

OPEN RESEARCH OPERATIONAL GROUP

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

Present: Niamh Tumelty (Chair), Bea Gini, Claire Sewell, Matthew Day (CUP), Rhys Morgan, Liz Simmonds, Owen Roberson, Sam Moore, Lucy Spokes, Sacha Jones, Agustina Martinez-Garcia, Laura Boxall (Secretary).

In attendance: N/A.

Apologies: Matthias Ammon, Steve Russell, Alexia Sutton

1 Declaration of interests

Declaration from Matt Day who works at Cambridge University Press & Assessment, in the Academic Publishing division.

2 Minutes of previous meeting (15 September 2021)

— OROG-15

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3 Action log and matters arising:

No outstanding actions

4 Open Research event

— OROG-16

This update was led by Bea Gini. The Open Research at Cambridge Conference event ran over 5 days and had almost 300 attendees across the week. There was a slightly higher representation of staff than students and some positive feedback has been received so far. A feedback form has been sent to all attendees and responses are being tracked.

The next steps are for a series of blog posts to be produced along with session slides, recordings and additional documentation to be made available in late January. This will then be promoted through existing communication channels. The Chair thanked all of the session chairs and thanked Bea Gini and Laura Boxall for their work in coordinating the event.

5 Elsevier negotiations

NT provided a verbal update. The seventh offer, which should have been received last week, has not yet come through but there is an expectation that it is substantially different from sixth offer.

The feedback form is still open ([Elsevier negotiations 2021 \(office.com\)](#)) and will stay live until negotiations are complete. There will be no signed agreement by the end of December but confirmation has been received that there will be no sudden loss of access to content and access will continue while negotiations are ongoing throughout January 2022.

6 Policy development

a) Rights retention

— OROG-17

This is a specific policy which needs rapid development.

OROG members were asked to consider how to meet funders requirements on rights retention, support researchers and meet organisational objectives for Open Research. At the recent ORSC meeting it was agreed that a working group will be set up with a remit to design a rights retention pilot approach early in 2022. There will then be a stage of evidence gathering before development into an institutional policy.

Queries and comments from the OROG group concerned ensuring legal advice were sought regarding any cases of copyright infringement which may cause issues in the future and a consideration to the efficacy of implementation and the systems involved to ensure any finalised policy is communicated and implemented in the appropriate way.

b) Review of policies relating to open research

— OROG-18

There are several policies listed in the paper which are on a yearly review cycle and many are now out of date or due for renewal. The OROG group were asked to comment on potential changes to review the policies, the review cycles and ways forward to make policy management more cohesive.

There was a conversation around how deep into the policies it would be necessary to go in terms of a complete rewrite verses relatively minor updates. If the former, there would be a need to open discussions for wider consultation and that wider implications should be considered, with involvement from other working groups where needed.

It was noted that the policies should be easily digestible with a one page 'key headlines' summary, with more detail in expandable sections should the reader want to access this. In addition, there should be a consideration regarding an appropriate online location for storing all of the OR policies. There was some discussion about whether a single policy could incorporate open access and other aspects of open research but this is not likely in the short term given the complexity of this area.

It was also noted that a number of current projects and programmes could impact on policies around open research. The OROG group proposed relevant policies should be polished and updated at this stage, with a wider scale review to follow at a later stage.

The Data Review policy is due for renewal in February 2022 and the OROG group agreed that a change to the review cycle would be desirable, moving to every three years (unless a significant change meant that it needed earlier review) instead of every year.

7 Open Research Programme discussion paper

— OROG-19

NT introduced the paper which is a first iteration of the document. The Open Research in the Humanities working group is currently considering how the pillars could be adapted to ensure relevance to a wider range of disciplines. The Open Qualitative Research working group will be doing the same and feedback from both working groups will contribute to this document. It is envisioned that there will be many iterations on this document as WGs feed into this.

There was support for merging the workstreams relating to rewards & incentives and next-generation metrics. There was a discussion regarding the use of metrics at an institutional level and the difficulties around separating individual rewards and incentives from the intuitional level.

It was noted that the finalised document will incorporate perspectives from across the Schools and will need to be in an easily readable format before distribution.

8 Open Research annual report

The ORSC is required to send an annual report to the Research Policy Committee for their meeting on 28th April 2022. The paper needs to be sent to the ORSC for review at their meeting on 29th March 2022 so contributions from relevant colleagues would be requested between January and early March. This report will cover the reporting period of the 2021 calendar year.

Action: NT to contact service leaders to collaborate on preparation of annual report document

9 Draft minutes of the ORSC meeting (30 September 2021)

- OROG-20

No comments from OROG.

10 Items to be referred to the Open Research Steering Committee

None

Next Meeting:

16 March 2022

Open Research Operational Group Secretary:

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