Policy (and other relevant) developments in Europe

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Context

Increasing recognition of the limitations and problems of commercial and fee-based models of scholarly communication, and the need to invest in not-for-profit and community/institutional infrastructures and services.

Moving towards reform of research assessment, recognizing the diversity of activities, contributions and outputs (beyond the article…)

Transformative agreements?...
... they aren't even really transforming...

Figure 1: Summary of the 2022 TJ data
Based on the journal flipping rates observed between 2018 – 2022 it would take at least 70 years for the big five publishers to flip their TA titles to OA.
2. NOTES that the digital transition, albeit with its challenges, continues to create opportunities for new methods of efficient and effective scholarly publishing, such as online publishing tools, repositories and platforms for a wide range of research outputs in all fields, both at national and European level, but that much of the current system is based on business and operational models that have not yet fully realised the digitalisation potential, notably in relation to the expanding range of increasingly important research outcomes such as datasets, software and research protocols; and UNDERLINES the importance of investing in e-infrastructure, digital and innovative tools and capacities;

6. HIGHLIGHTS the importance of not-for-profit, scholarly open access publishing models that do not charge fees to authors or readers and where authors can publish their work without funding/institutional eligibility criteria; NOTES the variety of models that do not depend on article processing charges or similar per-unit charges and STRESSES the importance of supporting the development of such models led by public research organisations;

16. ENCOURAGES Member States and the Commission to invest in and foster interoperable, not-for-profit infrastructures for publishing based on open source software and open standards, in order to avoid the lock-in of services as well as proprietary systems, and to connect these infrastructures to the EOSC;
Calls for immediate and unrestricted open access in publishing research involving public funds

Recognizes that the costs of scholarly publishing are becoming unsustainable

Calls on the member states to support scholarly publishing models that are not based on APCs, and led by public research organizations, and to invest in not-for-profit infrastructures.

Encourage member states to support the pilot programme Open Research Europe to create a large-scale open access research publishing service.
Our vision is a community-based scholarly communication system fit for open science in the 21st century. This system empowers scholars to share the full range of their research outputs and to participate in new quality control mechanisms and evaluation standards for these outputs. This approach will ensure rapid, transparent dissemination of high-quality scientific knowledge.

https://www.coalition-s.org/towards-responsible-publishing/
Towards responsible publishing: a proposal from cOAlition S

31 October 2023

www.coalition-s.org
DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.8390480

https://www.coalition-s.org/towards-responsible-publishing/
The aim is to facilitate the open publication of scholarly results, to bring about a redirection of payment streams from a subscription-based to an open access publishing system and to achieve transparency, an overview of and reduced expenses for scholarly publishing.

- that the Consortium should not sign agreements for reading and publishing in so-called hybrid journals, and instead only negotiate for publication in open access journals; this approach should be implemented from 2026 and apply to all open journals, regardless of publisher

- that new pathways to open publishing are promoted and supported and alternative business models are developed, and that researcher-driven journals that want to migrate from traditional publishers to other platforms are supported

- that publication occurs under an open license, in accordance with the FAIR principles, and that copyright conditions to promote open access, for example via so-called secondary publication rights, are explored
National platform for Swedish scholarly open access journals
DFG announces 9 million euros in funding for the expansion of the non-profit OA publication landscape in Germany

The German Research Foundation (DFG) has published a call for proposals for the establishment of a service centre to further develop and consolidate the diamond open access publishing landscape in Germany. The tasks of this service centre will include the provision, bundling and mediation of basic services as well as the development of advisory services. The aims are to promote professional and international networking and coordination of
BARCELONA DECLARATION ON OPEN RESEARCH INFORMATION
Barcelona Declaration - Commitments

As organizations that carry out, fund, and evaluate research, we commit to the following:

1. We will make openness the default for the research information we use and produce.

2. We will work with services and systems that support and enable open research information.

3. We will support the sustainability of infrastructures for open research information.

4. We will support collective action to accelerate the transition to openness of research information.
Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment

Our vision is that the assessment of research, researchers, and research organisations recognises the diverse outputs, practices and activities that maximise the quality and impact of research. This requires basing assessment primarily on qualitative judgement, for which peer review is central, supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators.

The Agreement

Based on 10 commitments, establishes a common direction for research assessment reform, while respecting organisations' autonomy. The Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment sets a shared direction for changes in assessment practices for research, researchers and research performing organisations, with the overarching goal to maximise the quality and impact of research.

The Agreement includes the principles, commitments and timeframe for reforms and lays out the principles for a Coalition of organisations willing to work together in implementing the changes.

Read the Agreement

https://coara.eu/
Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment
Core Commitments

1. **Recognise the diversity** of contributions to, and careers in, research in accordance with the needs and nature of the research

2. Base research assessment primarily on **qualitative evaluation** for which peer review is central, supported by responsible use of quantitative indicators

3. **Abandon inappropriate uses** in research assessment of journal- and publication-based metrics, in particular inappropriate uses of Journal Impact Factor (JIF) and h-index

4. **Avoid the use of rankings** of research organisations in research assessment
CoARA
Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment

Membership expands beyond 600 organisations

Countries strongest presence:
Spain (67), Italy (60), Poland (50), France (45)
National Chapters

National Chapters (NCs) are dedicated to assisting CoARA members in implementing the commitments of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment in a national/regional context. NCs are proposed at the initiative of CoARA members, and participation from members is voluntary. Any CoARA member from the given country can participate in the call for their respective NC. NCs contribute to CoARA’s work by facilitating the exchange of knowledge, mutual learning, and discussions on CoARA-relevant issues specific to different types of organisations in a given country. NCs should develop concrete tasks and outputs within a timeframe of two years. These outputs/deliverables are expected to support the implementation of the Agreement as a whole in their national context(s). NCs should add value beyond current efforts within the country. They are expected to be inclusive, involving at least half of the CoARA member organisations from the country concerned. Mechanisms should also be put in place to ensure that a broader range of organisations, including those outside CoARA, can contribute to and benefit from the NC. NCs should commit to sharing lessons learnt with other NCs and fostering synergies and mutual learning with relevant CoARA Working Groups.

The Call for CoARA National Chapters is ongoing. Applications reviewed on a monthly basis! Please find criteria on the approval of National Chapters outlined here.
Overview of Working Groups

If you are a CoARA member and you would be interested in joining one (or more) of the groups, please find a contact person affiliated to each working group listed below.

Towards Open Infrastructures for Responsible Research Assessment

Open research information is crucial for responsible research assessment, which needs data, tools, infrastructures that secure transparency, reproducibility, geographic-discipline-output coverage in data and indicators. Their sustainability, interoperability, openness, and community-based accountability are key to the reform. This working group's mission is to enable institutions to move from proprietary infrastructure and research information, to open (interoperable) alternatives in support of the transition to responsible research assessment practices. This effort will take into consideration the wide range of research outputs and open science [...]

Find more info here.

Multilingualism and language biases in research assessment

By addressing language diversity and biases in assessment, this will support the EU (and other) institutions in fulfilling their duty to enhance, promote, and uphold linguistic equality, diversity and non-discrimination in Europe and globally. This requires fostering an academic culture that values diverse competencies, interactions, and communications in all languages without exclusions or priorities. The main objectives are (1) to raise awareness across all fields about the importance of "multilingualism in practice of science," in scientific publications and in academic communications (UNESCO); 2) to provide institutions with guidelines, toolbox [...]

Find more info here.

Experiments in Assessment – Idea generation, co-creation, and piloting

The mission of this group is to form an incubator for experimental ideas in research assessment. We aim to establish a process to enable change, collecting, refining, and piloting new initiatives. The group will be a "safe space" for collaboration and brainstorming of unconventional ideas that will shift assessment in line with the goals of CoARA. We will consider a wide variety of approaches, including those that might consider the recognition and rewarding of under-represented and under-rewarded scholarly practices and alternative methodologies and values in the evaluation decision-making processes. This group involves funders, institutions [...]

Find more info here.

Reforming Academic Career Assessment

The Working Group on Reforming Academic Career Assessment (ACA) is based on the premise that ACA systems should adequately reflect the different tasks, functions, and roles academics fulfill over the course of their career. The aim is to broaden the reflection on research assessment to ACA, taking into account the full range of work conducted by academics in research, teaching and learning, innovation.

Find more info here.

Responsible metrics and indicators

Stage 1: Assessing the status quo. Which indicators are currently employed? We investigate across varied disciplines and cultural contexts, specifically in the evaluation of researchers, awards, institutional assessments, and the progression of scientific advancement (tenure, PhD, habilitation, professor titles, etc.). Starting with CoARA members, institutions are asked to provide information on their current usage of indicators via a structured survey. Stage 2: developing responsible indicators, [...]

Find more info here.

Improving practices in the assessment of research proposals

The overall objective of the Working Group is to improve practices in the assessment of research proposals, ultimately supporting higher quality and more impactful projects, in line with the principles and commitments of the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment, while respecting the autonomy of each member. This will include work on Criteria for the selection of research projects and innovative [...]

Find more info here.
National Open Access Monitor, Ireland
Paving the road to 100% Open Access

https://oamonitor.ireland.openaire.eu
All Dutch Research, In One Place.

https://netherlands.openaire.eu
Context

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Opportunity:

Renewed and reinforced importance of repositories
Working Together to Strengthen the European Repository Network
Three areas of future work

Planned for 2024-2025

1. Highlight the value proposition for repositories and advocate for the critical role of repositories in Europe

2. Propagate best practices for repositories across the continent

3. Assist with the creation and coordination of national networks
Thank you!