

Welcome to the collaborative SESSION BOARD

#OSC2025 - Day 1 - Solution Session 3

ABOUT this session

Description: [Marbles – Upcycling research waste and making every effort count in the era of Open Science](#)

Author: *Pablo Hernández Malmierca, Isabel Barriuso Ortega*

Organization: Research Agora

Link and QR-code to this board to share with others:



zbw.to/osc25-pad06

COLLABORATIVE NOTES

*As announced we encourage you to **document the outcomes of the discussion session** in this document (solution approaches, an extended continuation, key take aways) in order to share them with others.*

In this discussion session Research Agora (www.researchagora.com) started by introducing their solution to research waste, Marbles. Marbles are short, structured scientific contributions linked to published literature. The idea behind is to make use of all data produced in research that does not get shared in any way (invisible research waste) to build on top of papers in a modular and organized way. It does not only aim to reduce research waste, but to address the reproducibility crisis and aid researchers to showcase all their scientific efforts and contributions.

After the introduction, they opened the stage to questions/comments/feedback. The comments and answers are outlined below:

- Each Marble will be assigned a DOI to allow for traceability.
- What if the original publication is behind a paywall? Marbles can still be submitted, and all Marbles will be Open Access.
- What type of indexing sources are used within Research Agora (non-traditional publications have a harder time finding the space): Our aim is that Marbles are indexed in the most common aggregators, like OpenAlex, ORCID...among others.
- Review process: How are reviewers found, and how are they assigned to peer-review Marbles? Currently, reviewers are researchers who are directly contacted by Research Agora. We have a reviewer community in ~15 countries. Any researcher (including early career researchers) who wants to participate can sign up on Research Agora's website, and we will verify their expertise before any review. Reviewers are selected according to their field of expertise; we match their field of expertise with that of the submitted Marble.
- Publication workflow organic and holistic: the establishment of a new output requires attention and "awareness" about it, that is why with Research Infrastructures/Networks are important in the first steps. We are currently open to setting up collaborations with universities and research centres for this purpose.
- Is it expected that now all the knowledge gets published? Or is that just an idealistic revolution? Ideally publishing this knowledge now will have the effect of not needing to generate it in the future
- This is a bottom-up approach, and ideally, a top-down approach from institutions should match it.

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- Why would someone publish that they were not able to replicate an experiment?
Clarification that Marbles can be published referring to your previous papers, but also referring to others' work.
- Is submission automated so that volume does not “break” it? So far it is not automated, but we are working on it.
- What if it is used to overcrowd the space? This is a matter of incentives and what institutions value: what outputs are considered and how much importance each output is given. The important work for institutions is to really give metrics and publication counts a less important role, and focus on the quality of the research.
- Can we combine it as nanopublications and have a plugin (or similar) so that replicates and others appear in the original publication/indexing services - metadata? That would be ideal. We are working on that too.
- It may be better to brand as an overlay journal where a peer review service is offered, given that there are others in the space with similar concepts.

RECAP

Please add 2-3 sentences about your session and the outcomes. This information will be used by the organisers (ZBW) for a conference report. Stay tuned - we will inform you by e-Mail.

In this solution session, Research Agora introduced Marbles, a new type of publication for researchers to share smaller pieces of scientific work that often go unpublished, making scientific efforts more visible and impactful. Marbles are open-access, peer-reviewed reports linked to existing already published literature, helping solve issues of research waste and reproducibility by recognizing all valuable contributions, not just full articles. During the session, participants highlighted the potential of the novel peer review system for Marbles. Participants also emphasized the importance of indexing in aggregators, integration with existing academic systems, the role of incentives for researchers and the need for both a top-down strategy from institutions and funding bodies and a greater community awareness.