Skills and knowledge for scholarly communication roles: what do job descriptions tell us?

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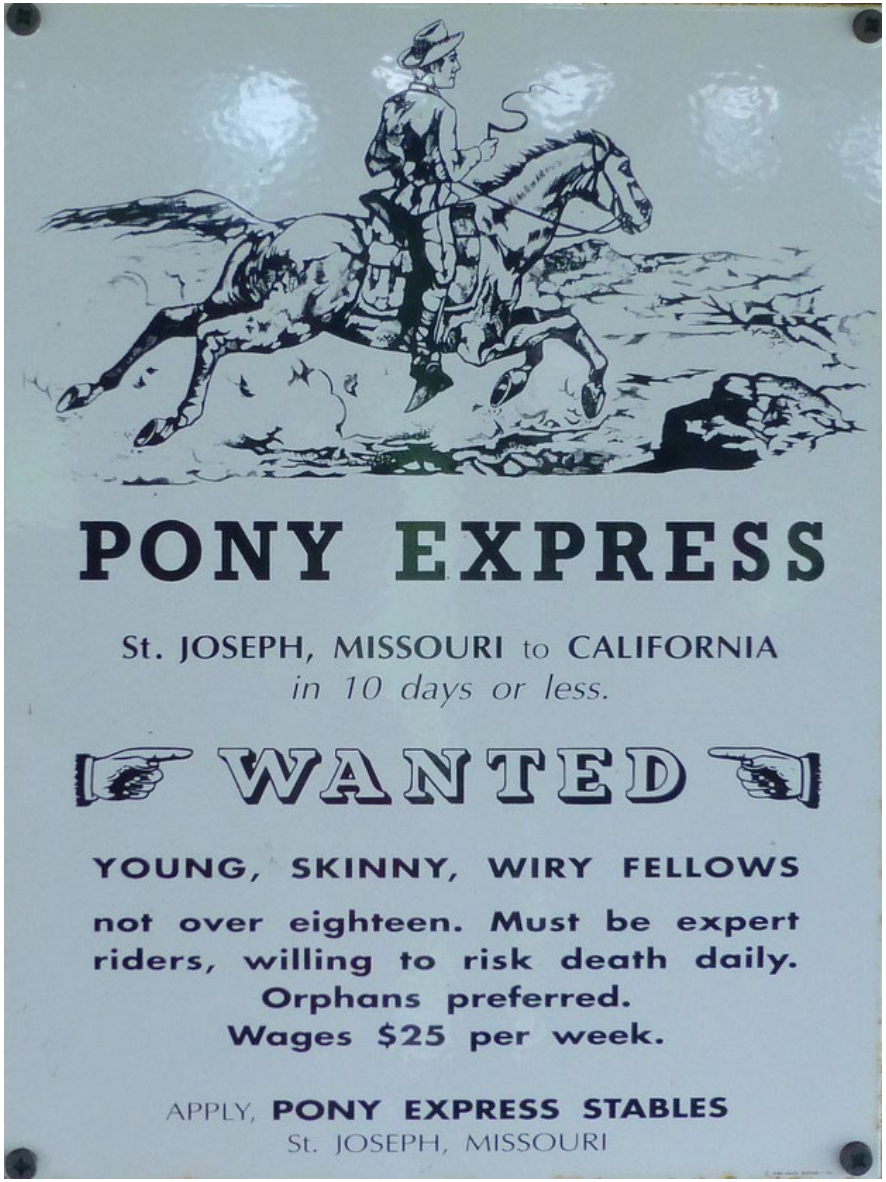

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Research methodology

71 scholarly communication job postings advertised by UK HEIs
March 2015 – September 2017

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Keywords – title and abstract

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Looking for keywords

Job Title: Open Access & Research Data Manager

developing our services to provide Open Access to research outputs such as research papers

Post Designation	**Repository Developer**

The Repository Developer will take responsibility for day to day maintenance and development

Post title: Research and Scholarly Communications Consultant

the post holder will manage and advise on the publishing and management of Open Access research outputs, and the curation and dissemination of research data.

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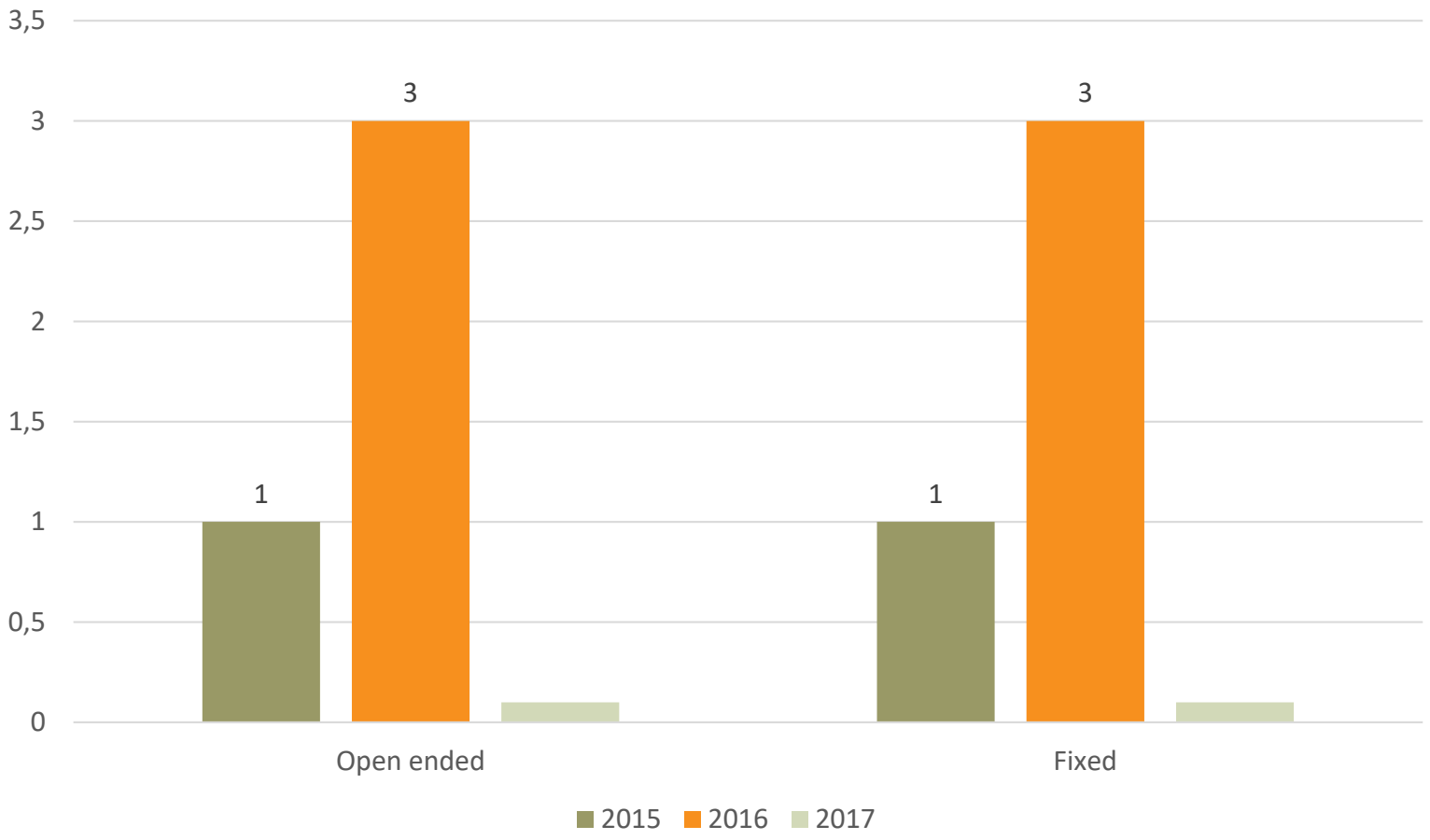
Part-time : open-ended and fixed



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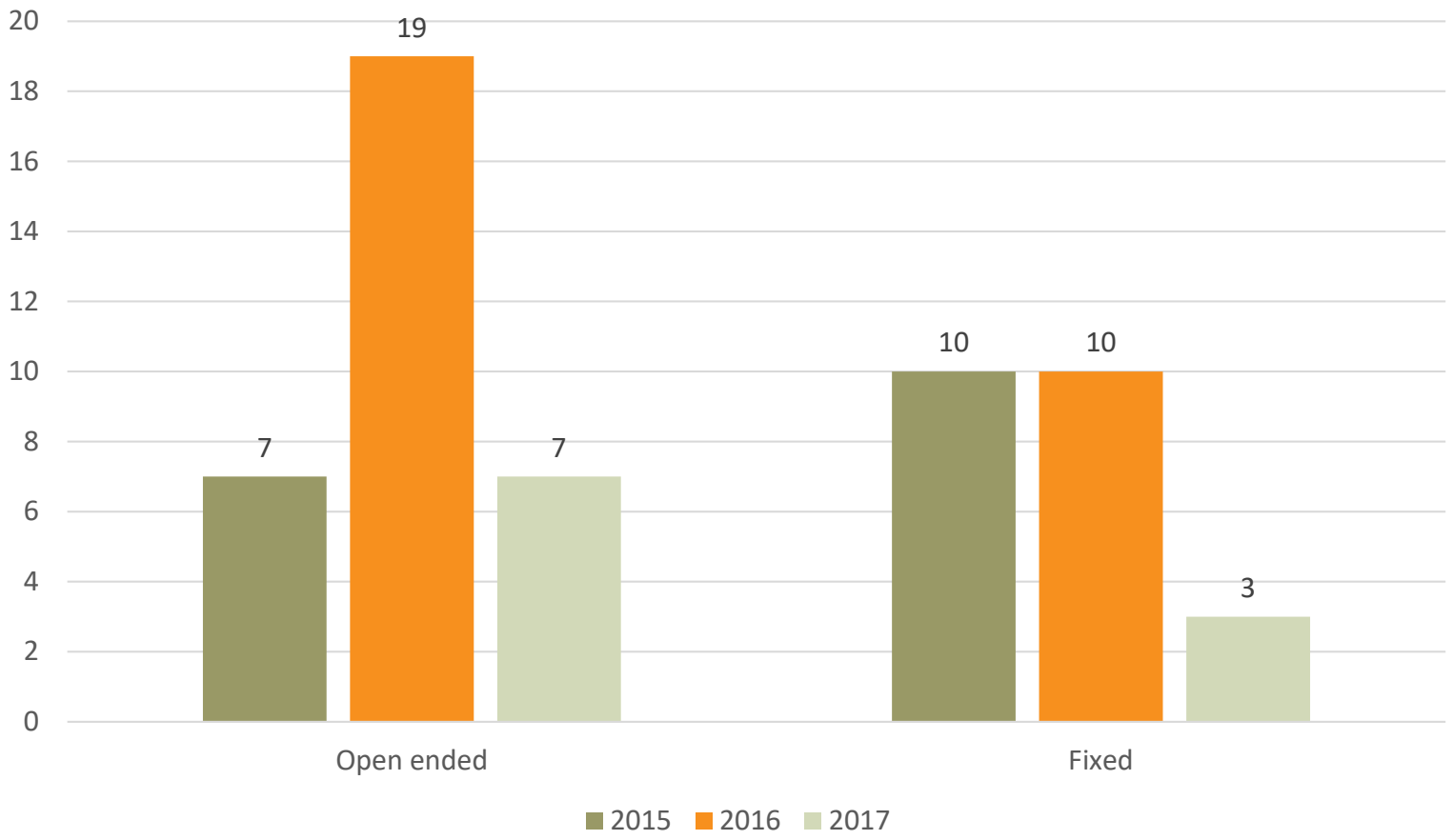
Full-time : open-ended and fixed



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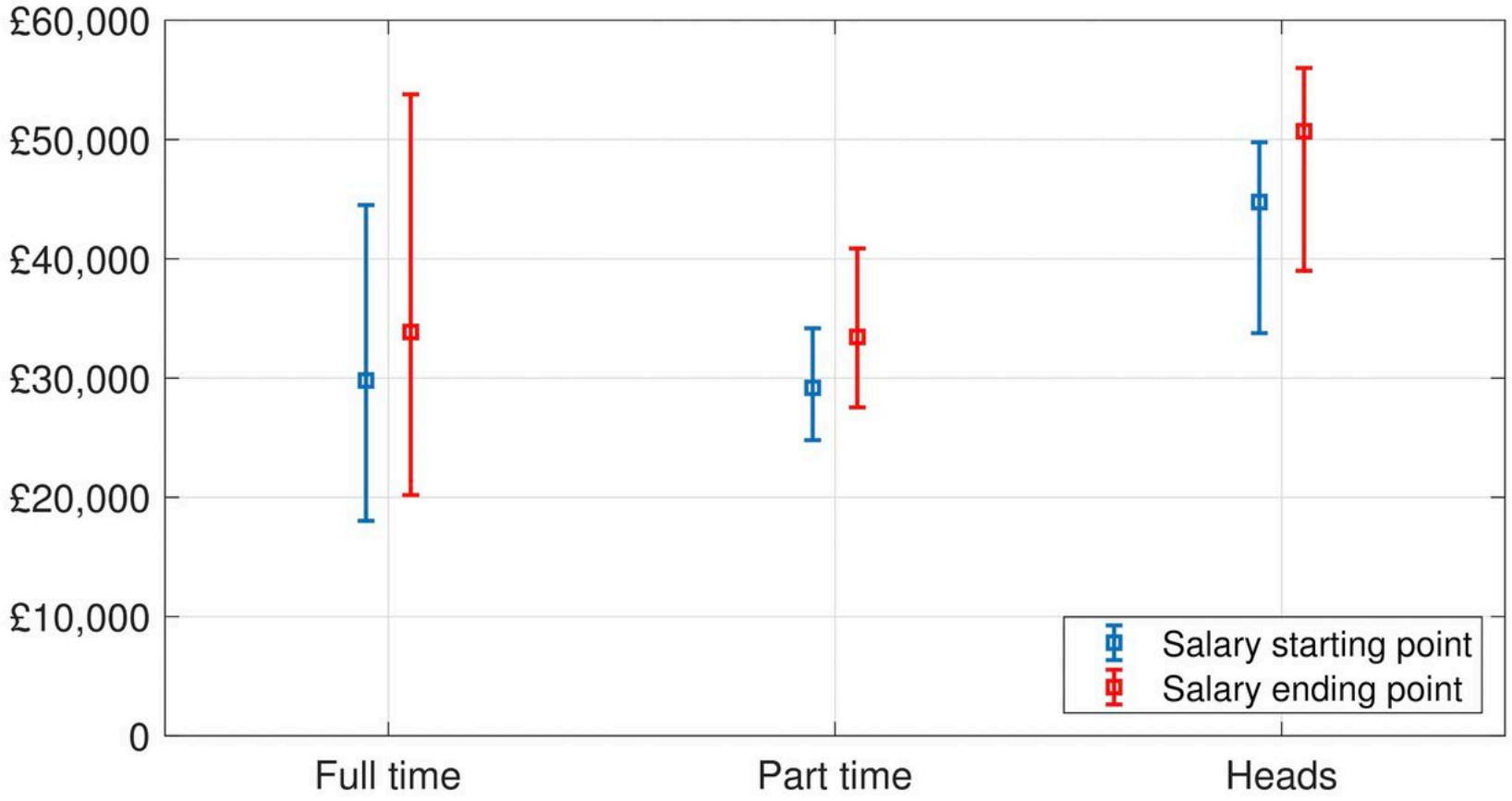
Salaries average



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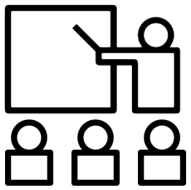
General skills - I

Liaise with Stakeholders 58%

Offer Advice 48%

Compliance Reports 38%

Professional Development 37%



Offer Training 35%

Licensing Advice 25%

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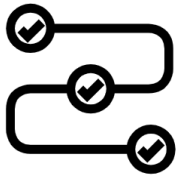
General skills - II

Gain Knowledge
24%



Manage Workflows
21%

Be Updated
20%

Draft Policies
13%

Maintain Webpages
13%

Metrics
8%

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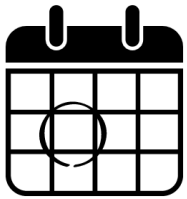
General skills - III

Develop Strategies
10%

Communications
8%

Academic Publishing
7%



Events
4%

Influencing Skills
3%

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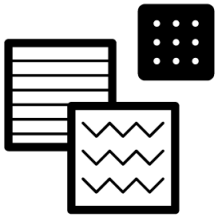
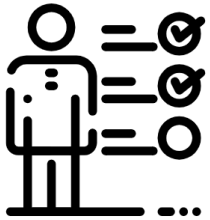
Open Access skills - I

Ensure compliance
28%

Manage APCs
25%



Prepare Advocacy Material
18%



Professional Body Member
18%

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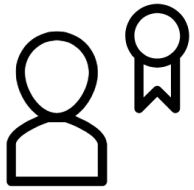
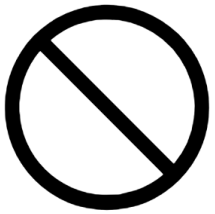
Open Access skills - II

Promote policies
15%



Open Access Expert
14%

Publication Routes
7%



Embargo Periods
4%

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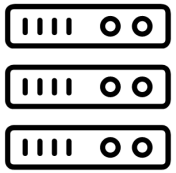
Repository Manager skills - I

Record quality
32%

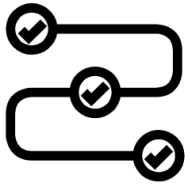


Manage Repository
25%

Monitor Deposits
20%

Promote Repository
20%

Promote Repository
15%



Submission Workflow
13%

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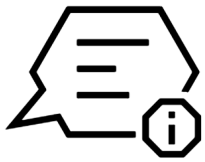
Repository Manager skills - II



Metadata Standards 11%

Research Excellence Framework 10%

International Standards 8%

Ensure Compliance 7%

Discover Publications 3%

Maintain Repository 3%

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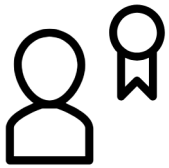
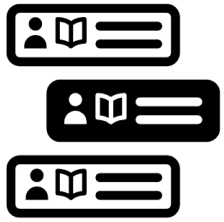
Research Data Management skills - I



RDM Expert
11%

Ensure Compliance
7%

Offer Advice
3%



Digital Curation
3%

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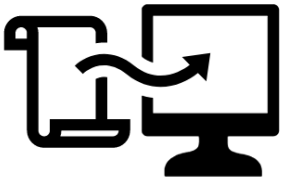
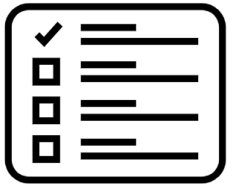
Research Data Management skills - II



Digital Preservation Standards
3%



Interpret User Requirements
3%

Advocate RDM
3%

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Education versus Experience?

	Essential	Desirable
Equivalent experience	**30**	**2**
Any undergrad	17	0
LIS master	10	7
Any master	10	1
LIS undergrad or master	7	4
LIS undergrad	6	0
Experience in Research	3	0

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Discussion –
Skills and competencies

- 19 general
- 33 specific skills :
  OA = 8, IR = 13, RDM = 12
- A position holder could be expected to an a specialist in more than one roles
- Not always clear lines between roles

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Discussion – RDM role

- 1 job advertised with the title "Research Data Manager" in combination with "Open Access"

- Often combined with another scholarly communications sub-category

- Research degree or previous research experience

- Have UK institutions already covered these positions or there is still a gap?
  - What happens in Europe, globally?

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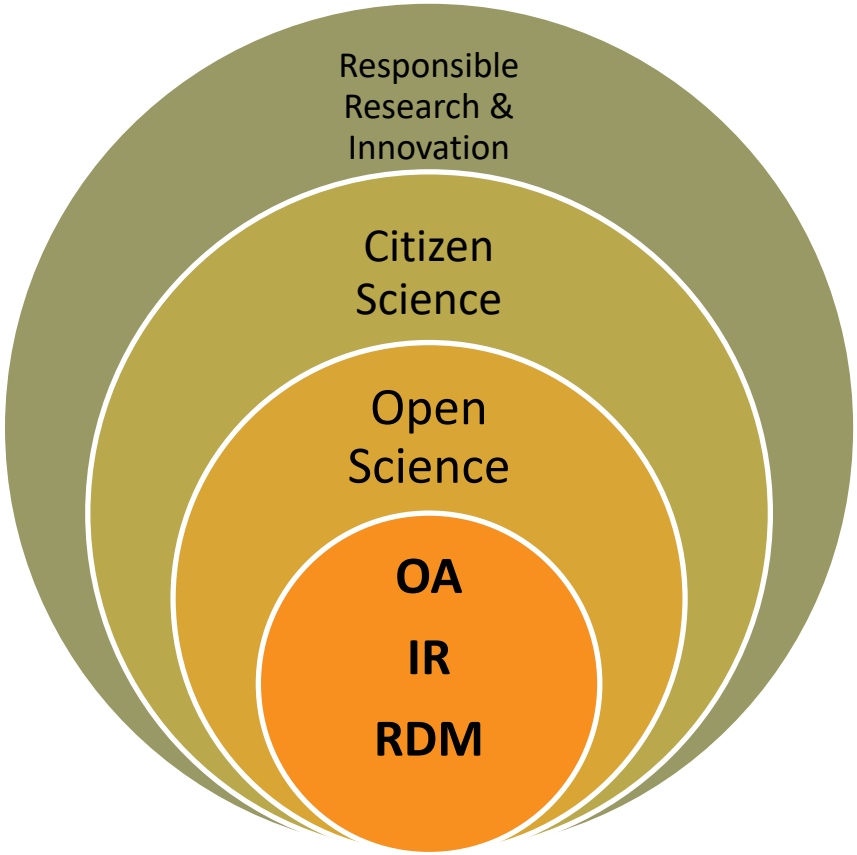
Future skills



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What about my original question?

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Scholarly Communication Competencies Coalition (SC3)

- Formed in 2017
- Group members: ARMA, British Library, CILIP, CORE, Jisc, RLUK, UKCoRR, UKSG, SCONUL, Vitae

- Monitor development of scholarly communications field both nationally and internationally
- Maps scholarly communication competencies against training provision options
- Addresses needs for inclusion in scholarly communication in academic degree courses
- Creates a self-assessment tool to help individuals decide if scholarly communication is for them

- Website : https://www.ukcorr.org/partnerships/sc3-scholarly-communication-competencies-coalition/

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Thank you!

Got questions? Email me at:

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