RCUK Policy on Open Access

Grace Lang
Director, RCUK China

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What is Research Councils UK?

- The name for the Research Councils working together
- Increases the collective visibility, leadership and policy influence of the Research Councils
- Provides a single focus for collective dialogue with stakeholders
- Ensures greater harmonisation of operational and administrative functions across the Councils
Research Councils UK

- Arts & Humanities Research Council
- ESRC Economic & Social Research Council
- BBSRC Bioscience for the Future
- EPSRC Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
- MRC Medical Research Council
- Science & Technology Facilities Council
- Natural Environment Research Council
• Mark Thorley is Head of Science Information for the UK’s Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). He is responsible for activities relating to scientific data and information management, including co-ordinating the activities of NERC’s network of environmental data centres.

• He is also convener of the Research Councils UK (RCUK) Research Outputs Network, which leads for RCUK on issues relating to scholarly communications and open access. As such, he has been prominent in the development and implementation of RCUK’s Open Access policy.

• He is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Council for Science’s Committee on Data for Science and Technology (ICSU – CODATA) and also a member of the Advisory Panel of ‘Scientific Data’ – the data journal from Nature. He is one of the contributors to the recent ICSU report on Open access to scientific data and literature and the assessment of research by metrics.

• He also helped develop the OECD’s Principles and Guidelines for Access to Research Data from Public Funding. He was recently appointed to the ICSU Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science – who’s role is to address and promote issues relating to the freedom of scientists to carry out their work in an open and non-discriminatory manner, whilst recognising the responsibilities on the part of all scientists in the conduct of their scientific work.
Speakers: 
Juan Bicarregui- STFC

- Head of the Data Division, Science and Technology Facilities Council.
- Juan Bicarregui is Head of the Data Division in the Scientific Computing Department at STFC. The Department has about 170 staff and holds about 40 Petabytes of scientific data and runs several High Performance Computers. Juan’s division has responsibility for research and development of the data systems that handle much of the huge volume of scientific data that is produced by the STFC research facilities.
- Juan has played a key role in formulating UK policy on opening up access to research outputs. He recently chaired a cross Research Council group which published the RCUK Joint Principles on Data.
- Juan was a member of the steering group that set up the Research Data Alliance and is currently co-chair of the RDA Organisational Advisory Board. He is also a Director of the Digital Preservation Coalition.
- Juan holds a BSc on Mathematics from Imperial College London and a PhD in Computer Science from Manchester University. He has over 100 publications in Software Engineering and Data Management.
Summary

• What is the RCUK policy on Open access? How was it developed, and what are the main principles?
• What are Research Council data policies and what are our common principles on data?
• Internationally, what is happening around research data?
• What are the financial issues and costs of doing open access and open data?
Questions

1) How was the current RCUK Open Access policy developed?
2) What are the main principles behind the current policy?
3) What are the Gold and Green models, and what are the licences required under these?
4) How has this new policy been received by universities and funders?
5) How does this policy work in different disciplines?
6) Apart from open access, what else is being done to make research data more open?
7) What are the data management infrastructures to support this new open data paradigm?
8) Internationally, what is happening around research data and what does the Research Data Alliance (RDA) do?
9) What are the financial issues and costs of doing open access and open data?