# COAR
## Confederation of Open Access Repositories

*Promoting greater visibility and application of research through global networks of Open Access repositories*

# Aligning Repository Networks
# Report of Strategic Meeting, April 2015

**Report by:**

**Kathleen Shearer and Katharina Müller with contributions from representatives from repository community around the world**

**November 2015**

**http://coar-repositories.org**

# Table of Contents

COAR Office at Goettingen State and University Library
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1, D-37073 Göttingen, Germany, Tel. +49 551 39 22215, Fax +49 551 39 5222
office@coar-repositories.org

# I. Overview

Over the last 20 years, open access repositories have been implemented around the world and are now fairly widespread across most regions. Repositories provide open access (OA) to research publications and other materials and enable the local management and preservation of research outputs. They are a key infrastructure component supporting the growing number of open access policies and laws, the majority of which recommend or require deposit of articles into an OA repository. OA repositories are increasingly connected through thematic, national and regional networks. However, given the truly international and collaborative nature of research, these networks must also be connected and aligned around issues such as policy, technologies and services. The COAR Aligning Repository Networks Initiative[1] aims to bring together the major repository networks to engage both strategically and technically in order to better harmonize their approaches.

For a second year in a row, major open access repository networks have met to develop closer ties and further align their expanding repository networks. The meeting was held on April 16, 2015 in Porto, Portugal and included representatives from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and North America. This report provides a summary of meeting discussions and outlines next steps identified by participants. A list of meeting delegates and their affiliations as well as the meeting agenda are available in the Appendix.

Meeting delegates shared updates about their individual networks. It was evident from the discussion that many networks have evolved significantly over the last year and are better prepared to collaborate with others more extensively. The group reviewed the progress to date of the aligning repository networks activities since their last meeting in March 2014. Specific outcomes from last year include the publication of a joint statement against embargo periods, the launch of a technical working group seeking to harmonize open access metadata elements and vocabularies, and raising the visibility of the importance of repository networks worldwide.

Participants also discussed priorities for further aligning their networks for the coming year. Activities will include closer cooperation around the development of guidelines and tools, and strengthening bilateral collaborations between different networks was also suggested. In addition, it was agreed that a communication strategy be developed to raise the visibility of repositories and their networks as key infrastructure components. The strategy will support efforts at both the international and local levels to raise awareness about the value of repositories. It was recommended that COAR engage more closely with policy makers and other stakeholder organizations to ensure adoption of balanced open access policies that include deposit into repositories. Amidst the intensifying global debate about the most sustainable ways to implement open access and research infrastructures, meeting participants reinforced the need to foster solutions that reflect the diversity of approaches and capacities across different regions.

---

[1] https://www.coar-repositories.org/activities/advocacy-leadership/aligning-repository-networks-across-regions/

## II. Current State of Repository Networks

There is already significant repository infrastructure in many countries and regions of the world, which are connected through national and thematic networks. These networks have been created by governments in order to better track their research outputs, something that cannot be done by using traditional search engines or indexing services. In addition to national and thematic networks, several regional repository networks are being developed to connect repositories across national boundaries. These networks have evolved based on the unique local requirements and mandates, and are at different stages of development. Some networks are very organized, cohesive and have robust services, while others are in their developmental stages. Meeting delegates shared updates about their individual networks some of which are described below, but it should be noted that there are also repository systems in other regional and national contexts including Australia, India among others. It was evident from the discussion that many networks have evolved significantly over the last year and are ready to collaborate with others more extensively.

### Africa

In Africa there has been a marked response to OA and a steady development of institutional repository initiatives particularly among universities and research institutions. According to OpenDOAR, there are currently 116 repositories from 21 African countries.[2]

On the African continent, South Africa leads in terms of OA adoption among its public research and teaching institutions. In alignment to the GRC, the National Research Foundation (NRF) released an open access statement on January 30, 2015 that requires funded researchers to deposit their articles into an open access repository with an embargo period of no more than 12 months.[3] A recent survey conducted in March 2015 by NRF showed that there are 27 repositories mostly hosted by universities in South Africa.[4] The NRF has also developed a National ETD Portal, which harvest South African theses and dissertations for 17 out of 26 public universities. It is also assisting some local universities to develop their own repositories and three repositories were handed over to the recipient institutions in the past two years.

### China

In China, both the Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) have issued policies on open access that mandate the deposit of peer-reviewed drafts of papers funded by them, with an embargo of 12 months into a repository. To support this, CAS has built a Repository Grid that harvests records from 96 CAS affiliated institutional repositories.[5] The grid currently indexes over 625,000 records from these repositories, which include 477,378 full text articles. The CAS network is extremely well used outside of CAS with the collective content being downloaded over 11 million times and close to 5 million times from users outside China.

The Chinese academic library consortium, CALIS, has also been promoting the development of IRs at academic institutions in China.[6] Most recent data shows about 40 Chinese universities outside

---

[2] Repositories by Continent: http://www.opendoar.org/find.php?format=charts
[3] http://ir.nrf.ac.za/bitstream/10907/103/1/oastatement_2015.pdf
[4] http://ir.nrf.ac.za/handle/10907/128
[5] http://www.irgrid.ac.cn/
[6] http://ir.calis.edu.cn/

the CAS network have substantial repository operations. In addition, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) and Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS) each have an institutional repository to provide access to articles and other research materials produced by their affiliated researchers.

## Europe

Europe has a very robust repository landscape with about 44 percent (1275) of the world's repositories located on that continent.[7] These repositories support a growing number of open access policies being adopted in various countries as well as the European Commission (EC). Since 2008, all EC grant agreements signed after August 2008 contained a clause requiring beneficiaries to deposit articles resulting from FP7 projects into a repository, and in the current funding program, Horizon 2020, the EC stipulates that all publications must be made open access.

Along with several very well developed national repository systems in countries like the United Kingdom, Portugal and Spain, the EC has been investing in a European-wide network, called OpenAIRE. OpenAIRE aggregates the research output of EC-funded projects and makes them available through a centralized portal. All member states are participating in OpenAIRE, as well as five associate countries, making a total of 33 countries involved in the project. OpenAIRE currently aggregates the metadata from over 590 repositories across Europe.

Although OpenAIRE's infrastructure is based on OA repositories, it has moved beyond a traditional publication aggregator. It currently aggregates 12.5 million publications and 7,000 datasets from 590 validated literature and data repositories.[8] OpenAIRE links these records with funding information from the EC and other European Union national funders. On top of the validated, cleaned, and enriched metadata aggregated by OpenAIRE, they are also developing value-added services for a range of stakeholders, in particular research managers to help them monitoring their research output. In doing so, it is becoming a true research Information system that demonstrates the value of open access and how this can be best implemented through community participation.

## Japan

Japan has an extremely well developed repository network even in the absence of substantial funder open access policies. After some pioneering deployment of institutional repositories beginning in 2002, the Digital Repository Federation was formed by a group of interested universities in 2006 to lead efforts and bring together the Japanese institutional repository communities. Japan now has over 420 institutional repositories and is one of the countries with the greatest repository coverage. To support this repository network and ensure it is scalable, the National Institute of Informatics (NII) recently adopted the repository cloud service named JAIRO Cloud.[9]

In 2013, Japan Science and Technology Agency, one of the national funding agencies, adopted an open access policy, making use of the system of repositories or open access journals.[10] In 2014, Institutional Repository Promotion Committee was established for further cooperation with

---

[7] OpenDOAR Repositories by Continent: http://www.opendoar.org/find.php?format=charts
[8] https://www.openaire.eu/
[9] https://library.stanford.edu/projects/stanford-prize-innovation-research-libraries-spirl/2014-prizes
[10] http://www.jst.go.jp/EN/about/pdf/OpenAccessPolicy.pdf

universities and NII and it is likely that open access activities will accelerate in Japan, with a recently published report, "Promoting Open Science in Japan" which strongly promotes open access.[11]

## Latin America

Traditionally, Latin America has been an open access continent, with an early and strong presence of regional Open Access journal repositories (SciELO and Redalyc), and in the past decade the development of institutional repositories and numerous open access policies by funders. Going beyond the adoption of policies, the governments of Argentina, Mexico and Peru have implemented laws that require all research output coming from government-funded research to be made freely available via a repository and discussions for new legislation in Venezuela and Brazil.

In order to support improved visibility of local scientific production through an affordable infrastructure, several Latin American governments formed LA Referencia in 2012. LA Referencia began as a project funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) between 2010 and 2013 and is now operated by RedCLARA, the organization that runs the high-speed network in Latin America. LA Referencia maintains a centralized harvester, promotes common standards across Latin America and works at the strategic level to further promote open access. These services reflect the public policy agreements of the science and technology authorities in all 9 countries (Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, México, Perú, Venezuela) that were signed in November 2012 in Buenos Aires.

LA Referencia currently harvests metadata from 8 national nodes aggregating from about 200 repositories, and representing over 800,000 full-text documents, which include journal articles, theses and dissertations, and research reports.[12]

## North America

With a growing number of open access policies being passed by Canadian and US funding agencies, repositories have gained in importance and momentum in North America over the last several years. According to OpenDOAR, there are over 500 repositories in US and Canada, representing a very well developed repository landscape.[13] In 2013, The US federal government directed each US Federal agency with over $100 million in annual conduct of research and development expenditures to develop a plan to support increased public access to the results of research funded by the Federal Government. The three Canadian research councils along with numerous private funders have also adopted open access policies, making the vast majority of researchers in this region regulated by open access requirements. As with most other regions, these policies are either neutral in terms of how researchers can adhere to the policy, or require specifically that researchers deposit into a repository.

In 2013, the SHARE project was launched to bring together information about publication output in this region. SHARE (SHared Access Research Ecosystem) is a joint effort supported by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the Association of American Universities (AAU), and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) to strengthen efforts in North America

---

[11] http://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/sonota/openscience/150330_openscience_summary_en.pdf
[12] http://lareferencia.redclara.net/rfr/
[13] OpenDOAR Repositories by Country: http://www.opendoar.org/find.php?format=charts

to identify, discover, and track research outputs. The Center for Open Science has been SHARE's technical partner since 2014.

SHARE is creating an openly available data set about research activities across their life cycle.[14] Similar to OpenAIRE in Europe, SHARE aims to collect, connect, and enhance scholarly metadata for the purposes of better understanding and tracking research outputs. By creating an open data set, SHARE will provide opportunities for further innovation and analysis about research impact. SHARE's first service is called SHARE Notify. Now in beta release, SHARE Notify takes metadata from a variety of digital repositories and generates a normalized feed of notifications.

## III. Review of Previous Work

As research becomes increasingly global, distributed and cross-disciplinary, repository infra-structures must mirror the needs of the research community and enable researchers, regardless of location or disciplinary practice, to access research outputs worldwide. All efforts should be made to avoid silos, which act as barriers to the use of content.

COAR launched the Aligning Repository Networks Initiative in 2014 with a meeting in Rome. At that meeting, delegates from Australia, Canada, China, Europe, Latin America and the United States set the major priorities for collaboration across repository networks. Regional and national repository networks have evolved in their specific local contexts and according to different needs, however the value of connecting them in order to provide more unified access to research outputs was considered an important priority. It will foster the development of a more seamless scientific infrastructure that supports the needs of researchers at the global level. It will also support the provision of uniform information for governments and funding agencies about the impact of open access policies and avoid duplication of work across networks as well as enable cost synergies in areas of common interest.

Repository networks can be aligned across several areas: through harmonized strategies and policies, via technical and semantic interoperability, and through common approach to services. COAR has been working across all of these areas to improve global alignment. In general, high-level coordination among network leaders has been effective in raising the visibility of repositories and enable strategic dialogue to take place across communities. Lengthening publisher embargo periods are of particular concern for repository networks. To that end, COAR produced a statement, in conjunction with SPARC North America, on May 2014 advocating for the "immediate, barrier free access to and reuse of scholarly articles", the statement spoke out to limiting embargo periods as they "dilute the benefits of open access policies and […] we believe that, if they are adopted, they should be no more than 6 months for the life and physical sciences, 12 months for social sciences and humanities."[15]

---

[14] http://www.share-research.org/
[15] https://www.coar-repositories.org/activities/advocacy-leadership/aligning-repository-networks-across-regions/statement-about-embargo-periods/

On the technical level, the focus was on improving the semantic interoperability of repository networks through the adoption of common vocabularies and metadata elements.

Currently, participating repository networks have been developed to fulfill different requirements and have adopted a variety of different metadata schemas and guidelines. These schemas/guidelines define both the format by which repositories expose their metadata and also how they articulate various elements in their collections.

Existing schemas have several commonalities but also a number of important differences. OpenAIRE has published guidelines that are being adopted across repositories in Europe. [16] LA Referencia, a network that harvests metadata from repositories across Latin America, has recently announced that they will adopt the OpenAIRE guidelines in the context of their network of 8 countries in Latin America.[17] In the UK, they have adopted the RIOXX guidelines which are now being mapped,[18] and SHARE has just made a beta metadata schema publicly available.[19] Current schemas are at various stages of development and adoption in their communities, and some elements will be reviewed and adopted in the coming months.

In the fall of 2014, COAR launched a joint working group with CASRAI, an international organization working on standards for research administrative information. The aim was to develop a strategy for harmonizing the metadata elements across open access repository networks. COAR has been acting as convener of the working group and CASRAI has been participating in order to ensure integration and avoid redundancies with related activities being undertaken in the research administrative context. Two initial use cases were identified as priorities for the working group:

1. Tracking Open Access Research Outputs. As a funding agency participating in internationally co-funded projects, I want to track all publications resulting from my funded research and to identify which ones are openly available.

---

[16] https://guidelines.openaire.eu/en/latest/literature/index.html
[17] http://lareferencia.redclara.net/rfr/noticias/interoperable-metadata-and-harvest-policies-national-nodes
[18] http://rioxx.net/guidelines/
[19] https://osf.io/wur56/wiki/Schema/

2. As a repository manager I want to know when a paper by an author from my institution has been deposited at another repository so that I can either make a copy for my repository or contact the author to ask them to deposit a version locally.

The working group has developed a strategy for achieving harmonization, depending on existing elements in each schema:

1. **Similar approaches to an element**. This is the most simple scenario, whereby the schemas have similar enough practices that coming to consensus around one common vocabulary element will fairly easy to achieve. Following the comparison of existing schemas, five of the elements are similar enough to be able to achieve harmonization: author, title, research output, publication date, and unique identifier for the publication.

2. **Elements in development.** These are a number of elements identified that have not yet been defined, but will likely be adopted in the near future. There are also elements that are being reviewed and updated in the existing schemas and guidelines. To address this, a small group of WG representatives (3-4) from different networks will be assigned an element and asked to propose a specific terminology that can be adopted by all the networks. There are five metadata elements that fall in this category: funding agency, project name and grant number, author's ID, institutional affiliation, jurisdictional information.

3. **Divergent approaches.** These are elements for which divergent choices for vocabularies have been made by different networks and there is not plan to change them in the near future. The proposed strategy in this scenario is to agree upon a common central term that can be mapped to by all the repository networks. To achieve this, a small group of WG representatives (3-4) from different networks will be assigned one element and asked to propose a specific terminology. There is one group of metadata elements in our use cases that fall into this category: open access status, embargos and licenses.

The working group will begin to execute this strategy in 2016.

In parallel, the COAR Controlled Vocabularies for Repository Assets Interest Group is developing controlled vocabulary for repository assets. The group began by reviewing an existing vocabulary developed in the context of DRIVER and OpenAIRE with a view to internationalizing it and translating it into several language using linked data principles.

The overarching aim of this work is to build broad international consensus around vocabulary items for open access repositories. An active Editorial Board was formed which reviewed existing regional and topical metadata schemas including info:eu-repo (and OpenAIRE Guidelines), NISO Access and License Indicators, RIOXX, CERIF Semantic Vocabulary, CASRAI Dictionary and others. For each vocabulary element, a definition is provided, and the item has been translated into several languages that will be connected via linked data principles. The IG has received strong support from the Agricultural Information Management Standards Initiative (AIMS) of the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). In August 2015, the group released a first draft version controlled vocabulary, resource type, in several languages for comment by the broader repository community.[20]

---

[20] https://www.coar-repositories.org/news-media/coar-launches-draft-resource-type-vocabulary-for-open-access-repositories/
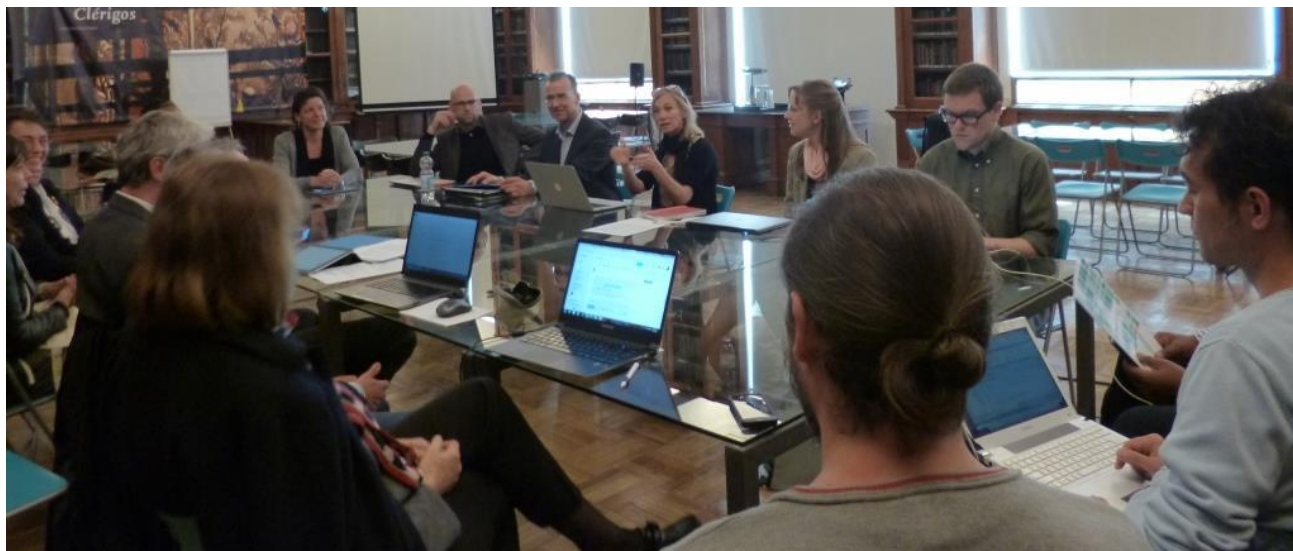
The process is still ongoing and feedback has been collected from the community. The vocabulary will be maintained via an international governance structure using established workflows.

Moreover, the interoperability project of COAR (which has been going on since the early beginning of the association) took a major step during the past months. Even though it is not directly part of the "Aligning Repository Networks"-initiative the "Roadmap – Future Directions for Repository Interoperability" is an important step towards global exchange.[21] The main goal of the Roadmap is to identify, discuss, and address emerging issues and trends while trying to maximize the (re)use of existing guidelines and best practices. Ultimately, the goal is to identify where the community efforts should be put towards future repositories interoperability as key component of the wider e-infrastructure for research and education.

In order to build up support and broader participation for aligning repositories activities, COAR delivered presentations at conferences across the world: in Europe (LIBER conference, Open Repositories conference, OpenAIRE2020 kick-off meeting), in India (CALIBER2015), Australia (Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) Research Repositories Community Days) and in Canada (CASRAI conference).

## IV. 2nd Meeting of the Aligning Repository Networks Initiative

At the second meeting of the Aligning Repository Networks Initiative, delegates re-affirmed their support for aligning repository networks. The meeting was held on April 16, 2015 in Porto, Portugal and included representatives from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and North America. A list of meeting delegates and their affiliations as well as the meeting agenda are available in the Appendix.



Meeting delegates shared updates about their individual networks. It was evident from the discussion that many networks have evolved significantly over the last year and are better prepared to collaborate with others more extensively. The group reviewed the progress to date of the aligning repository networks activities since their last meeting in March 2014. Specific outcomes from last year include the publication of a joint statement against embargo periods, the

---

[21] Working Group 2, Friedrich Summann et al. COAR Roadmap: Future directions for Repository Interoperability. February 2015. Available at: https://www.coar-repositories.org/files/Roadmap_final_formatted_20150203.pdf

launch of a technical working group seeking to harmonize open access metadata elements and vocabularies, and raising the visibility of the importance of repository networks worldwide.

Participants also discussed priorities for further aligning their networks for the coming year. Activities will include closer cooperation around the development of guidelines and tools, and strengthening bilateral collaborations between different networks was also suggested. In addition, it was agreed that a communication strategy be developed to raise the visibility of repositories and their networks as key infrastructure components. The strategy will support efforts at both the international and local levels to raise awareness about the value of repositories. It was recommended that COAR engage more closely with policy makers and other stakeholder organizations to ensure adoption of balanced open access policies that include deposit into repositories. Amidst the intensifying global debate about the most sustainable ways to implement open access and research infrastructures, meeting participants reinforced the need to foster solutions that reflect the diversity of approaches and capacities across different regions.

Concrete activities will include closer cooperation around the following activities:

- **Advocacy and engagement with policy makers and funders:**
  Support was expressed for further engaging with policy makers and other stakeholders to ensure adoption of balanced open access policies. In this context, the briefing paper, "Promoting Open Knowledge and Open Science – Report on the current state of Repositories" was published presenting an overview of the international repository landscape as of May 2015. While originally intended for the Global Research Council (GRC), the paper has also been written with a broader audience in mind. The briefing paper is also available via the Research Councils UK site:
  http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/openaccess/unlockingthefutureapr2015/

- **General advocacy:**
  A communiqué of the Aligning Repository Networks meeting has been published here:
  https://www.coar-repositories.org/activities/advocacy-leadership/aligning-repository-networks-across-regions/communique-2015/

- **Communication strategy and branding:**
  It was agreed that a communication strategy should be developed to raise the visibility of repositories and their networks as key infrastructure components. The strategy will support efforts at both the international and local levels to raise awareness about the value of repositories. COAR will work on this together with the Strategic Committee during the coming months.

- **Development of guidelines and tools:**
  Focus of activities will include closer cooperation around the development of guidelines and tools. Unison agreement was clear to liaise with the existing COAR Interest and Working groups and to bring more experts from the participating networks together in these groups in order to harmonize developments. Delegates affirmed their interest in offering to make worktime available for these activities.

- **Bilateral exchange, pilot(s) showcasing interoperability:**
  Several bilateral collaborations between different networks were suggested during the meeting in order to show how repository alignment can help moving towards a global knowledge network. Concretely, it was agreed that several networks would engage bilaterally to discuss other collaborations including: OpenAIRE and LAReferencia,

COAR Office at Goettingen State and University Library
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1, D-37073 Göttingen, Germany, Tel. +49 551 39 22215, Fax +49 551 39 5222
office@coar-repositories.org

11

OpenAIRE and SHARE, and OpenAIRE with Japanese colleagues' network led by NII. As a direct outcome of the Aligning meeting in Porto, three major regional open access repository networks and aggregators (OpenAIRE, LA Referencia, and SHARE), along with COAR and the Center for Open Science (COS) met in Charlottesville (Virginia), USA on July 9 and 10 to discuss synergies and potential areas of collaboration. [22]

- **Staff exchange:**
  Staff exchanges between institutions will help to foster the direct dialogue, share experiences, acquire new skills and competencies and ultimately lead to capacity building. It is planned to develop a targeted staff exchange among participating institutions.

- **International outreach and alignment:**
  Amidst the different levels of network ties and acknowledging the diversity of approaches and capacities across different regions, meeting delegates expressed their interest to collaborate worldwide and to consider how to involve regions with less network structure.

## V. Conclusions

The Aligning Repository Networks meeting in Porto was an important milestone in the intensification and expansion of dialogue between repository networks since 2014. It was evident from the discussion that many networks have profited both strategically and pragmatically from the international collaboration. COAR and the Strategic Committee for Aligning Repository Networks act as a forum for exchange of information between repository networks and have contributed to a stronger global voice and raise the visibility of the role of repositories as critical research infrastructure. Specific outcomes from last year include the publication of a joint statement against embargo periods, the launch of a technical working group seeking to harmonize open access elements and metadata schemas, and the publication of a state of global repositories report. In the coming year, COAR, along with the regional and national networks, will continue efforts to increase collaboration and harmonization across repository networks and seek to expand this work to include other regions that have not previously been engaged to date.

---

[22] https://www.coar-repositories.org/news-media/major-repository-networks-agree-to-collaborate-on-data-exchange-technological-development-and-metadata/

## Appendix 1: List of Participants



**Attending:**

1. **Norbert Lossau**, COAR and University of Goettingen (Germany)

2. **Gerald Beasley**, CARL and University of Alberta (Canada)

3. **Wolfram Horstmann**, Goettingen State and University Library and LIBER (Germany)

4. **Heather Joseph**, SPARC (United States)

5. **Carmen-Gloria Labbé**, CLARA and LAReferencia (Chile)

6. **Katharina Mueller**, Confederation of Open Access Repositories (Germany)

7. **Eloy Rodrigues**, University of Minho and OpenAIRE (Portugal)

8. **Andrew Sallans**, Centre for Open Science (United States)

9. **Daisy Selematsela**, National Research Foundation (South Africa)

10. **Bishen Singh**, National Research Foundation (South Africa)

11. **Kathleen Shearer**, Confederation of Open Access Repositories (Canada)

COAR Office at Goettingen State and University Library
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1, D-37073 Göttingen, Germany, Tel. +49 551 39 22215, Fax +49 551 39 5222
office@coar-repositories.org

13

12.   **Márta Virágos**, University of Debrecen and COAR (Hungary)

**Guests:**

13.   **Biana Amaro**, IBICT (Brazil)

14.   **Dominiqu Babini**, CLACSO (Argentina)

15.   **Kostas Repanas**, A*STAR (Singapore)

16.   **Kazu Yamaji**, National Institute of Informatics (Japan)

**Regrets:**

1.   **Donatella Castelli**, CNR and OpenAIRE (Italy)

2.   **Rick Luce**, University Libraries, University of Oklahoma (United States)

3.   **Natalia Manola**, University of Athens and OpenAIRE (Greece)

4.   **Judy Stokker**, Queensland University of Technology and Australian Open Access Support Group (Australia)

5.   **Tyler Walters**, SHARE and Library, Virginia Tech (United States)

6.   **Xiaolin Zhang**, National Science Library of Chinese Academy of Sciences (China)

COAR Office at Goettingen State and University Library
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1, D-37073 Göttingen, Germany, Tel. +49 551 39 22215, Fax +49 551 39 5222
office@coar-repositories.org

14

# Appendix 2: Meeting Agenda

**Date & Venue:**
April 16, 2015: 2pm-5pm
'Biblioteca' GT 332, University Rectory, Praça Gomes Teixeira, 4099-002 Porto
Porto, Portugal

**Background Information**
- Report from previous meeting
- Presentations from last year's Aligning Repository Network meeting, March 20, 2014
  https://www.coar-repositories.org/my-coar/groups/aligning-repository-networks/
  (you will need to request access from Katharina Mueller: katharina.mueller@sub.uni-goettingen.de)

<u>Agenda</u>

1. **Introduction**

2. **Review of activities last year**
   - General advocacy for need to coordinate: Various conferences: Europe (LIBER, OpenAIRE kick-off, OR2014), India (CALIBER 2015), Canada (CASRAI)
   - Discussions and awareness raising in various communities: United States (ARL), UK (Jisc), Australia, others?

   **Political**: High-level coordination that raises the visibility and strengthens legitimacy of regional networks
   - Statement on embargo periods

   **Technical**: Interoperability-adopting common vocabularies and metadata schemas across repository networks to enable aggregation across networks, and facilitate discovery, re-use and the development of value added services.
   - COAR/CASRAI Working Group (metadata elements and shared vocabularies for open access)
   - COAR Controlled Vocabularies Interest Group
   - Bilateral discussions about coordinated technical development: OpenAIRE-La Referencia, JISC-SHARE, OpenAIRE-SHARE, others?

   **Services:** services that increase the value of repositories
   - Proposal for pilot project for quality assurance services on top of repositories

3. **Principles and rationale for aligning repository networks**

   **Items for discussion**
   3.1 Round table: what is your current status and what would you like to achieve through this initiatives in 2015-2016? as per three dimensions above
   3.2 Concrete suggestions about how we proceed.
   3.3 What could be your contribution?
   3.4 Communique- confirmation of principles, outlined goals and identified priorities

4. **Wrap up**