Open Research Working Group Terms of Reference

Aim and Remit

The rapidly evolving open research environment presents challenges and opportunities to the University and all our researchers and requires strategic and coordinated oversight. The Open Research Working Group (ORWG) will bring together researchers with knowledge or experience of open research practices, relevant professional service units (Library, RIS) and Principal's Office (PO) to consider the University's approach and policies relating to the evolving open research environment, ensuring benefit to our researchers, the University and wider society as well as delivering funder requirements.

The Group reports to the Research, Impact and Innovation Committee, Chaired by VP Research and Innovation, and is tasked by this Committee to:
1. Propose changes to open research policies when required.
2. Oversee funds supporting open research.
3. Monitor compliance with funder open research requirements.
4. Develop and oversee the implementation of an Institutional open research roadmap.
5. Propose communications and outreach activities to support and encourage open research practices.

Membership
Ex-officio membership: members of PO and Professional Services take up membership as part of existing service and administrative roles.

Academic membership: 8-12 representatives across all disciplines.
- *Representatives should be active in research, be able to comment on the remit of this group and may be asked to assist in consultation exercises with peers.*
- *Academic members can be on any academic contract and on any grade. The aim is for membership to be representative of the research community.*
- *Academic members will be selected through an open call to Schools, seeking at least 4 members from each faculty (*Arts & Divinity / Science & Medicine) *and preferably at least 2 from each area: Medicine, health, and life sciences; Physical sciences and mathematics; Social sciences; Arts & humanities.*
- *Potential members will be nominated by Heads of School to ensure awareness of committee membership(s) at School level.*
- *Membership will take account of staff levels in different disciplines, with the expectation for gender balance and representation of a variety of career stages including at least one Early Career Researcher.*
- *Academic members will normally serve a term of 3 years, with the opportunity to serve additional terms.*

All members will be expected to attend meetings and contribute to the remit of the Open Research Working Group.

Principal's Office
Vice-Principal (Collections and Digital Content) (Chair)
AVP Dean of Science (Prof. Ineke De Moortel)
AVP Dean of Arts and Divinity (Prof. Paul Hibbert)

Professional Services
Library
- Assistant Director (Digital Systems & Resources)
- Director of Library and Museums Service

Research and Innovation Services
- Head of Open Research (Secretariat)
- Scholarly Communications Manager
- Research Data Manager
- Director of Research and Innovation Services
- Head of Research Policy, Integrity & Governance
- Scholarly Communications Officer (Minutes).

Meeting frequency

Three times each year for 1.5 hours each time, 4-6 weeks before each Research, Impact and Innovation Committee. In practice this will usually mean that the ORWG meets in Aug, Dec and April.

Relationship to other committees and groups

The Group reports to the Research, Impact and Innovation Committee (RIIC).

The Research Data Management Advisory Group (RDMAG) (with 1 researcher or research support representative from each School) serves as an operational information sharing forum, discussing RDM challenges and opportunities, making recommendations to the ORWG, and working with professional services (Library, RIS and ITS) to better support RDM.

Sub-groups of the ORWG will be formed as required to focus on specific areas, such as responsible metrics. Professional service members of ORWG will also work with the University Research Culture Group (URCG) to advise on topics with shared ownership and remit. URCG will develop an institutional vision and action plan for shared research culture including aspects of the open research roadmap.

Website: https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/research/digitalresearch/open-research/

Version Number	Purpose / Changes	Author	Date
1.0	Drafted for discussion/approval at ORWG	Anna Clements	01/10/18
1.1	Feedback from ORWG under Academic representatives. For information at Research Committee	Anna Clements	12/11/18
2.0	Revised membership list Removal of Draft status	Jackie Proven	19/02/2020
2.5	Changes to membership incorporated	Jackie Proven	04/11/2021
3.0	Revised remit, clarified scope and role of members, extended academic representation	Jackie Proven	12/12/2021
3.3	Revisions following consultation on EDI in advance of recruitment process for new members.	Jackie Proven	27/01/2022

Appendix: Definitions and background

Open Research:
The idea that scientific knowledge / scholarship of all kinds should be openly shared as early as possible for the benefit of everyone. The research process should be transparent and collaborative and enhance the reproducibility of research findings. In a European context the term 'Open Science' is more common and also includes all disciplines. Also used, 'Open Scholarship'

Background:
University strategy has a commitment to making research results as openly available as possible for the good of all. An OA Policy has been in place since 2013 (https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/policy/research-open-research/open-access-policy.pdf), RDM Policy since 2014 (https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/policy/research-open-research/research-data-management-policy.pdf) and Principles on responsible metrics since 2019 (https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/policy/research-open-research/principles-for-the-use-of-indicators-in-research-assessment-and-management.pdf).

An Open Research Roadmap was implemented in 2018 in order to identify, prioritise and co-ordinate policy development, investment in resources, training and skills, and changes in research practice to deliver the benefits of open research for the University and its researchers. It is intended as a living document, owned by VPRI, overseen by RIIC and developed by ORWG and the wider institutional community.

Originally organised around 3 themes (Open research results and practice; Responsible use of research metrics; Citizen Science/Crowd-sourced research) we are working on a review of the roadmap organised by the 8 ambitions of Open Science as defined by the EU (https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/our-digital-future/open-science_en) and developed further by LERU (https://www.leru.org/files/Implementing-open-science.pdf).

Eight themes/pillars of open science	Description
Future of scholarly communication	Open Access publishing options and models, advocating for 100% immediate OA, supporting open infrastructure, bibliodiversity, equitable access to reading and publishing of research outputs.
EOSC (European Open Science Cloud)	Interoperability of infrastructure and network of services
FAIR data	Open sharing of data underpinning publications, lower barriers to secondary research findings. Data as open as possible and as closed as necessary. Use of data access statements.
Education and skills	Data management practices, understanding rights and licensing, digital skills training, following good research conduct
Research integrity	Open data enabling high quality research and a culture of transparency and accountability
Rewards and evaluation	Concerned with redefining criteria for academic assessment
Next-generation metrics	Principles of responsible use of metrics, consideration of alternative metrics, links to evaluation criteria and credit for research contributions
Citizen science	Informing and empowering the public, engaging with society