

Australian Open Science Network

Terms of Reference

10 February 2023

Purpose

The purpose of the Australian Open Science Network is to:

- provide a forum for exchange of information on Open Science
- advocate for Open Science in Australia
- support coordination of Australia's response to international initiatives such as:
 - the UNESCO Open Science Recommendation and related activities at UNESCO¹,
 - the OECD Recommendation on Access to Research Data from Public Funding and related activities at the OECD²,
 - the APEC Open Science statement³
 - and the G20 Science ministers' statement of support for open science.⁴

Scope

The Australian Open Science Network takes as its definition of Open Science that of the UNESCO Open Science Recommendation⁵

“For the purpose of this Recommendation, open science is defined as an inclusive construct that combines various movements and practices aiming to make multilingual scientific knowledge openly available, accessible and reusable for everyone, to increase scientific collaborations and sharing of information for the benefits of science and society, and to open the processes of scientific knowledge creation, evaluation and communication to societal actors beyond the traditional scientific community. It comprises all scientific disciplines and aspects of scholarly practices, including basic and applied sciences, natural and social sciences and the humanities, and it builds on the following key pillars: open scientific knowledge, open science infrastructures, science communication, open engagement of societal actors and open dialogue with other knowledge systems.”

The network will advocate for all areas of open science, including but not limited to:

- open access to scientific information and research
- the need for enhanced access to research data, and for making relevant metadata, algorithms, code, and software FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable)
- the importance of engagement of societal actors in policy and practice.

Membership

Network members should be representatives of sector-level bodies with a stake in open science, major funders, and government departments or agencies such as:

- Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI)
- Australasian Research Management Society (ARMS)
- Australian Citizen Science Association
- Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA)
- Australian Government - Department of Education (Education)
- Australian Government - Department of Industry, Science and Resources (Industry)
- Australian Government - Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS)

¹ <https://en.unesco.org/science-sustainable-future/open-science/recommendation>

² <https://www.oecd.org/sti/recommendation-access-to-research-data-from-public-funding.htm>

³ <https://www.apec.org/docs/default-source/groups/ppsti/2021/ppsti-statement-on-open-science.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2021/210806-research.html>

⁵ <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379949.locale=en>

- Australian Research Council (ARC)
- Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC)
- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
- Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL)
- National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA)
- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
- Open Access Australasia (OAA, formerly AOASG)
- Universities Australia (UA)
- Others as determined to be necessary

Responsibilities of Members

Members will:

- Attend meetings
- Provide updates on open science developments within their organisations
- Report back to their organisations about the work of the Network and information shared in the meetings
- Inform other relevant stakeholders about the work of the Network.

Co-Convenors

The network is co-convened by CAUL, Open Access Australasia and ARDC.

Meetings

- The Network will meet regularly, four times per year. If needed, ad hoc meetings will be called for a specific purpose.
- Meetings are planned, organised and facilitated by the co-convenors.

Communication

Communication within the Open Science network will be via a dedicated, closed email list. External communication processes are to be determined.

Administrative Support

CAUL, Open Access Australasia and ARDC will coordinate administration for the network, including scheduling meetings, note taking and distribution of minutes, management of written materials and management of the network listserv.

Network Projects

From time to time, the Network may undertake a defined project or body of work. In this case, the Co-Convenors will:

1. Work with the Network members to develop a project brief
2. Coordinate members of the network to work on the specific project
3. Ensure that the outputs of the project are communicated appropriately

Reporting

The Co-Convenors are responsible for reporting on the activities of the Network both to the members of the Network, and to relevant third parties.

The co-convenors will also act as points of contact for external enquiries and other liaison relating to the network.