Open Research at Cambridge 2021

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Chair, DORA Implementation Group

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Open Access

Increased Exposure

Increased Application

More Citation

Policy Influence

Public Awareness

Global Access

Public Money

Funder Compliance

Danny Kingsley & Sarah Brown
Open Data

Findable
Accessible
Interoperable
Reusable
The Challenge

- 6 Schools & ~150 Academic Departments
- 31 Colleges + museums, libraries & UPIs
- 1700 Academics Staff, 5000 Researchers
- 12,000 PG students
- > €700M Research funding
Open Research Oversight

• Open Research Steering Committee
  • Remit: set strategic direction for activities in support of Open Research. Promote and keep under review all matters relating to Open Research, including effective implementation of the University’s policies on Open Access and Research Data Management. Implement DORA.
  https://osc.cam.ac.uk/open-research/open-research-steering-committee

• Open Research Operational Group (Niamh Tumelty)
  • Coordinate projects and activities (Research Culture Action Plan, ERN, Reproducibility Network, Open Research in the Humanities)
  osc.cam.ac.uk/open-research/open-research-operational-group

• Open Research Position Statement
• Research Data Management Policy Framework
• Open access to research outputs (e.g. to protocols, results, publications, data, software and tools) to increase inclusivity and collaboration, unlock access to knowledge, improve transparency and reproducibility of research and underpin research integrity.

• Promote and support Open Research to improve discoverability and maximise access to knowledge.

• Develop an Open Research culture, based on mutual benefit across research communities, linking researchers and the wider community through shared knowledge.
The University supports the Concordat on Open Data and works in line with the FAIR principles. It is committed to embedding these across the institution.

- Research reproducibility is a central University tenet.
- Commitment to disseminate research and scholarship as widely as possible.
- All staff & students responsible for managing and curating their research data.
- Long-term data availability, with as few restrictions as possible.
- Processes that are discipline-appropriate, proportionate, evidence-based, practical, cost-effective and sustainable,
- As open as possible, as closed as necessary
Research Reproducibility

Nullius in Verba
“take nobody’s word for it”

- University Library
- Office for Scholarly Communications
- RDM, Apollo Repository, Digital Humanities
- Data Champions
Commitment To Open Research

• Support researchers in creating an open and collaborative research environment

• Review, and update as necessary, the current university training on data management.

• Build better connections between researchers through e.g. data champions’ network, reproducibility network to facilitate sharing of best practice.

• Support the recognition of open and reproducible research in assessment processes.
1. Eliminate the use of journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors (JIF), in funding, appointment and promotion considerations.

2. Assess research on its own merits rather than on the basis of the journal or publisher of the research output.

3. Capitalise on the opportunities provided by online publication and develop new indicators of research significance and impact.

4. Consider the value and impact of all research outputs (i.e. articles, books, data, reagents, software, intellectual property, images, performances, compositions, trained young researchers, etc) in addition to research publications, and consider a broad range of impact measures including qualitative indicators of research impact (i.e. influencing policy or practice).

Recognition of activities contributing to the University Open Research position as a key part of evaluation criteria.

• Metrics should only be used to inform and support but not supplant qualitative expert assessment.

• Metrics must be appropriate for the research discipline or field and must be applied at an appropriate level of granularity. Journal level metrics must never be used as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research outputs or to assess an individual.

• The limitations of any metric must be recognised and acknowledged.

• If metrics are used in research assessment, the metric and how it is calculated and used must be explicitly described.

• Avoid metrics that introduce bias when comparing individuals.

• Any metrics used and the datasets underpinning them must be regularly reviewed to ensure they remain fit for purpose.
Going Forward

- Transparent and fairer policies for research assessment across the University
- Dialogue across University to increase awareness of Open Research, Reproducibility and DORA.
- Develop clear guidance on the appropriate use of quantitative indicators.
- Develop and disseminate training activities to facilitate research reproducibility.
- Identify further key areas for policy development.