NEWS

Best practice in use of responsible metrics and Open Research criteria

· Are you willing to contribute to development of best practice in use of responsible metrics and Open Research criteria in institutional recruitment and promotion procedures?
· Do you want to share and learn from existing and emerging practice in this area?

As part of its Research England-funded Open Research Programme, the UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN) and participating institutions will be undertaking work to document and develop best practice for the use of responsible research assessment and Open Research criteria in institutional recruitment, recognition, reward and promotion processes.

UKRN is forming a working party from partners in the Open Research Programme to collate and analyse existing and emerging practice. We are keen to learn from the experiences of others and to facilitate sharing of practice where this may be of wider use.

This is a collaborative project established by the University of Reading (Robert Darby), University of Surrey (Emily Farran) and University of Bristol (Neil Jacobs). We expect other UKRN members to join in due course.

We are also looking to provide a network for the sector to share and learn from institutional activity in this area. You do not have to be a member of UKRN to join this network; and while the focus of UKRN work is on the UK, international participation in the network is welcome.

Get in touch/join in

We would like to hear from you if you are planning, doing, or have done, work across some or all of this remit in your institution, and you are willing to share information with the Open Research Programme.

Please contact Robert Darby (r.m.darby@reading.ac.uk)

if you are interested in contributing or have any questions.

For sharing and discussing ongoing work in this area, we have established the discussion list UKRN-RRA@JISCMAIL.AC.UK. You can subscribe to the list here: https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?SUBED1=UKRN-RRA&A=1.

Background

The University of Reading has recently established a working group to develop procedures for the use and monitoring of responsible metrics and Open Research criteria in recruitment and promotion procedures. We are aware that many institutions have been/will be looking at their own recruitment and promotion frameworks and processes. We believe that across the sector commitments to the use of responsible metrics and the recognition of Open Research practices when evaluating candidates are in large part aspirational, and not yet fully embedded in business processes.

Investigation of existing and emerging practice is part of the University of Reading group's terms of reference. We knew of previous work in this area at the University of Surrey and of plans to document institutional practice in relation to Open Research as part of the UKRN's Open Research Programme. Discussion has led us to agree a collaborative approach to information gathering and analysis under the auspices of the UKRN.

UKRN has been liaising with DORA and, in particular, the TARA project, which has been working to build an online dashboard for tracking responsible hiring, promotion and tenure practices worldwide. We share an aim to encourage responsible research assessment that promotes openness and transparency in research, and we also share an objective to provide materials and tools to the community to help research organisations move in that direction. We will ensure that our work is complementary.

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https://www.reading.ac.uk/research-services/research-data-management

I may be working from home and can be contacted on the above phone number and by Teams

Open Research Handbook: https://libguides.reading.ac.uk/open-research