Building a framework for open research skills at the University of York
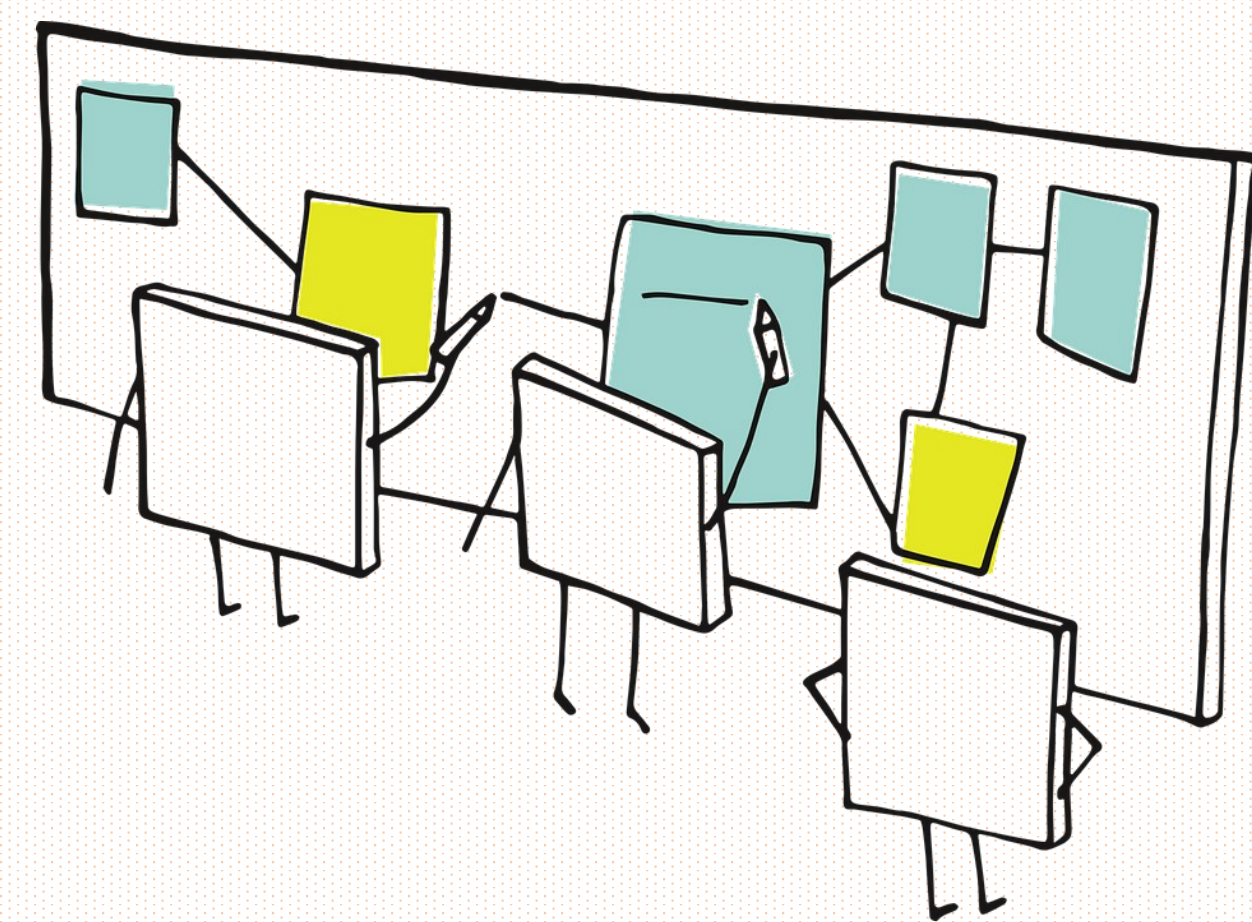
Ben Catt, Open Research Librarian

✉ ben.catt@york.ac.uk   🐦 @UoYOpenRes

Our Open Research Skills Framework provides an overview of practices and principles which can be applied to projects across all disciplines.
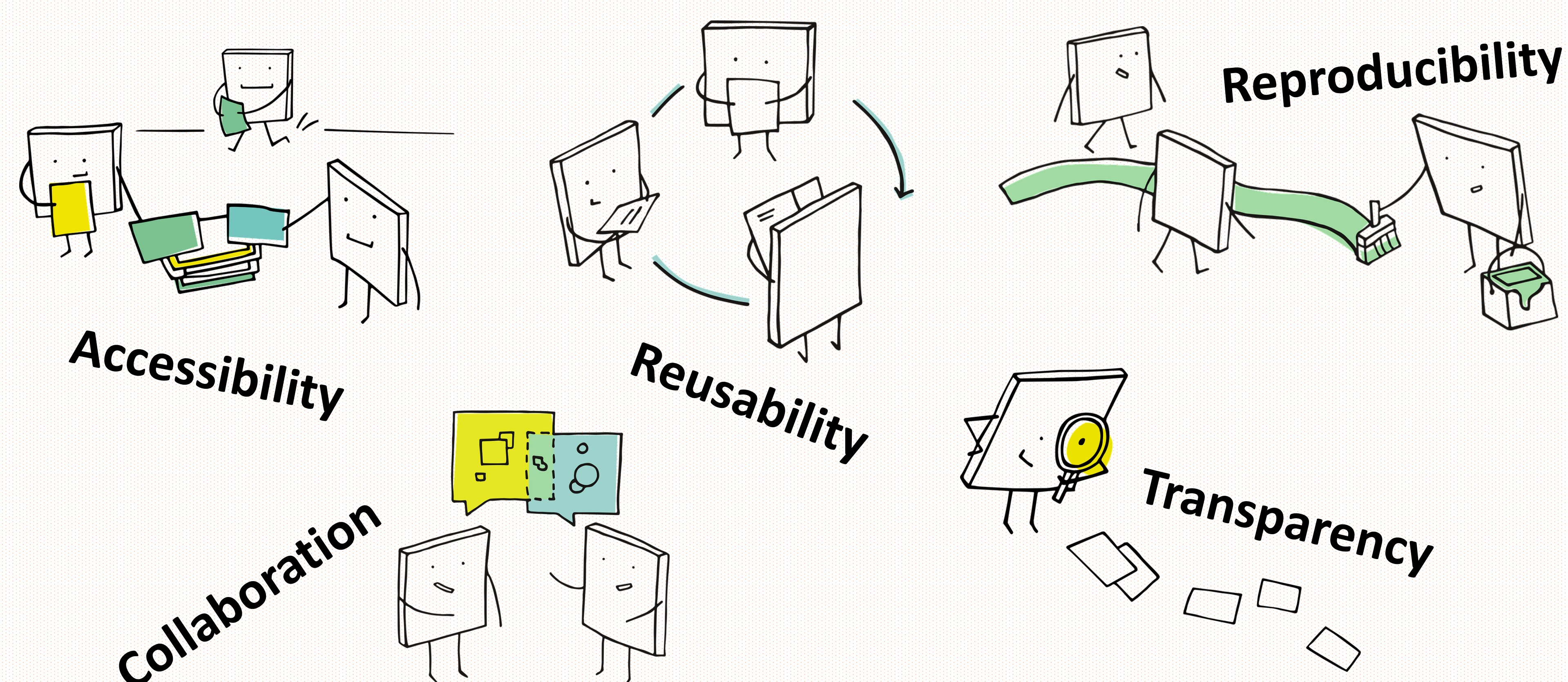
Development

The framework was developed by Library, Archives and Learning Services in partnership with practitioners from across the research community, including members of our Open Research Advocates network. It responds to a need for more training, clarity and understanding first identified in our 2020 open research awareness and engagement survey. The framework also supports the University's commitment to the long-term development of an open research culture, encouraging staff and students to explore the potential for opening up all stages of their research lifecycle (see open research at York).

We recruited a project coordinator through our postgraduate student internships programme, utilising a share of Research England funding in support of enhancing research culture. She led a series of individual conversations and focus groups with practitioners which gave insight into experiences and perceptions of open research from a range of perspectives.
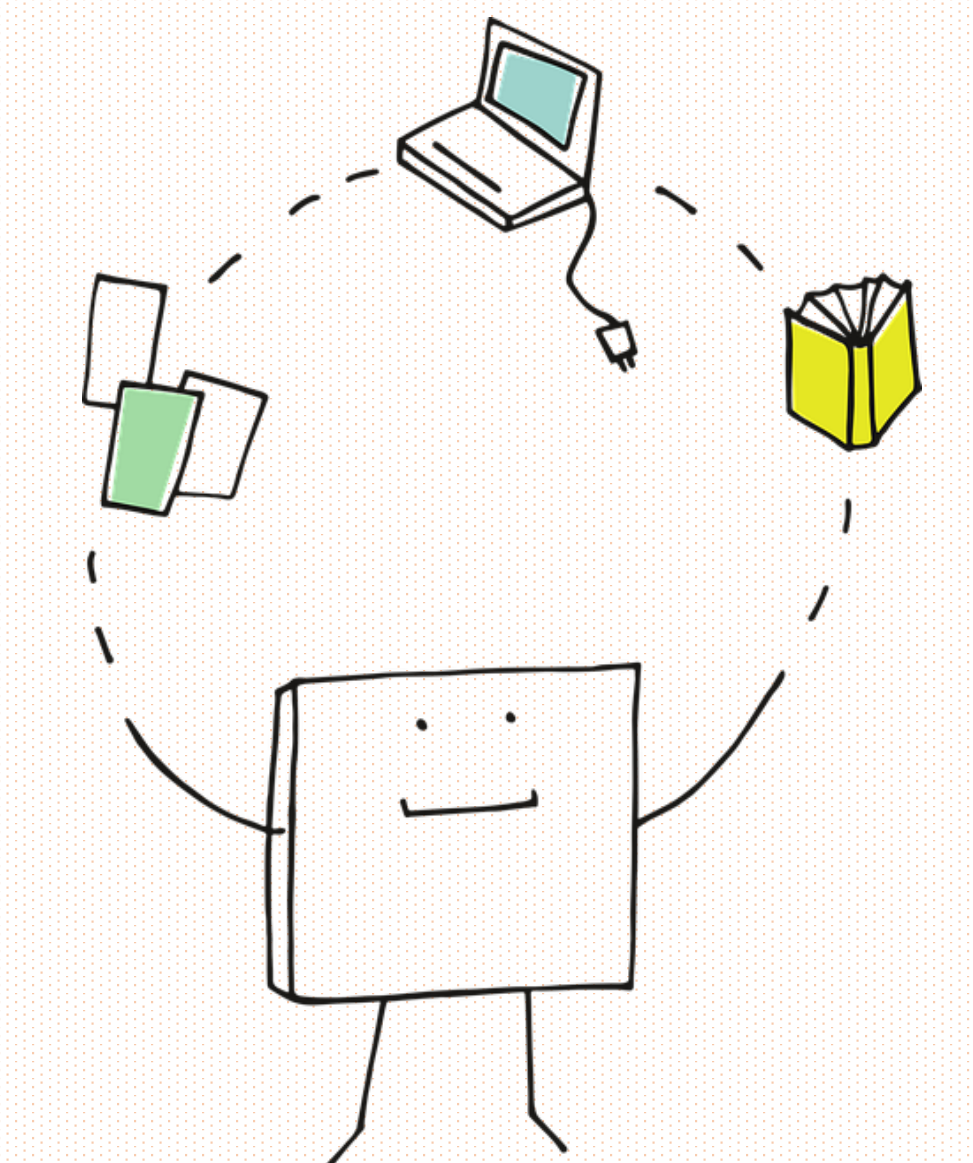
The framework emphasises the **benefits** (for researchers, their community and the wider public) and **core values** which underpin open research:

Reproducibility

Accessibility

Reusability

Collaboration

Transparency

Open research lifecycle

The framework situates open practices at four stages in the research lifecycle, with links to case studies, external resources and University contacts for further support:
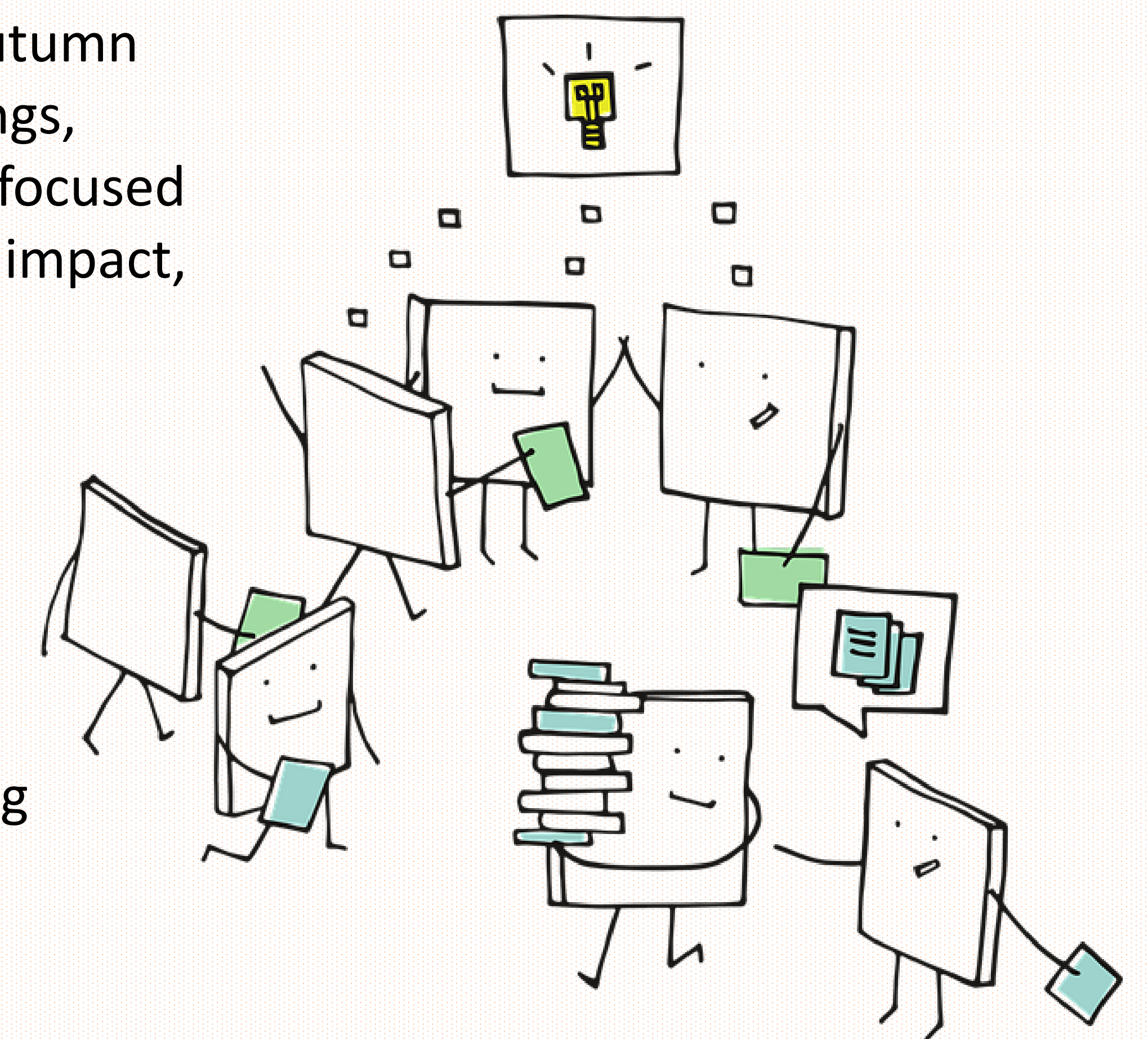
- **Develop:** preregistration, registered reports, protocols, open notebooks, data management planning
- **Acquire:** participatory research, citizen science, open data reuse
- **Process:** research data management, open source software
- **Publish:** preprints, open access publication, open peer review, open data sharing, open access PhD theses

DEVELOP ▶ **ACQUIRE** ▶ **PROCESS** ▶ **PUBLISH**

Implementation and next steps

The framework was launched as a LibGuide for Autumn term 2022 and has been used in a variety of settings, including Library-led training workshops and ECR-focused discussion events on research coding, quality and impact, and open practices in the arts and humanities.

In August 2023 we recruited three **Graduate Engagement Leads** whose responsibilities include developing and delivering new advocacy and training activities for open research in their faculties. They will have a key role in helping us embed the skills framework at local level, adapting it to different audiences and contributing to its review and improvement over time.