

Research Information Systems in France

Fragmentation, Interoperability, and Emerging Paths toward
Coordination

Overview based on a national analysis of RIS

Joachim Schöpfel

*Univ. Lille, ULR 4073 - GERiiCO - Groupe d'Études et de Recherche
Interdisciplinaire en Information et Communication, F-59000 Lille, France*

What are Research Information Systems (RIS)?

- Digital systems supporting research management and governance
 - Cover projects, outputs, researchers, funding, and evaluation
 - Strategic infrastructures for science policy
- An umbrella term for a large diversity of solutions
 - CRIS and other infrastructures
 - Systems with (partial) functional equivalency

The French Research Landscape

One of the world's leading research systems

- Research output: top 15 leading countries (WoS)
 - 340,000 scientists
- Highly diverse institutions and governance models
- Strong organizational autonomy
- Widespread multi-supervision of research units
 - Universities, research organisations (CNRS, INRAE, INRIA...)
 - National funding agency (ANR)
 - National evaluation agency (Hcéres)

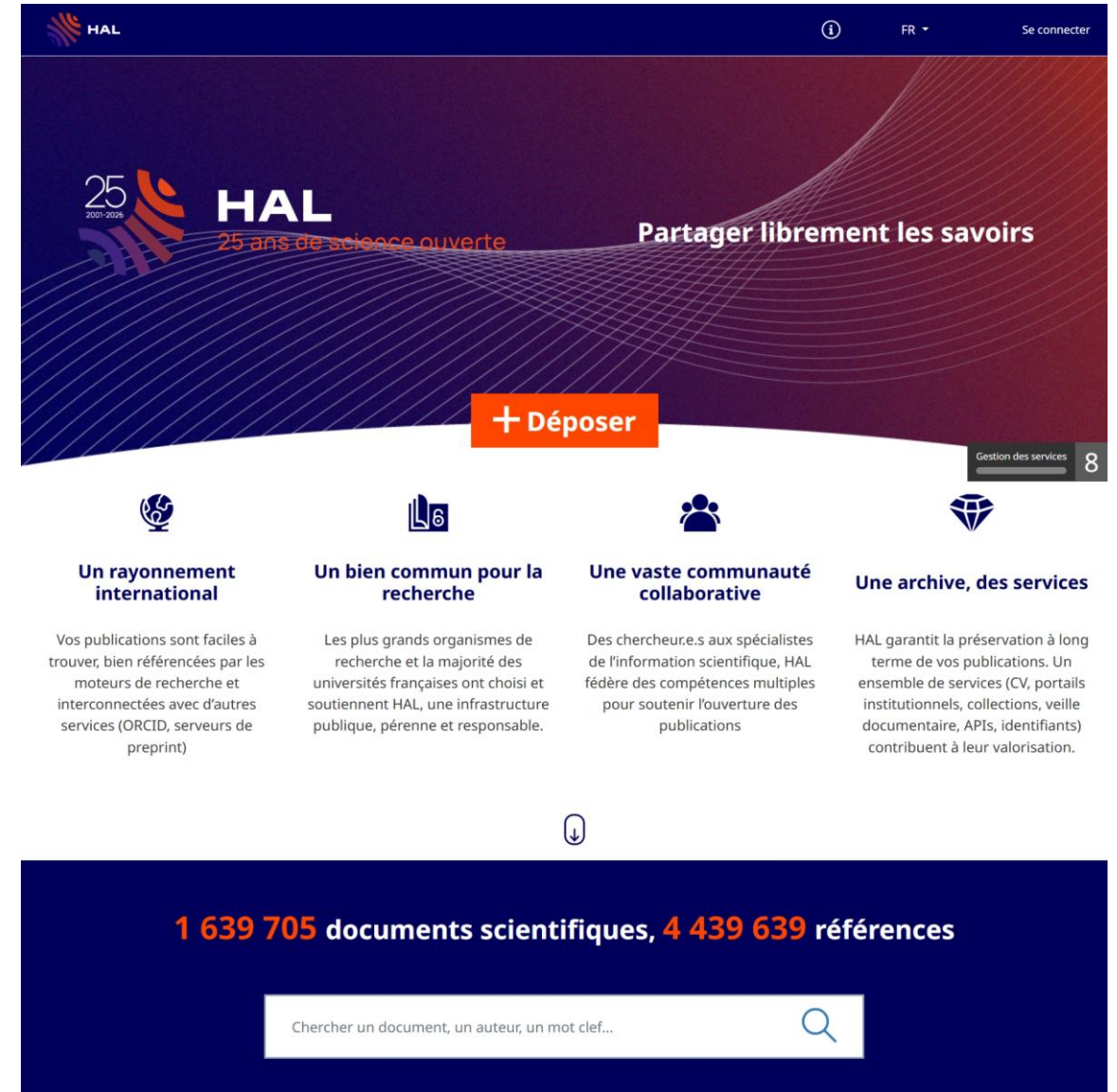
A Fragmented RIS Landscape

- No unified national RIS
- No shared French RIS software
 - Multiple tools at different institutional levels
 - Heterogeneous technologies and scopes
- Few studies
 - Limited international visibility

RIS in Research Organizations

Internal systems in CNRS, INRIA, INRAE

- Heavy reliance on HAL for publications
 - HAL = national open repository
 - Mandatory policies
- Strong administrative focus
- Partial research lifecycle coverage



Labintel (CNRS): Strengths and Limits

Institutional reference system since 1987

- Robust structural and administrative data
- Limited researcher-centered functionality
- Not fully interoperable

RIS in Higher Education Institutions

Very heterogeneous local solutions

- Mix of shared, local, and commercial tools
- Weak or unclear governance
- Highly siloed research data
- Weak standardisation

CapLab: A National Attempt

Top-down project led by AMUE

- Centralized project and activity tracking
 - Not a full-size CRIS
- Integrated with other management tools
- Abandoned in 2024 due to low adoption

Research Laboratories

Numerous locally developed tools

- High functional diversity
- Dependence on individual expertise
- Sustainability challenges



CRISalid: A Bottom-Up Approach

Consortium-based, open-source RIS

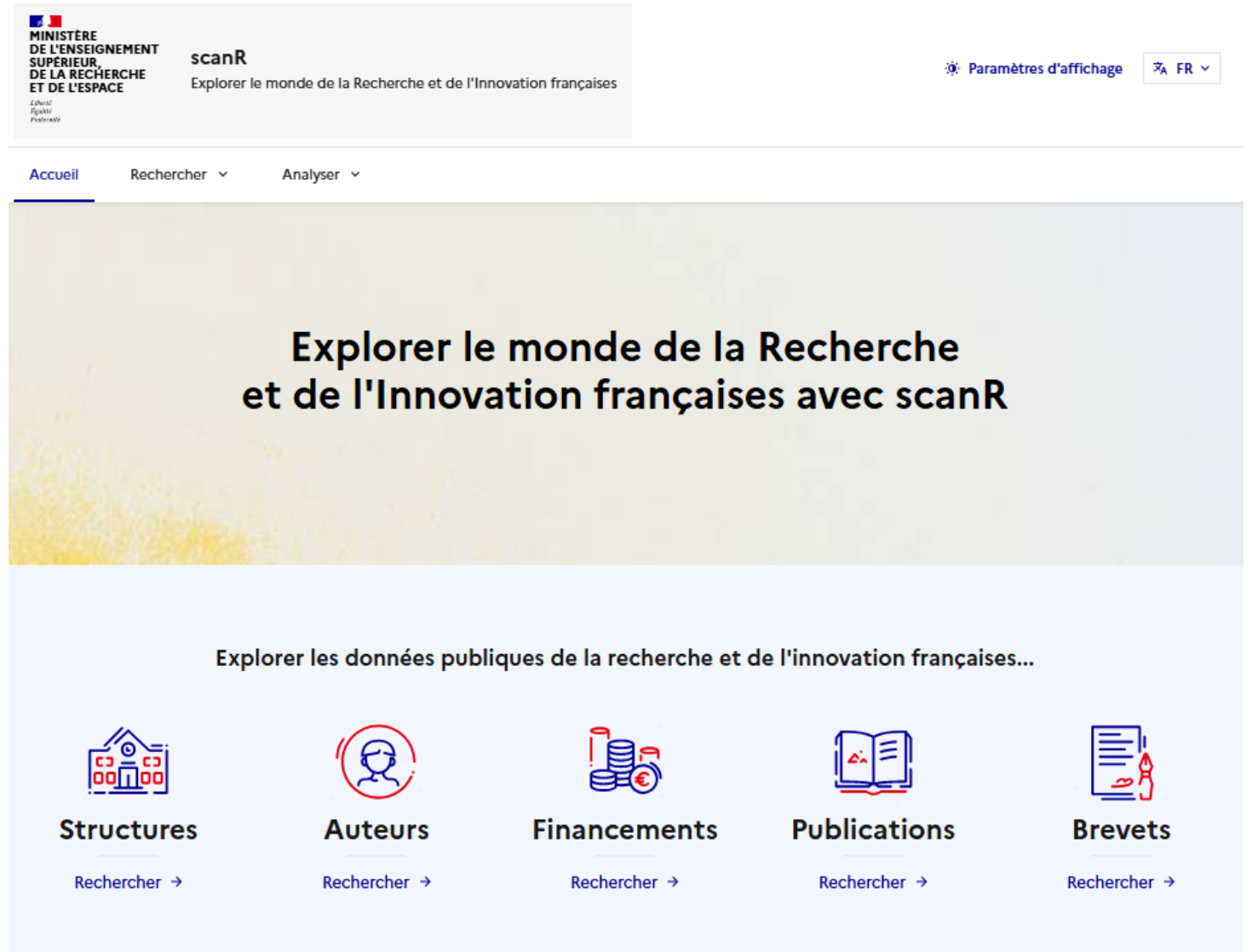
- Modular and interoperable architecture
- Knowledge graphs and automated harvesting
- Decentralized governance



scanR: National Discovery Platform

Developed by the Ministry

- Based exclusively on open data
- Focus on exploration and visualization
- Complementary to institutional RIS
 - NOT a data base
 - NOT a CRIS



Beyond RIS: Monitoring Tools

Open Science Barometer (BSO)

- Relies on RIS data and identifiers
- Blurs boundaries between monitoring and RIS
- Part of a broader information ecosystem

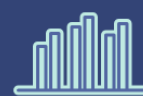


Baromètre français de la Science Ouverte

Les publications et thèses ▾ Données et code ▾ La santé ▾ Les établissements ▾ À propos ▾

Bienvenue sur

le Baromètre français de la Science Ouverte



Mesurer l'évolution de la science ouverte en France à partir de données fiables, ouvertes et maîtrisées.

Emerging Opportunities

- Administrative simplification
 - ‘Tell us once’ principle
- Project-based funding
 - Monitoring
- Industrial partnerships
 - Management tools
- European university alliances
 - Integration of different systems

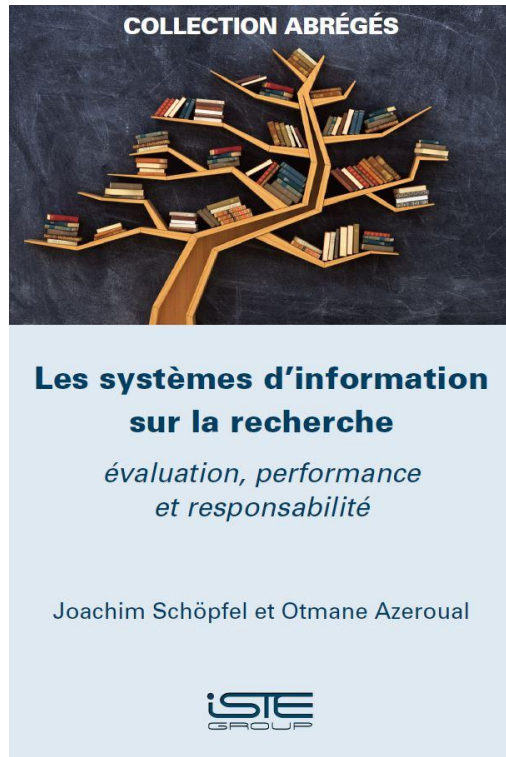
Conclusion

French RIS will remain decentralized

- Interoperability preferred over unification
- Persistent identifiers are central
- RIS as strategic governance infrastructures

THANK YOU

joachim.schopfel@univ-lille.fr



THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION
FOR RESEARCH INFORMATION