UKRN & the UKRN Open Research Programme

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UK Reproducibility Network
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Slides: osf.io/nczkj
UKRN (est. 2018) is a national grassroots consortium of researchers and institutions taking a stance in support of robust research in the UK

- 69 Local Network Leads (volunteer local contacts and community managers)
- 25 Institutional Leads (formal appointments by Institutions)
- 9 members on Advisory Board
- 50+ stakeholders organisations (full, and affiliates)

Together, we
- Provide training and training material
- Support local initiatives, tools and platforms
- Engage with national and international stakeholders
Open Research in the UK

Open scientific knowledge
Open science infrastructures
Open dialogue with other knowledge systems
Open engagement of societal actors

Future of scholarly publishing, FAIR data, the European Open Science Cloud, education and skills, rewards and incentives, next-generation metrics, research integrity, and citizen science.

UK Research and Development Roadmap

Minimising bureaucracy in the public funding system

Crucially, we must embrace the potential of open research practices. First, we will require that research outputs funded by the UK government are freely available to the taxpayer who funds research. Such open publication will also ensure that UK research is cited and built upon all over the world. We will mandate open publication and strongly incentivise open data sharing where appropriate, so that reproducibility is enabled, and knowledge is shared and spread collaboratively. Second, we will ensure that more modern research outputs are recognised and rewarded. For example, we will ensure that digital software and datasets are properly recognised as research outputs, so that we can minimise efforts spent translating digital outputs into more traditional formats. Third, we will consider the case for new infrastructure to enable more effective sharing of knowledge between researchers and with industry to accelerate open innovation where possible.

UKRI Strategy 2022-2027 | Objective 1
Championing open research

Open research improves research efficiency, quality and integrity through collaborative, transparent and reproducible research practices. UKRI’s priorities include open
Obviously, that means different things to different people. (Research fields, disciplines, methods...)
Challenges: report from the trenches

• Training and managing a (local) community costs time that is often not recognized/valued but must be resourced appropriately

• Discrepancy between words and action (e.g. DORA)

• The system itself favours competition over collaboration

• ”The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.”
Roles and potential roles in moving toward more transparent and rigorous research? The picture will be different between research fields, settings, etc.

After Brian Nosek
https://www.cos.io/blog/strategy-for-culture-change
Roles and potential roles in moving toward more transparent and rigorous research? The picture will be different between research fields, settings, etc.

- **Funder**
- **Institution**
- **Scholarly society**
- **Publisher**
- **Journal / channel**

**Policy**
- Make it required
  - Eg, funder or institution policy, monitor, sanction

**Incentives**
- Make it rewarded
  - Eg, recruitment, promotion, grant funding

**Communities**
- Make it normative
  - Eg, disciplinary expectations, local practice

**Enabling environment**
- Make it easy
  - Eg, workflows, interfaces, training

**Basic environment**
- Make it possible
  - Eg, infrastructure, funding, time
Roles and potential roles in moving toward more transparent and rigorous research? The picture will be different between research fields, settings, etc.

UKRN Open Research Programme
Research England. 2021-26, £8.5M, 15 institutions

UKRN Theory of Change (Annex 1.)

- Make it required: Eg, funder or institution policy, monitor, sanction
- Make it rewarded: Eg, recruitment, promotion, grant funding
- Make it normative: Eg, disciplinary expectations, local practice
- Make it easy: Eg, workflows, interfaces, training
- Make it possible: Eg, infrastructure, funding, time
Open Research Programme: Partners

“to accelerate the uptake of high-quality open research practices”

Institutions (so far)

[Logos of various universities and research institutions]

Publishing industry


UK-based centres of expertise

[Logos of various organizations and initiatives]

International centres of expertise

[Logos of various organizations and initiatives]

Funded by

[Logos of various funding bodies]

03/2023  slides: osf.io/nczkj  e.b.roesch@reading.ac.uk
“to accelerate the uptake of high-quality open research practices”

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<th>By 2026, the programme will have developed the following capabilities:</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Larger and more representative <strong>UKRN communities</strong> of researchers and of institutions, that actively support open research</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>A curated collection of FAIR and open <strong>training resources</strong> that support FAIR, open and transparent research practices</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>A <strong>cohort of trainers</strong>, able to use their skills and open training resources creatively and well to support open research practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>A curated collection of FAIR and, where possible, open <strong>materials describing institutional policy</strong>, procedure and practice that promotes FAIR, open and transparent research practices</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Established, rigorous and practical <strong>methods</strong> by which to evidence the nature and extent of uptake of FAIR, open and transparent research practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>An evolving corpus of <strong>evidence</strong>, at aggregate and institutional levels, on the nature and extent of update of FAIR, open and transparent research practices</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Enhanced capability nationally</strong> to support FAIR, open and transparent research practices</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>A long term <strong>sustainability model</strong> for UKRN</td>
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Open Research Programme: Overview

“to accelerate the uptake of high-quality open research practices”

Intervention 1: training

Evaluation: situation, progress, requirements

Intervention 2: sharing practice (research / institutional)

Management and governance

2021

2026

03/2023

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