



# FIM4L update for REFEDS

*September 14th 2022*



## A libraries principle: protecting academic freedom

Authentication should be managed in the right way, protecting privacy. The FIM4L working group helps libraries with this by providing recommendations. We serve a global community with an email list of about 70 people.  
([www.fim4l.org](http://www.fim4l.org))

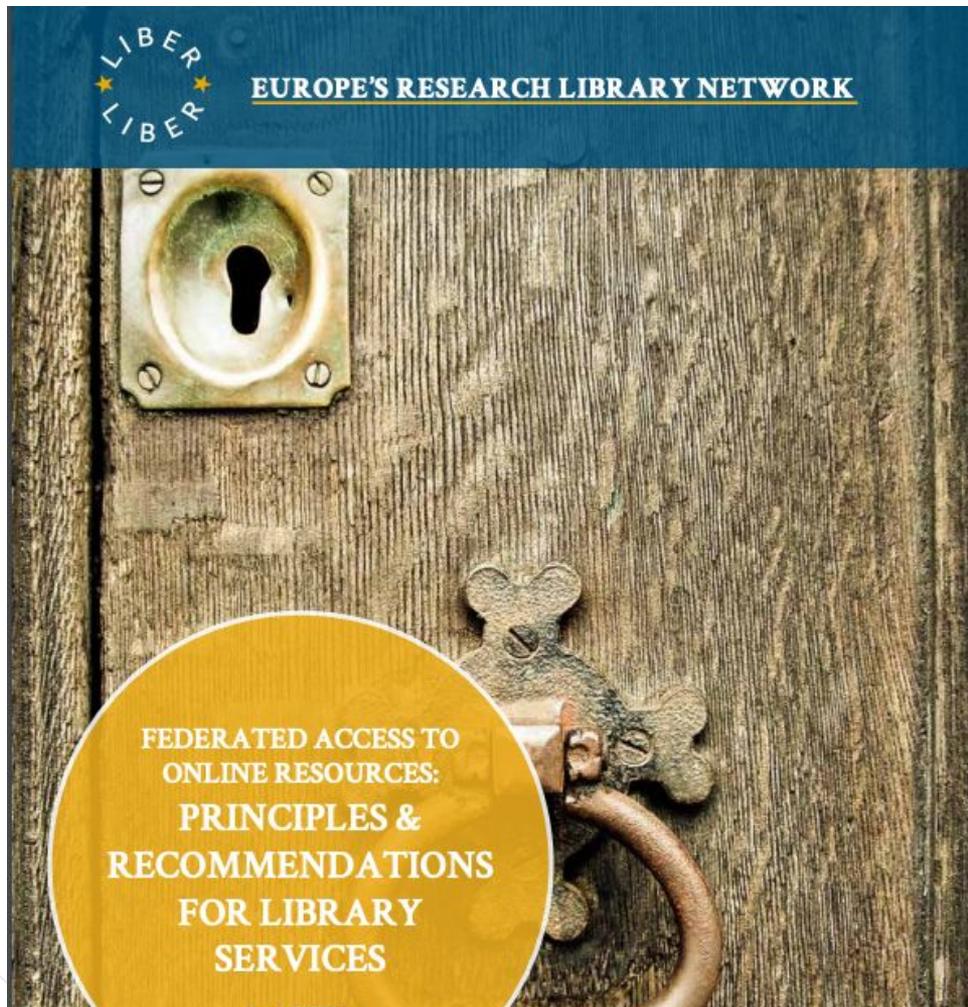
# Organization and strategy

The FIM4L initiative is born as a spin-off from the AARC project as a global initiative from librarians. A Working Group was formed under LIBER (Association of EU libraries) by whom we are governed.

We have close ties with Seamless Access, REFEDS and Geant.

We are a library-led community for librarians. Create awareness, explain possibilities and serve with recommendations for both IdP's and SP's.

In 2020 we published our Recommendations



FEDERATED ACCESS TO  
ONLINE RESOURCES:  
PRINCIPLES &  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR LIBRARY  
SERVICES



EUROPE'S RESEARCH LIBRARY NETWORK

# Version 2

ELIATED ACCESS TO  
ONLINE RESOURCES:  
PRINCIPLES &  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR LIBRARY  
SERVICES

## **The recommendations' core principles can be summarized as:**

- Federated authentication is a viable alternative to IP based access with a strong set of benefits for libraries and publishers
- Correct configuration is key to the successful operation of a Single Sign-On connection
- User privacy should be always be protected by all parties involved

# Recommendations

## zooming in to 4.A and 4.B

- An IdP can be configured to release either a transient or a persistent alphanumeric identifier.
- In version 2 we alined the namings to the REFEDS entity categories: "Anonymous Access" and "Pseudonymous Access".
- We don't make a recommended choice in the document but it preferable to choice option pseudonymous (4.B)

# Where are we now

- Talks with Elsevier about "agile" access
- Published as a blogpost on [LIBER website](#)
- By "agile" we mean that an IdP can release an persistent identifier or not.
- Results:
  - Anonymous works for some products, some not.
  - You cannot change during a session, and you can't login anonymous anymore after a pseudonymous session.
  - There's a need for building trust between libraries and publishers to solve the difficulties.
  - This can be done by contracts and technical transparency. (CoCo for libraries?)
  - User awareness and communication should be part of SSO implementation.



# THANKS!

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