

# BARCELONA DECLARATION ON OPEN RESEARCH INFORMATION

Bianca Kramer, Sesame Open Science

GraspOS Community of Practice meeting



13 November 2024

<https://tinyurl.com/20241113-bd-graspos>



# Open research information

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Why is it important?

# Research information

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- Research information: (bibliographic) metadata - including funding information and information on use and impact
- Used in decision making around strategic priorities, distribution of resources, and evaluation of researchers and institutions
- Used to assess the effect of policies (funders, institutions, government)
- Used by researchers and societal stakeholders to find and assess research results

# Research information must be open

## Closed research information

We are assessing researchers and institutions based on **non-transparent evidence**...

We are making decisions based on information that is **biased against less privileged languages, geographical regions, and research agendas**...

We are monitoring and incentivizing open science using **closed data**...

— but —>



**fair assessment requires full transparency**

— but —>



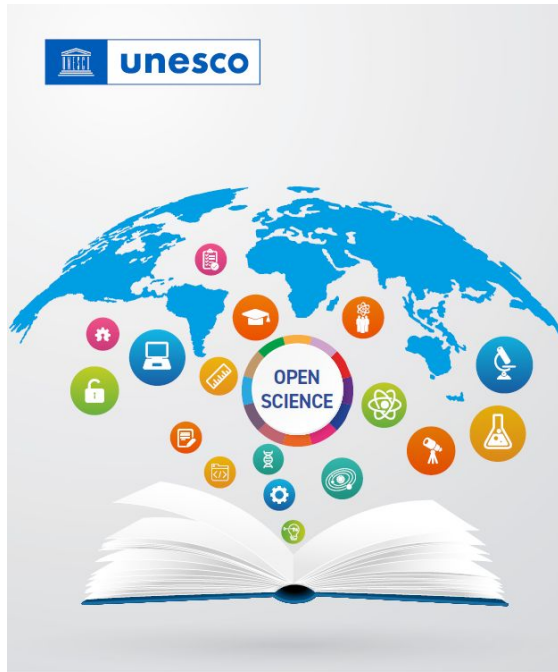
**equitable decision-making requires inclusive data**

— but —>



**open science requires open research information**

# UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science



UNESCO Recommendation  
on Open Science

“The monitoring of open science should be explicitly kept under public oversight, including the scientific community, and whenever possible supported by **open non-proprietary and transparent infrastructures**”

# Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment



BARCELONA  
DECLARATION ON  
OPEN RESEARCH  
INFORMATION

“Ensure **independence and transparency of the data, infrastructure** and criteria necessary for research assessment and for determining research impacts”





# Barcelona Declaration

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[barcelona-declaration.org](https://barcelona-declaration.org)

# Barcelona Declaration

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- To draft the Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information, a workshop was organized **in Barcelona in November 2023**, hosted by **SIRIS Foundation**
- **Over 25 research information experts**, representing organizations that carry out, fund, and evaluate research, as well as open infrastructure organizations, participated in the workshop
- Preparation of the Declaration was coordinated by **Bianca Kramer** (Sesame Open Science), **Cameron Neylon** (Curtin Open Knowledge Initiative, Curtin University), and **Ludo Waltman** (Centre for Science and Technology Studies, Leiden University)
- Declaration was published **in April 2024**



# Barcelona Declaration - Commitments

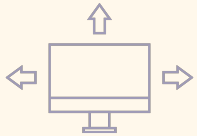
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As organizations that carry out, fund, and evaluate research, we commit to the following:



1

We will make openness the default for the research information we use and produce



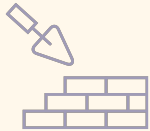
2

We will work with services and systems that support and enable open research information

# Barcelona Declaration - Commitments

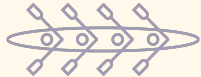
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As organizations that carry out, fund, and evaluate research, we commit to the following:



3

We will support the sustainability of infrastructures for open research information



4

We will support collective action to accelerate the transition to openness of research information

# Barcelona Declaration - Signatories

## BARCELONA DECLARATION ON OPEN RESEARCH INFORMATION



"CLACSO-FOLEC firmly advocates for research assessment methodologies that take advantage of the multiplicity of formats, languages and distribution channels of scientific knowledge. To this end we support the use of data that reflect both the production disseminated in international repositories and that which is hosted in regional and local databases."

**Karina Batthyány**  
Executive Director CLACSO

## BARCELONA DECLARATION ON OPEN RESEARCH INFORMATION



"The declaration is fully aligned with the 2021 European Council Conclusions, which were released under French Presidency. The Council conclusions indeed state that 'data and bibliographic databases used for research assessment should, in principle, be openly accessible and that tools and technical systems should enable transparency'. It is also very well aligned with the 2016 French Law that is commonly referred to as 'Digital Republic Law'."

**Marin Dacos**  
French Coordinator for Open Science

## BARCELONA DECLARATION ON OPEN RESEARCH INFORMATION



"Sorbonne University has strongly supported the move toward open science for many years and the implementation of open research practices and principles in all their dimensions within its community. Beyond its benefits for researchers and research institutions, this next step towards open research information is also a civic engagement for a more open, responsible and trustworthy university."

**Nathalie Drach-Temam**  
President, Sorbonne University

## BARCELONA DECLARATION ON OPEN RESEARCH INFORMATION



"We want research information that is easy to understand, handle, and analyse, while ensuring our analyses maintain transparency and reproducibility. Thankfully, we now have the necessary tools, processes, and determination to turn this vision into reality."

**Paola Galimberti**  
Director of the Open Science Policy Division, University of Milan

## BARCELONA DECLARATION ON OPEN RESEARCH INFORMATION



"Transparency and rigour are core to UKRN's mission. This is as important for research information as it is for research, and so we will actively support the aims of the Barcelona Declaration."

**Marcus Munafò**  
Chair of the UK Reproducibility Network Supervisory Board

## BARCELONA DECLARATION ON OPEN RESEARCH INFORMATION



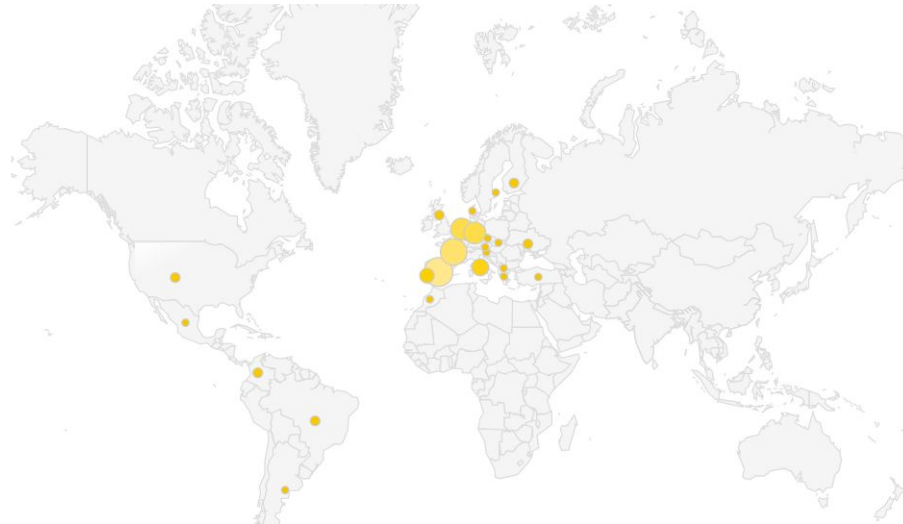
"With Open Research Information we may review and access Open Science contributions in an open way. Indeed, we may make all our research assessment transparent and FAIR - Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable - with Open Access and without any restrictions on how the Open Research Information is used and shared."

**Mogens Sandfaer**  
Head of National Open Research Analytics, Denmark

# Signatories and supporters

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- As of today, the Barcelona Declaration has been **formally signed by 94 organizations in 24 countries**; among others, signatories include universities and other research institutions, research funders, and governments



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- As of today, the Barcelona Declaration has been **formally signed by 95 organizations in 24 countries**; among others, signatories include universities and other research institutions, research funders, and governments
- In addition, **47 organizations** providing data, services and infrastructure are **formal supporters** of the Declaration
- Many organizations have not yet signed the Declaration but have expressed an **interest in contributing to the transition to open research information**

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What are the next steps?

How do we make sure the **transition to open research information is truly going to happen?**

# Paris Conference

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September 23-24, 2024  
Sorbonne University

130 participants  
(on site and online)

## Report of the Paris Conference on Open Research Information

September 23-24 2024, Sorbonne University, Paris

November 8, 2024 / <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14054244>



# Paris conference

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- **Share information and experiences** around adoption of open research information and implementation of the commitments

[https://zenodo.org/communities/paris\\_conference\\_ori\\_2024](https://zenodo.org/communities/paris_conference_ori_2024)

- **Develop a joint road map** of next steps that need coordination and collaboration between signatories and supporters.

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14054244>

# Collective actions - joint roadmap

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- Journal article metadata
  - IR / preprint / data repository metadata
  - Funding metadata
  - Replacing closed systems
  - Sustainability of infrastructures
  - Evaluating open data sources
  - Evidence of benefits
- Working groups, coordinated by signatory organizations
  - Concrete outcomes over 6-24 months
  - Collaboration between signatories and supporters

# Collective actions - joint roadmap

Things we don't know.  
How much money?  
Who is doing this?  
How?

How does it all fit?  
Where are the gaps  
and challenges? What  
works and where?

What can we agree  
to do together?  
Where are the places  
for collective action?

How do we deliver  
change? How do we test  
progress and hold each  
other accountable?

## Information Gathering

- Surveys
- Case studies
- Sharing experiences

## Frameworks & Analysis

- Develop
- Populate
- Quantitative and landscape analysis

## Principles & Guidelines

- Develop
- Shared Commitment
- Plans for implementation

## Implementation & Monitoring

- Deliver
- Monitor
- Critique, test and refine

# Examples

*Open Science*

## Sorbonne University unsubscribes from the Web of Science

Sorbonne University has been deeply committed to the promotion and the development of open science for many years. According to its commitment to open research information, it has decided to discontinue its subscription to the Web of Science publication database and Clarivate bibliometric tools in 2024. By resolutely abandoning the use of proprietary bibliometric products, it is opening the way for open, free and participative tools.

BARCELONA  
DECLARATION ON  
OPEN RESEARCH  
INFORMATION



Introducing the Leiden Ranking Open Edition

January 30, 2024 • CWTS development • 8 min read

This post introduces the Open Edition of the CWTS Leiden Ranking, published today by CWTS in collaboration with the Curtin Open Knowledge Initiative, Sesame Open Science, and OurResearch. The Leiden Ranking Open Edition is the first fully transparent university ranking.

# Examples



## French Open Science Monitor

The general monitor ▾

The health monitor ▾

The local monitors ▾

About ▾

Welcome to

## the French Open Science Monitor



Measure the evolution of open science in France using reliable, open and controlled data.

[See the last communication](#) →

# Examples



Taylor & Francis  
an **informa** business

## Supply of Article Metadata upon publication

- (a) The Publisher shall use reasonable endeavours to, within 10 Working **Days** of publication of each Green or Gold Route Articles:
- (i) register the article's DOI with CrossRef, and inform all co-authors;
  - (ii) where available populate co-authors' institutional affiliation fields on CrossRef <http://www.crossref.org/>;
  - (iii) where available populate funding metadata, including the funding body grant number in accordance with the Open Funder Registry taxonomy (<http://www.crossref.org/fundingdata>) in FundRef <http://ftp.crossref.org/fundref/index.html> and provide same information via its APIs;

**Openness of metadata in publisher agreements**

# Collective actions - joint roadmap

Things we don't know.  
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# Collective action - what do we have already?

- Talks from Paris
- Existing EC work
- UNESCO Open Science Outlook
- POSI/FOREST
- Limited landscape analysis
- POSI/FOREST
- FAIR/CARE
- CoARA
- OSMI
- Barcelona
- Pioneer institutions
- Testing metadata completeness
- ESAC
- SCOSS
- InfraFinder (IOI)

## Information Gathering

- Surveys
- Case studies
- Sharing experiences

## Frameworks & Analysis

- Develop
- Populate
- Quantitative and landscape analysis

## Principles & Guidelines

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- Shared Commitment
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## Implementation & Monitoring

- Deliver
- Monitor
- Critique, test and refine



# Get involved

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# How to get involved?

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Does your organization want to sign or support the Barcelona Declaration, or do you wish to know more?

→ Send us an email at [contact@barcelona-declaration.org](mailto:contact@barcelona-declaration.org)

Is your organization interested in participating in one or more working groups, or, as a signatory organization, in coordinating one of the working groups?

→ Fill out this form: <https://tinyurl.com/Barcelona-Declaration-WGs> by November 30

We aim to set up a meeting with potential working group coordinators in December 2024, and have working groups populated and starting active work in early 2025.

# Bologna Meeting on Open Research Information

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The **Bologna Meeting on Open Research Information** will take place in Bologna (Italy) on May 28, 2025

The event will be co-organized with the **Workshop on Open Citations and Open Scholarly Metadata**, a biennial international event aimed at researchers, academic publishers, funders, policy makers and supporters of open science interested in adopting practices for the creation, reuse and improvement of open scholarly metadata

The Bologna Meeting on Open Research Information will offer an opportunity to discuss progress on the various issues on **our open research information roadmap**

# Keep informed

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Follow our updates on the website:

→ [barcelona-declaration.org](https://barcelona-declaration.org)

Follow our social media channels:

→ LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/barcelona-declaration/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/barcelona-declaration/)

→ Mastodon: [mastodon.social/@BarcelonaDORI](https://mastodon.social/@BarcelonaDORI)

→ X: [x.com/BarcelonaDORI](https://x.com/BarcelonaDORI)

A dedicated communication mailing list is set up for (potential) signatories as well as supporters

# BARCELONA DECLARATION ON OPEN RESEARCH INFORMATION

[www.barcelona-declaration.org](http://www.barcelona-declaration.org)

The Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information was prepared by a group of over 25 research information experts, representing organizations that carry out, fund, and evaluate research, as well as organizations that provide research information infrastructures. The group met in Barcelona in November 2023 in a workshop hosted by SIRIS Foundation. The preparation of the Declaration was coordinated by Bianca Kramer (Sesame Open Science), Cameron Neylon (Curtin Open Knowledge Initiative, Curtin University), and Ludo Waltman (Centre for Science and Technology Studies, Leiden University). Organizations that would like to know more about the Declaration or that wish to sign the Declaration are welcome to reach out to [contact@barcelona-declaration.org](mailto:contact@barcelona-declaration.org)



# Barcelona Declaration

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Full commitments



# Barcelona Declaration - Commitment 1

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As organizations that carry out, fund, and evaluate research, we commit to the following:

## 1

We will make openness the default for the research information we use and produce

- Openness will be the norm for the research information we use, for instance to assess researchers and institutions, to support strategic decision making, and to find relevant research outputs.
- Openness will be the norm for the research information we produce, for instance information about our activities and outputs, with an exception for information for which openness would be inappropriate ('as open as possible, as closed as necessary').



# Barcelona Declaration - Commitment 2

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## 2

We will work with services and systems that support and enable open research information

- For publishing services and platforms, we will require that research information generated in publication processes (e.g., metadata of research articles and other outputs) be made openly available through open scholarly infrastructures, using standard protocols and identifiers where available.
- For systems and platforms for the internal management of research information (e.g., current research information systems), we will require that all relevant research information can be exported and made open, using standard protocols and identifiers where available.



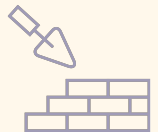
# Barcelona Declaration - Commitment 3

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## 3

We will support the sustainability of infrastructures for open research information

- We take responsibility for supporting infrastructures for open research information, for instance by participating in community building and community governance and by providing fair and equitable contributions to the financial stability and development of these infrastructures.
- We expect the infrastructures that we support to implement good practices for community governance and sustainability (e.g., Principles of Open Scholarly Infrastructure).

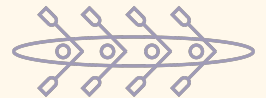


# Barcelona Declaration - Commitment 4

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4  
We will support collective action to accelerate the transition to openness of research information

- We recognize the importance of sharing experiences and coordinating action to promote a system-wide transition from closed to open research information.
- To facilitate this, we support establishing a Coalition for Open Research Information and strengthening collaboration with other related initiatives and organizations.





# Joint roadmap

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Topics and actions

# 1. Journal article metadata

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- Develop a **framework for open publication metadata** (incl. for books) including a list of the most important metadata elements for journal articles and books.
- Organize a **gap analysis** based on the developed framework
- Develop **principles for community control** over publication metadata (incl. for books)
- Demand in **future negotiations with publishers** the deposition of comprehensive metadata to infrastructure providers (e.g., Crossref, DataCite), preferably using PIDs, and monitor delivery
- Create **affordable ways for poorly-resourced publishers to start using PIDs** (e.g. DOIs) and to start making metadata openly available

## 2. Metadata in IR, data en preprint repositories

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- Share **experiences of giving credit to authors and other staff members** for sharing data/code and improving metadata quality
- Draft **guidelines to create and use linked research objects**
- Propose **guidelines about human resources** to dedicate to metadata validation/moderation in IRs
- Pilot **implementing a machine-learning pipeline** to detect datasets and software from full-text.



# 3. Funding metadata

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- Organize a **workshop with vendors, publishers and funders** to discuss the **minimum requirements for how the submission system** should support the registration of grant metadata and the progression through the system to registration.
- **Expanding the use of existing systems for metadata management** amongst a wider and more geographically distributed group of funders.
- Produce a **set of resources to show how funders are making grant metadata available** for advocacy and for improving the use of standards

# 4. Replacing closed systems

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- Develop and distribute a survey, to make an **inventory of user stories**, and all Barcelona Declaration signatory organizations will have the results ready
- Create guidelines that **prioritize research outputs with persistent identifiers** (handle or not handle), encouraging any indexing service to have equal access to these products.
- Set a **minimum quality standard for data submitted to PIDs' operators**.
- Scientometrics and relevant management teams at signatory organizations have **access to required training** to support the active use of open research information. Monitor uptake and usage of resources.
- Identify at least 20 organizations that are willing to sign a **statement to unsubscribe from the closed data sources**.
- **Include currently missing provenance information** in Open Research Information Resources (e.g., source of data, whether it has been reviewed/curated) and make filters available for users.

# 5. Sustaining infrastructures

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- Information sharing on **how open research infrastructures and resources are supported** yearly
- Survey of signatories to know **how much is spent on proprietary tools and resources**
- **Produce a model & guidelines** of what they need , want and expect from open research information infrastructure -> how it can translate to supporting
- Adopt and agree on a model guideline of required open research information services/systems
- **Contribute to an endowment pool** over a ten year period with a governance entity that could support infrastructure sustainability
- **Commit to redirecting funding saved** from cancellation of closed services to directly support open infrastructure providers rather than returning savings to institutional overhead

# 6. Evaluating open data sources

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- Agree on a **set of criteria for open research information sources** with a focus on minimal requirements that support adoption
- Develop a **set of reporting guidelines** for evaluations
- Support projects for **developing evaluation tools and methods**
- Implement evaluation tools and methods in a **monitoring framework**

# 7. Evidence of benefits

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- Collect **case studies of use of signatories' open research information** by the public
- Produce a **stakeholder map and a taxonomy of benefits**
- **Map costs, inequities and other undesirable effects** of closed systems
- Engage with journal editors to launch an open call for a **special issue about the benefits of open research information**
- Identify, develop and implement actions to **improve multilingual metadata and other forms of bibliodiversity.**