

# YazikOpen: A Guide for Editors of Open Access Journals

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## Abstract

This short guide is aimed at editors who run open access journals about the teaching and learning of modern languages. It provides an introduction to YazikOpen, a rationale for inclusion and instructions on preparing a .ris file to ensure content can be added efficiently.

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## 1 About YazikOpen

YazikOpen ([www.yazikopen.org.uk](http://www.yazikopen.org.uk)) is an online database for open access research concerning the teaching and learning of modern languages. I began work on YazikOpen 2011. Although I am currently Senior Lecturer in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education at the University of Brighton and previously worked at the UK Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies, based at the University of Southampton, YazikOpen has no association with any of these organisations and I run the website in my own time using a commercial web-hosting service, financing this work through my own income and occasional donations from users.

## 2 Why catalogue your open access journal in YazikOpen?

Inclusion in YazikOpen will make the research in your journal more visible to internet search engines such as Google and Google Scholar. This is especially the case if your open access journal is hosted on an ordinary website such as a wordpress site as search engines are less likely to identify it specifically as an academic journal.

If your journal is catalogued in YazikOpen each entry can be exported in a variety of formats such as .ris and .bib and the user can import the citation details into reference management software such as Zotero™ or Endnote™ or Reference Manager™.

Cataloguing your journal in YazikOpen means that users of the website are more likely to find your articles too. Students, teachers and academics in many countries depend upon open access research due to the prohibitive cost of subscription journals.

## 3 Conditions for inclusion in YazikOpen

All items included must relate to learning and teaching modern languages and be open access. This means that the articles are free to view online indefinitely. Items which be included in YazikOpen include:

1. Research articles on teaching and learning languages
2. Policy reports
3. Literature reviews
4. Web articles

5. Conference proceedings
6. Masters or doctoral dissertations
7. Research reports
8. Books made available online by their author

Items which should not be included include:

1. Items which require payment to read in part or full
2. Items not about the teaching and learning of languages
3. Teaching resources. These can be shared on websites such as language-box.ac.uk and humbox.ac.uk
4. Language learning websites or materials.
5. Items which have made openly available through piracy or other unlawful means.
6. Links to samples or incomplete items.

## **4 Ensuring YazikOpen contains full coverage of your journal**

Thousands of items are included in YazikOpen. Currently new material is added haphazardly when I have the time. I subscribe to emails which provide notification of new issues where possible, but adding items to the database can be time-consuming especially when the journal website does not enable users to download article particulars in a machine readable format such as .ris and .bib. Fortunately these formats can be created easily (see below on preparing a .ris file) and if each journal editor spends a few minutes putting details of each new issue into .ris format then these details can be added straight into YazikOpen. This will speed up the process for me and ensure that all new material benefits from inclusion.

Making article details available in .ris format sounds complicated but is actually fairly simple (instructions in the following section.)

## **5 Preparing a .ris file**

### **5.1 About .ris files**

The .ris extension stands for Research Information Systems. It is simply a text-based file which can be created in a text editor such as Notepad (Windows) or TextEdit (Mac).

## 5.2 Detailed instructions to create .ris file

1. First we need to gather together all the information we have about the article. We will use an article from the *Scottish Languages Review and Digest* as an example. This journal is hosted on an ordinary website and the journal available as .pdf file. While the journal is nicely presented, anyone who wants to add an article to their journal referencing software will have to do this manually. Here is an example of article from a recent issue I have copied out manually.

Argyro Kanaki (2015) Pupils Language Competence in the Primary School: A Literature Review. *Scottish Languages Review and Digest* 29, pp. 1-10

**Abstract:**

This paper, which forms part of an ongoing PhD study, attempts a summary overview of research on pupil competence in modern languages in the primary school, as presented by a Systematic Literature Review (SLR). The research question for the SLR was: What sort of evidence do research papers present for pupil competence skills and language progress in the primary school? The paper reflects on the literature review findings in regard to pupil language competence and the recommendations for practitioners and policy makers they offer.

Keywords : Pupil Language Competence, Pupil Language Skills, Primary School, Modern Languages

Url: <http://www.scilt.org.uk/Portals/24/Library/slr/issues/29/29-0%20Complete%20Issue%20Final.pdf>

2. To turn this information into .ris format we need to paste all the above information into a text editor such as Notepad.
3. Third we then need add a series of 'Tags' to the information. The .ris format identifies each part of the reference, separately e.g. Author, journal, article title, volume number, pages numbers etc. Further details about the tags are given in the following section and Appendix 1.

First of all every .ris file starts with a tag indicating what sort of publication we are looking. In YazikOpen the most common work of reference is a journal article which is JOUR.

TY - JOUR

Finally every entry ends with

ER -

TY - JOUR

AU - Kanaki, Argyro

PY - 2015

TI - Pupils Language Competence in the Primary School: A Literature Review.

JF - Scottish Languages Review and Digest

SP - 1

EP - 10

VL - 29

AB - This paper, which forms part of an ongoing PhD study, attempts a summary overview of research on pupil competence in modern languages in the primary school, as presented by a Systematic Literature Review (SLR). The research question for the SLR was: What sort of evidence do research papers present for pupil competence skills and language progress in the primary school? The paper reflects on the literature review findings in regard to pupil language competence and the recommendations for practitioners and policy makers they offer.

KW - Pupil Language Competence

KW - Pupil Language Skills

KW - Primary School

KW - Modern Languages

UR - <http://www.scilt.org.uk/Portals/24/Library/slr/issues/29/29-0%20Complete%20Issue%20Final.pdf>

ER -

4. You then save your file in the .txt format and send to [admin@yazikopen.org.uk](mailto:admin@yazikopen.org.uk). To create an actual .ris file all you need to do is change the extension to .ris, but some email providers will remove files with 'unusual' file extensions on security grounds.

### 5.3 Creating .ris files with multiple references

A key strength of the .ris format is that multiple references can be included in one .ris or .txt file. Just place them into .txt file one after another (do not forget to use the TY and ER tags at the beginning and end of each reference (see below).

### 5.4 Further details about tags used

The only tags a .ris file must have are TY - and ER -.

TY - This is the type of publication. This must be the first line of entry

ER - indicates the end of the reference. This must always appear last.

The order of the other tags is not important

These tags are the most commonly used.

AU - This is Author field. The author of this example is Argyro[Firstname]

Figure 1: .ris screen shot example in Notepad.

```
File Edit Format View Help
TY - JOUR
AU - Kanaki, Argyro
PY - 2015
TI - Pupils' Language Competence in the Primary School: A Literature Review.
JF - Scottish Languages Review and Digest
SP - 1
EP - 10
VL - 29
AB - This paper, which forms part of an ongoing PhD study, attempts a summary
overview of research on pupil competence in modern languages in the primary school,
as presented by a Systematic Literature Review (SLR). The research question for the
SLR was: "What sort of evidence do research papers present for pupil competence
skills and language progress in the primary school?" The paper reflects on the
literature review findings in regard to pupil language competence and the
recommendations for practitioners and policy makers they offer.
KW - Pupil Language Competence
KW - Pupil Language Skills
KW - Primary School,
KW - Modern Languages
UR - http://www.scilt.org.uk/Portals/24/Library/slr/issues/29/29-0\%20Complete\
%20Issue\%20Final.pdf
ER -
|
```

Kanaki[Lastname] The [Lastname, [Firstname] format is best practice here. The software used in YazikOpen can read [Firstname] [Lastname] (no comma) as long as the author only has two names. If there are three or more names the author name will not parse correctly. E.g. Carmen Fonseca Mora [Firstname][Lastname][Lastname] should be entered as 'Fonseca Mora, Carmen' If there is more than one author the tags 'A2 -' is used on a separate line

PY - is the Year of publication  
TI - is the title of the article  
JF - is the journal title. (use JF rather than JO as cited in the wikipedia article)  
SP - Start page  
EP - End page  
VL - Journal Volume number.  
AB - Abstract  
KW - Keyword. Each separate keyword needs to be on its own line. To ensure consistency in YazikOpen, please provide keywords in English, even (especially) if the article is in another language.  
UR - URL of article

## 5.5 Note about accurate formatting

Correct use of the space bar is critical to success. After each tag e.g. AU, KW you need **two** spaces. This is followed by a hyphen (-) then **one** space. E.g. It is important use a plain text editor to create the files rather than a word processor (e.g. Microsoft Word). Word processing documents contain hidden coding which can lead to parsing problems.

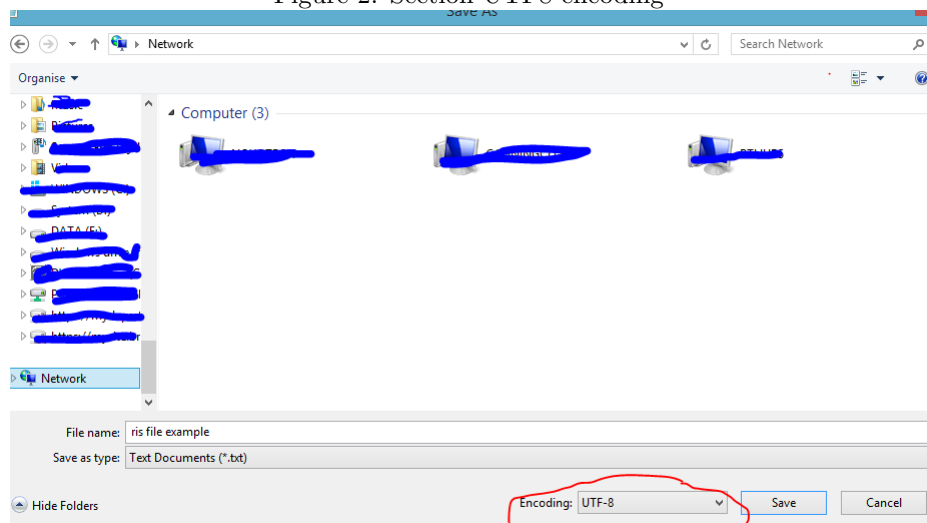
```
AU [space] [space] [hyphen] [space] Kanaki , Argyro
JF [space] [space] [hyphen] [space] Scottish Languages
Review and Digest
```

## 5.6 Accents and non-Roman scripts

One common problem with plain text files is that accents are not always read correctly with the software, even if they look correct in the actual file. I'm still trying to find a reliable solution to this problem, and will update in due course. For the time being it seems success if more likely if the encoding for the text file is set at UTF-8 (see Figure 2)

I have yet to explore using .ris files in non-Roman scripts.

Figure 2: Section UTF8 encoding



## 5.7 Further reading on preparing .ris files

Wikipedia entry [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RIS\\_%28file\\_format%29](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RIS_%28file_format%29)  
Thomson-Reuters ResearchSoft documentation <http://refman.com/sites/rm/>

files/m/direct\_export\_ris.pdf

Detailed documentation from the Sakai Project <https://jira.sakaiproject.org/secure/attachment/21845/RIS+Format+Specifications.pdf>

## 6 Contact and further details

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<http://www.yazikopen.org.uk>

In my ‘day job’ I am Senior Lecturer in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education at the University of Brighton, UK. To find out more about me visit my work webpage <http://about.brighton.ac.uk/clt/staff/john-canning/> or my personal blog/website <http://www.johncanning.net>

In 2014 I wrote a short article about the development of YazikOpen: Canning, J. (2014) Developer, Financier, Designer: Building Hybrid Projects outside the University. *Hybrid Pedagogy: a digital journal of learning, teaching, and technology*. Available from <http://www.hybridpedagogy.com/journal/developer-financier-designer-building-hybrid-projects-outside-university/> (Naturally, open access)

## 7 License

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## Appendix 1: List of main tags

TY - Type of reference (must be the first tag)  
A2 - Secondary Author (each author on its own line preceded by the tag)  
A3 - Tertiary Author (each author on its own line preceded by the tag)  
A4 - Subsidiary Author (each author on its own line preceded by the tag)  
AB - Abstract  
AD - Author Address  
AN - Accession Number  
AU - Author (each author on its own line preceded by the tag)  
C1 - Custom 1  
C2 - Custom 2  
C3 - Custom 3  
C4 - Custom 4  
C5 - Custom 5  
C6 - Custom 6  
C7 - Custom 7  
C8 - Custom 8  
CA - Caption  
CN - Call Number  
CY - Place Published  
DA - Date  
DB - Name of Database  
DO - DOI  
DP - Database Provider  
EP - End Page  
ET - Edition  
IS - Number  
JF - Journal/ periodical name  
J2 - Alternate Title (this field is used for the abbreviated title of a book or journal name)  
KW - Keywords (keywords should be entered each on its own line preceded by the tag)  
L1 - File Attachments (this is a link to a local file on the users system not a URL link)  
L4 - Figure (this is also meant to be a link to a local file on the users's system and not a URL link)  
LA - Language  
LB - Label  
M1 - Number  
M3 - Type of Work  
N1 - Notes  
NV - Number of Volumes  
OP - Original Publication  
PB - Publisher  
PY - Year

RI - Reviewed Item  
RN - Research Notes  
RP - Reprint Edition  
SE - Section  
SN - ISBN/ISSN  
SP - Start Page  
ST - Short Title  
T1 - Primary Title  
T2 - Secondary Title  
T3 - Tertiary Title  
TA - Translated Author  
TI - Title  
TT - Translated Title  
UR - URL  
VL - Volume  
Y2 - Access Date

ER - End of Reference (must be the last tag)

Source: RIS (file format). (2015, January 13). In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved 13:47, June 26, 2015, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=RIS\\_\(file\\_format\)&oldid=642289508](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=RIS_(file_format)&oldid=642289508) Text from Wikipedia is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License;

## Appendix 2: Type of references

Type of reference preceded by the TY tag can abbreviated as follows:

ABST - Abstract  
ADVS - Audiovisual material  
AGGR - Aggregated Database  
ANCIENT - Ancient Text  
ART - Art Work  
BILL - Bill  
BLOG - Blog  
BOOK - Whole book  
CASE - Case  
CHAP - Book chapter  
CHART - Chart  
CLSWK - Classical Work  
COMP - Computer program  
CONF - Conference proceeding  
CPAPER - Conference paper  
CTLG - Catalog  
DATA - Data file  
DBASE - Online Database  
DICT - Dictionary  
EBOOK - Electronic Book  
ECHAP - Electronic Book Section  
EDBOOK - Edited Book  
EJOUR - Electronic Article  
ELEC - Web Page  
ENCYC - Encyclopaedia  
EQUA - Equation  
FIGURE - Figure  
GEN - Generic  
GOVDOC - Government Document  
GRANT - Grant  
HEAR - Hearing  
ICOMM - Internet Communication  
INPR - In Press  
JFULL - Journal (full)  
JOUR - Journal  
LEGAL - Legal Rule or Regulation  
MANSCPT - Manuscript  
MAP - Map  
MGZN - Magazine article  
MPCT - Motion picture  
MULTI - Online Multimedia  
MUSIC - Music score  
NEWS - Newspaper

PAMP - Pamphlet  
PAT - Patent  
PCOMM - Personal communication  
RPRT - Report  
SER - Serial publication  
SLIDE - Slide  
SOUND - Sound recording  
STAND - Standard  
STAT - Statute  
THES - Thesis/Dissertation  
UNPB - Unpublished work  
VIDEO - Video recording

Source: RIS (file format). (2015, January 13). In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved 13:47, June 26, 2015, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=RIS\\_\(file\\_format\)&oldid=642289508](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=RIS_(file_format)&oldid=642289508)  
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