Workshop:

Open Research Strategies and Tools in the NIME Community

Location: Centro cultural, UFRGS, Room 309, Porto Alegre, Brazil
Online location: [ZOOM](#)
Time: 3 June 2019, 11:30-13:00 & 14:30-16:00
Moderator: [Alexander Refsum Jensenius](#), Chair of the NIME Steering Committee
Participants: Open for everyone interested. No prerequisites required.

Workshop organisers

- Alexander Refsum Jensenius, University of Oslo
- Andrew McPherson, Queen Mary University of London
- Anna Xambó, NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology
- Dan Overholt, Aalborg University Copenhagen
- Guillaume Pellerin, IRCAM
- Ivica Ico Bukvic, Virginia Tech
- Rebecca Fiebrink, Goldsmiths, University of London
- Rodrigo Schramm, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul

Workshop description

The development of more openness in research has been in progress for a fairly long time, and has recently received a lot of more political attention through the [Plan S initiative](#), [The Declaration on Research Assessment](#) (DORA), EU's [Horizon Europe](#), and so on. The NIME community has been positive to openness since the beginning, but still has not been able to fully explore this within the community. We call for a workshop to discuss how we can move forward in making the NIME community (even) more open throughout all its activities.

The Workshop

The aim of the workshop is to:

1. Agree on some goals as a community.
2. Showcase best practice examples as a motivation for others.
3. Promote existing solutions for NIME researcher's needs.
4. Consider developing new solutions, where needed.
5. Agree on a set of recommendations for future conferences, to be piloted in 2020.

Workshop Programme

Time	Title	Responsible
11:30	**Welcome** Introduction of participants Introduction to the topic	Alexander Refsum Jensenius
11:45	**Open Publication perspectives**	Alexander Refsum Jensenius Dan Overholt Rodrigo Schramm
12:15	**Group-based discussion:** 1. How can we improve the NIME publication template? 2. Should we think anew about the reviewing process (open review?) 3. Should we open for a "lean publishing" model? 4. How do we handle the international nature of NIME?	
12:45	**Plenary discussion**	
13:00	Lunch Break	
14:30	**Open Research perspectives**	Guillaume Pellerin Anna Xambó Andrew McPherson Ivica Ico Bukvic
15:00	**Group-based discussion:** 1. What are some best practice Open NIME examples? 2. What tools/solutions/systems should be promoted at NIME? 3. Who should do the job?	
15:30	**Final discussion**	
16:00	End of workshop	

Background information

The following sections present some more information about the topic, including current state of affairs in the field.

What is Open Research?

There are numerous definitions of what Open Research constitutes. The FOSTER initiative has made a [taxonomy](), with these overarching branches :

- Open Access: online, free of cost access to peer reviewed scientific content with limited copyright and licensing restrictions.
- Open Data: online, free of cost, accessible data that can be used, reused and distributed provided that the data source is attributed.
- Open Reproducible Research: the act of practicing Open Science and the provision of offering to users free access to experimental elements for research reproduction.
- Open Science Evaluation: an open assessment of research results, not limited to peer-reviewers, but requiring the community's contribution.
- Open Science Policies: best practice guidelines for applying Open Science and achieving its fundamental goals.
- Open Science Tools: refers to the tools that can assist in the process of delivering and building on Open Science.

Not all of these are equally relevant in the NIME community, while others are missing.

Openness in the NIME Community

The only aspect that has been institutionalized in the NIME community is the [conference proceedings repository](). This has been publicly available from the start at nime.org, and in later years all publications have also enforced CC-BY-licensing.

Other approaches to openness are also encouraged, and NIME community members are using various types of open platforms and tools (see the appendix for details):

- Source code repositories
- Experiment data repositories
- Music performance repositories
- MIR-type repositories
- Hardware repositories

The question is how we can proceed in making the NIME community more open. This includes the conferences themselves, but also other activities in the community. A workshop on making hardware designs openly available was held in connection to NIME 2016 , and the current project proposal may be seen as a natural extension of that discussion.

The Problem with the Term "Open Science"

Many of the initiatives driving the development of more openness in research refer to this as "Open Science". In a European context this is particularly driven by some of the key players, including the European Union (EU), the European Research Council (ERC), and the European University Association (EUA). Consequently a number of other smaller institutions and individuals are also using the term, often without thinking very much about the wording.

The main problem with using Open Science as a general term, is that it sounds like this is not something for researchers working in the arts and humanities. This was never the intention, of course, but was more the result of the movement developing from the sciences, and it is difficult to change a term when it has gotten some momentum.

NIME is—and is striving to continue to be—an inclusive community of researchers and practitioners coming from a variety of backgrounds. Many people at NIME would not consider that they work (only) in "science", but would perhaps feel more comfortable under the umbrella "research". This term can embrace "scientific research", but also "artistic research" and R & D found outside of academic institutions. Thus using the term "Open Research" fits better for the NIME community than "Open Science".

Free

The question of freedom is also connected to the that of openness. In the world of software development, one often talks about "free as in Speech" (libre) or "free as in Beer" (gratis). This point also relates to issues connected to licensing, copyright and reuse. Many people in the community are not affiliated with institutions, and receive payment from their work. Open research might have a close connection with open source, open hardware and open patent. This modern context for research and development of new musical technologies are also beyond academia and must be well planned in order to also attract the industry as partners. How can this be balanced with the needs for openness?

FAIR Principles

Another term that is increasingly used in the community is that of the FAIR principles, which stands for Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable. It is important to point out that FAIR is not the same as Open. Even though openness is an overarching aim, there is an understanding that privacy matters and copyright issues are preventing general openness of everything. Still the aim is to make data as open as possible, as closed as necessary. By applying the FAIR principles, it is possible to make metadata available so that it is openly known what types of data exist, and how to ask for access, even though the data may have to be closed.

General Repositories

There are various "bucket-based" repositories that may be used, such as:

- Zenodo
- Open Science Framework
- Dryad
- Figshare

What is positive about such repositories is that you can store anything of (more or less) any size. The challenge, however, is the lack of specific metadata, specialized tools (such as visualization methods), and a community.

There are also specific solutions, such as Github for code sharing.

As of 2018 a new repository aimed at coupling benefits of the aforesaid "bucket-based" approach with a robust metadata framework, titled COMPEL, has been introduced. It seeks to provide a convergence point to the diverse NIME-related communities and provide a means of linking their research output.

Openness in the Music Technology community

Looking at many other disciplines, the music technology community has embraced open perspectives in many years. A number of the conferences make their archives publicly available, such as:

- NIME
- ICMC
- SMC
- DAFx
- ISMIR
- ICAD

There are also various types of open repositories and tools, including:

- Freesound
- Audio Commons
- Research Catalogue
- AcousticBrainz
- MusicBrainz
- MuseScore