additional utility.

The N-Triple serializations, along with full SQL backups of the Jena SDB triple store and copies of all the uploaded thumbnail images, are placed in an export directory, replacing the previous exports. Apache HTTPd is then configured to serve this directory, allowing anyone to download all of the data simply by visiting <http://openvivo.org/data/>. Once downloaded, the data can be used and reused in any way. The readme file has information about the files and how to best use them.

4 Results

OpenVIVO offers the VIVO team a platform to experiment with various features and decide which ones will eventually end up in the VIVO main code. The code and all the relevant data about OpenVIVO can be found on the GitHub repository[21]. Persistent identifiers play an important role in OpenVIVO: works have a DOI or PubMed ID, people have an ORCID, and organizations are identified through the GRID data available with a CC BY open license and can be freely used and downloaded. Close to 45,000 journals are identified with ISSNs and are represented in RDF, N-Triples format and modeled with the help of the VIVO-ISF ontology. FAST subjects/concepts are identified with their WorldCat identifiers; and all entities have OpenVIVO URIs.

Linked data triples counts for OpenVIVO are shown in Table 2. When OpenVIVO started in April 2016 for the Force 2016 Conference[3], there were 3616K triples in all four graphs. The abox and tbox are relatively fixed graphs in every VIVO instance. The triples for profile information are in the kb2 graph. The inference graph (inf) serves to collect the triples that are generated by inference. For example if one enters the information that he or she is a librarian, the inference graph will contain the inference that the entity is a person.

GRAPH	APRIL	JUNE	AUGUST	OCTOBER
abox	1095K	1095K	1095K	1095K
tbox	16K	16K	16K	16K
kb2	105K	175K	194K	208K
inf	2400K	2510K	2538K	2558K
Total	3616K	3796K	3843K	3877K

Table 2: *Number of triples in graphs in OpenVIVO by month, April 2016-October 2016*

OpenVIVO can be used to provide metadata in RDF regarding conferences. In collaboration with Force11 and figshare, OpenVIVO collected metadata on presentations and posters and created for Force2016 using figshare2vivo. In OpenVIVO, the metadata results in an event page for the conference.[11]. The same approach was used to provide a complete collection of metadata

regarding presentations and posters at the 2016 VIVO conference.[30]. Since the debut, OpenVIVO has also been used to provide metadata for software development[25], provide metadata regarding works presented at conferences[11, 30], and provide metadata for aggregated search[7].

Identification of organizations, scholars, and their works, remains a significant problem for the scholarly ecosystem. OpenVIVO demonstrates the utility of open API, persistent identifiers, and a common open data model for the collection and dissemination of open access to metadata regarding scholarship.

5 Next Steps

OpenVIVO meets a number of key needs in the scholarly ecosystem for scholars, for their organizations, and for the VIVO project, itself. In its most basic form, OpenVIVO can provide a profile of scholarly activity and roles, offering users a way to present their expertise, activities, and interest in an attractive manner. By leveraging a range of persistent identifiers, OpenVIVO makes it easy for users to populate their profiles. Moreover, the features that traditional VIVO instances enjoy, such as co-authorship and domain visualizations, feature prominently in the OpenVIVO platform. For institutions and those who have roles related to scholarly assessment, the OpenVIVO platform provides a valuable tool. The profile is not tied to a single institution, making the OpenVIVO profile something that can easily move and grow with a scholar. This offers an incredible benefit to those who are tasked with longitudinal tracking of trainees, for example. The quality metadata from the records can be used for reporting and subsequent visualizations. Perhaps most promising is the discoverability of the scholarly products that can be fostered through the machine-readable data in OpenVIVO. OpenVIVO demonstrates open scholarship, the connected ecosystem, and linked open data.

OpenVIVO serves as a technology demonstration for the VIVO project, providing a way to test and demonstrate new features that may appear in the released enterprise version. As new versions of VIVO are released, OpenVIVO will be upgraded. Data packages developed for OpenVIVO, such as GRID, journals, and dates, will be made available to the larger VIVO community for local use. The Contribution Role Ontology will also be continuously improved – especially based on the results of use of open text fields in OpenVIVO to expressing desired roles not already in the ontology. Additional software development could also provide the capability of extracting triples from OpenVIVO for use in a local VIVO. In this way, the institutional VIVO could contain the triples for an individual which are asserted in OpenVIVO; cross-linking VIVO sites to consume triples in real-time is also under consideration. The project team and the VIVO community expect to provide access to OpenVIVO to the scholarly community indefinitely.

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