

OPEN RESEARCH OPERATIONAL GROUP

Minutes for Wednesday 15th September 2021, 10:30 – 12:00
Via Teams

Present: Niamh Tumelty (Chair), Laura Boxall (Secretary), Augustina Martinez-Garcia (AM), Claire Sewell (CS), Beatrice Gini (BG) Steve Russell (SR), Liz Simmonds (LSi), Samuel Moore (SM), Sacha Jones (SJ), Owen Robertson (OR), Rhys Morgan (RM), Benjamin Steventon (BS), Matthew Day (MD) (Cambridge University Press).

Apologies: Lucinda Spokes (LSp)

1 Minutes of previous meeting (16 June 2021)

It was agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting would be approved via Teams due to the workshop format of the September meeting.

2 Practical working group

The working group format of this meeting enabled an engaging discussion around Open Research themes, goals and actions.

A Miro board was used to collate thoughts and comments

Key points in the verbal discussion are summarised below. Following the workshop, the process of writing a draft brief for the Open Research Programme will begin.

FAIR Data:

If we have achieved all we had hoped for, all research outputs across the University would have DOIs, we would be able to track the impact of data reuse and there would be a CU wide data sharing policy on publication which is not only led by funder compliance. There would be secure internal and external collaborations on next generation tools and services and each School would have a 'data steward'. There would be a requirement for an affordable infrastructure which could support storage of very large datasets and open data would be recognised as an output in its own right.

In order to achieve there would need to be enhanced collaboration between different parts of the University and a move away from 'silos'. For the collaborative approach to be successful there would need to be consideration given to the terminology used to ensure it is translatable across disciplines. Language is key. There should also be a consideration of data storage and accessibility of data in repository to ensure ease of access and retrieval.

Scholarly communication:

If we have achieved all we had hoped for, all research outputs would be immediately open and published at a Fair price and there would be support for open access monographs (including funding, support and infrastructure). Communication and support would be key with consideration given to the technical elements needed to support communications and thought/discussions around potential new ways to publish research output.

In order to achieve this, we need to have a clear message and use technology to ensure sustainable and consistent communication streams.

Research integrity:

If we have achieved all we had hoped for, there would be an established reproducibility network working to ensure the University is a leader in this area and research culture and integrity would be constant themes as opposed to one-off training sessions. There would be clear integration between open research and research integrity & reproducibility with a clear 'bench to paper' trail of research data. Integrity would be embedded as the norm through training and communication which is monitored and checked for compliance with accountability at all levels.

In order to achieve this, there would need to be a clear framework with joined up support and effective monitoring which would need appropriate infrastructure and resources.

Rewards and incentives:

If we have achieved all we had hoped for, Cambridge would have a global reputation, supporting prestigious open research Fellowships and awards. There would be engagement across the whole community with open research practice properly recognised as part of incentive structures (such as tenure appointments).

In order to achieve this, the research culture agenda needs to be overarching, recognising a much wider set of indicators than are currently being considered.

Open research and infrastructure:

If we have achieved all we had hoped for, the infrastructure would support access by the widest variety of people, including members of the public, providing a frictionless service for a variety of outputs. Community governance of infrastructure as standard with streamlined services so researchers can focus on research. Organisational agility with IT would facilitate effective collaboration between stakeholders.

In order to achieve this, there would need to be investment to secure the organisation agility required to ensure effective collaboration and there would need to be a clear (University wide) understanding as to what extent external service providers are part of our community.

Public Engagement:

Apologies from LSp so this area was not discussed in any depth. However, if we have achieved all we had hoped for, Cambridge University would be known as a leader in open research, leading by example and supporting researchers in collaboration with internal and external partners.

Action: NT to follow up following meeting

Research indicators and metrics:

If we have achieved all we had hoped for, the University would have a 'comfortable' position on research metrics with a broader set of indicators being used. The University would have a firm and transparent policy on the responsible use of metrics as a default, with all researchers feeling supported and empowered in this area. Regular guidance and training would ensure researchers have the latest information on the responsible use of metrics and would reinforce the clear University (and DORA) messages regarding indicators and metrics.

In order to achieve this, there would need to be a change of research culture, with much less consideration and emphasis on current pressures regarding metrics. The University would need to make a clear stand on when, and how, metrics are used with a move toward 'our contribution to knowledge' as opposed to 'they

were cited’.

Education and skills:

If we have achieved all we had hoped for, open research would be embedded and implicit with OR training as part of the (staff and student) induction. Open research would be ‘business as usual’ and natural enough to be the norm as opposed to making a specific effort.

In order to achieve this, a complete suite of training would need to be developed which overlaps with academics, librarians (and other library staff) and students to help ensure engagement across the board. Targeting training at specific points (such as grant applications) would also help emphasise the open research message.

Next Meeting: 15 December 2021

Open Research Operational Group Secretary: Laura Boxall

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