Let’s just get on with it – ‘open’ in Australia in 2019

CAUL Research Repositories Community Days
Rydges Sydney Central
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#CAULRD2019


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Last year I gave a talk

• It was the 10 year meeting of Repository Fringe, so I called it “That was then, this is now. What’s next?”
• That talk went into detail about where we have been and where repositories are now and some future predictions
• It was three months before Plan S was announced
• I’m not repeating that talk. You can check it out here https://www.repository.cam.ac.uk/handle/1810/277677
• Today I am focusing on where we are at in Australia in relation to the open agenda
Much ink has been spilled over Plan S

http://tagteam.harvard.edu/hubs/oatp/tag/oa.plan_s
Disproportionate

“Australia is now responsible for roughly 4% of the total scientific output in the WoS, despite having only 0.3% of the world’s population and 1.6% of world GDP.”


0.8% of commentary on Plan S relates to Australia
Two articles from a UK news outlet

Repository requirements a deal-breaker for Plan S Down Under
Australian and New Zealand open access advocates want more attention paid to 'green' model


Australian funders urged to join Plan S open access drive
Research agencies tight-lipped about global initiative, but are talking behind the scenes

Two statements from AOASG & CAUL


Two commentaries from researchers


Plan S is a funder-led initiative

• In 2017-2018, in Australia:
  
  
  • Australian Research Council (ARC) - $758 million in funding [https://www.arc.gov.au/policies-strategies/policy/annual-reports-australian-research-council](https://www.arc.gov.au/policies-strategies/policy/annual-reports-australian-research-council)
What works with policies?

Do authors comply when funders enforce open access to research?

The first large-scale analysis of compliance with open-access rules reveals that up to one-third of articles are not free to read, report Vincent Larivière and Cassidy R. Sugimoto.

Effective policies are mandates, monitor compliance, impose sanctions and do best where infrastructure is available.

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-07101-w
How do these policies stack up?

NHMRC requires that any peer-reviewed publication arising from NHMRC supported research must be made openly accessible in an institutional repository or other acceptable location (e.g. publisher website, subject repositories) within a 12-month period from the date of publication. This policy applies to all publications from 1 July 2012 except for peer-reviewed conference papers where it applies from 15 January 2018.

NHMRC acknowledges the importance of making research data publicly accessible and therefore strongly encourages researchers to consider the reuse value of their data and to take reasonable steps to share research data and associated metadata arising from NHMRC supported research.


Any Research Output arising from ARC Funded Research must be made Openly Accessible within a twelve (12) month period from the Publication Date.

For the purposes of this policy, Research Outputs do not include research data and research data outputs. Research data arising from ARC Funded Research are addressed separately under the ARC’s data management requirements. Further information is available on the Research Data Management page.


The ARC does not require that full, detailed data management plans be submitted for assessment, but from 2020 will require that such plans are in place prior to the commencement of the project. Currently, the ARC does not mandate open access to data.

What about universities?

- Of the 41 universities in Australia, fewer than half (18) have a policy or statement on open access. Very few mention data.
- Of the Group of Eight universities, only four have an OA policy, and one of them is:
  - “authors should adhere to the open access requirements of relevant funding bodies”
- [http://roarmap.eprints.org](http://roarmap.eprints.org)
- [https://aoasg.org.au/open-access-policies/](https://aoasg.org.au/open-access-policies/)
Kingdom for a policy?

So what’s the problem here?

Figure 1: higher education enrolments, overseas students, 2008–2018

It’s not the students, it’s the risk

Financial risk

https://theconversation.com/australian-universities-cant-rely-on-india-if-funds-from-chinese-students-start-to-fall-122052

Standards risk

He who pays the piper calls the tune

- At Uni of Sydney in 2017, the fees from Chinese students totalled $500 million dollars or one fifth of its total annual revenue.
- The complete Australia-wide allocation of research funding from ARC and NHMRC in 2017-2018 was ~$1,700 million
Rankings rule

https://www.international.unsw.edu.au/


Cause & Effect

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<th>Indicators and Weights for ARWU</th>
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<td>Quality of Education</td>
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* For institutions specialized in humanities and social sciences such as London School of Economics, N&S is not considered, and the weight of N&S is relocated to other indicators.


At least that’s a carrot. This is a stick

Level E academics in engineering would need to punch out eight publications a year in well-regarded journals and generate $158 000 in research income. In agriculture and vet science the quota is 11 publications and $288 000. In the humanities, the numbers are not as large, four publications and $83 000 for a Level E in history and archaeology – although two publications and $31 000 might strike career commencers at Level A as an ask.


Union response:

From the document:

19. The proposal presents an extremely narrow view of academic career success, which crushes diversity and disadvantages women, who are more likely to have an interrupted career and work part time due to caring responsibilities. We believe it will directly impact on Murdoch’s attempts to become accredited under Athena SWAN. The discretionary use of ‘relative to opportunity’ in workload allocation is insufficient to address this.

And this didn’t help

Former education minister vetoed $4.2 million in recommended university research grants

Former education minister Simon Birmingham vetoed $4.2 million in recommended university research grants, the first time a minister has used such powers in more than a decade.

Senator Birmingham blocked federal funding for 11 projects in the humanities and the arts at leading research universities last financial year, a move Labor has dubbed as ‘politicisation’.


No Australian universities have signed

https://sfdora.org/signers/
Well this is depressing

OK so let’s do something about it. A call to arms if you will. So, what levers do we have to start effecting change?
Wellcome updates open access policy to align with cOAlition S

Following a large consultation, we have updated our open access (OA) policy so it now aligns with Plan S. The changes will apply from 1 January 2021.

- Wellcome-funded organisations must sign or publicly commit to the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment](https://wellcome.ac.uk/news/wellcome-updates-open-access-policy-align-coalition-s) (DORA), or an equivalent. We may ask organisations to show that they’re complying with this as part of our organisation audits. This is a new requirement to encourage organisations to consider the intrinsic merit of the work when making promotion and tenure decisions, not just the title of the journal or publisher.

[https://wellcome.ac.uk/news/wellcome-updates-open-access-policy-align-coalition-s](https://wellcome.ac.uk/news/wellcome-updates-open-access-policy-align-coalition-s)
Relatively minor player here

Australian neuroscientist Bruce Murdoch nearly went to jail for making up data

Scientific integrity took another hit on Thursday when an Australian researcher received a two-year suspended sentence after pleading guilty to 17 fraud-related charges. The main counts:

- Misconduct in a public office
- Possession of a stolen document
- Using a false instrument
- MISREPRESENTATION
- Falsely claiming authorship of published research articles


Lever – The need for transparency
(10 days ago)

Lever – The need for transparency
(On Saturday)

The case for Open Research: the mis-measurement problem

Let's face it. The biggest blockage we have to widespread Open Access is not researcher apathy, a lack of interoperable systems, or an unwillingness of publishers to engage (although these do each play some part) – it is the problem that the only thing that counts in academia is publication in a high impact journal.

https://unlockingresearch-blog.lib.cam.ac.uk/?p=713
At least one person is using the ‘R’ word

To move research from quantity to quality, go beyond good intentions

Australian chief scientist Alan Finkel calls for formal action to bake in better research practices.

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-00613-z

Pockets of activity

The Australasian Meta-Research and Open Science Meeting is hosted by researchers from a range of disciplines (including psychology, statistics, and ecology) with a shared interest in understanding and addressing challenges to replicability, reproducibility and open science.

We welcome interested students and researchers to join us for two days of workshops, hackathons, and presentations about a broad range of open science and scientific reform topics, including: pre-registration and Registered Reports; peer review.


https://www.anzopenresearch.org
Big Data in Australian research: Issues, challenges and opportunities

Background
This project will develop a national framework and strategy to enable Australian research to exploit opportunities and overcome challenges arising from the revolution in open and big data technologies, and from developments in data science and machine learning. By consulting broadly across disciplines and connecting with international big data initiatives, the project will identify common and discipline-specific practices, challenges and strategic developments, map existing data science capability and infrastructure within and across disciplines, identify opportunities for efficiencies, and assess technology, infrastructure, training and collaboration priorities for the future.

Committee
The project's Expert Working Group is jointly led by Professor Michael Barber AO FAA FTSE and Associate Professor Jane Elith FAA, together with the Academy's National Committee for Data in Science.

Five years ago the UK was only starting

• “We can’t tell our researchers what to do”
• “On what $%^&ing legal basis are they telling me I have to share my data?”
• “Are you saying we have to back-up our laptops?”
• “But XX university is unique, it’s not like other universities”
• “This is $%^&ing bull$*#@!”
And look at it now

https://osc.cam.ac.uk/open-research/open-research-position-statement

http://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/openresearch/about/explained/

https://www.reading.ac.uk/research/research-environment/open-research.aspx

https://wellcomeopenresearch.org/

This statement sets out the University's commitment to the aims and principles of Open Research. We explain what it is and why it is important. We encourage our research community to explore the possibilities and benefits of using open practices in their research, to discuss their needs with us and to draw on the available support. On this page you will also find links to useful guidance and resources for researchers relating to Open Research.

What is open research?

Open research comprises openness throughout the research cycle, through collaborative working and sharing and making research methodology, software, code and equipment freely available online, along with instructions for using it. Open research includes making publications freely available online (open access), in addition to the underlying research data (open data).
It’s time to act – and yes it is up to you

• Check out your own policy situation
• How open is your institution? Have you checked?
• Who can you talk to about strengthening policy requirements?
• Who can you lean on as champions in your academic community?
• Join AIMOS and ANZORN
• Useful? “How to introduce and implement policy in your institution and still have friends afterwards”
  https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZSJdkp7iHPjRo18fiVZFy5i_MVth40z?usp=sharing
• You are more powerful than you think
Thanks all

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