



Finding our way after Finch: Lessons learned and where they lead

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opeNWorks

workshop report

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The North West Open Access Community

Finding our way after Finch: Lessons learned and where they lead

Executive Summary

This report provides the main discussion points and resulting recommendations from the first openWorks project workshop, held in December 2014.

The activities were designed to identify support needs specific to institutions typical of the universities making up the openWorks project team. The workshop generated lively discussion and highlighted a number of overlapping issues.

A key objective of the workshop was to ensure that project outputs meet the needs of project partners and aid the development of a regional community of Open Access (OA) good practice.

Key Findings

- OA advocacy is a key challenge for all universities.
- Current levels of staffing for OA support may not be adequate to meet institutional objectives.
- Developments in the OA landscape and local environments continue to pose challenges as institutions plan campus-wide communication.
- Strong relationships with stakeholders on campus and support groups, eg, Eprints user group, have a significant impact on the extent of OA engagement and success of services on campus.

Key Recommendations

- Project team to review challenges highlighted against project plan.
- Project team to investigate options for cross-institution OA training.
- Jisc to extend regular communication beyond the OA Good Practice email list.

1 Background

The aim of the first openWorks project workshop was to review OA support for the period 2013/14 and gain a clearer understanding of both strengths and challenges across various institutions with a view to designing a toolkit and developing a framework for a North West OA community.

The workshop comprised 18 participants working in a range of OA support roles from a range of institutions within and beyond the North West region.

2 Workshop Activities



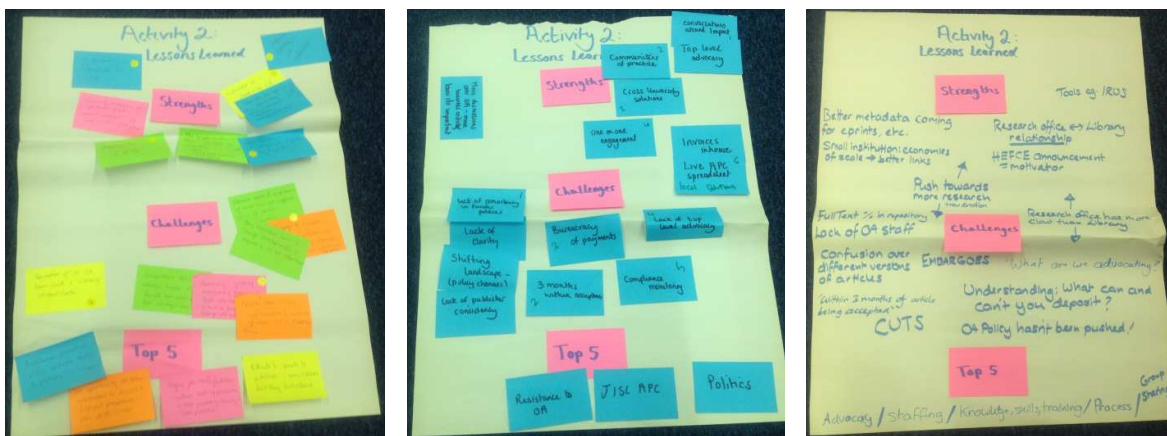
During the first activity participants reviewed edited versions of case studies prepared by the project partner institutions and selected the institution most like their own. This exercise formed discussion groups for the day in which participants were able to explore OA issues with colleagues in similar situations.

In subsequent activities participants were invited to share their experiences, highlighting what worked well and the main challenges faced, consider the 'best practice' for OA steering group membership, and discuss various ideas for toolkit resources.

The workshop also included an update on Jisc OA support and development activities, followed by discussion on how else Jisc might support institutions and how best to communicate Jisc's services and news updates to the wider OA community.

The groups participated enthusiastically in all activities. Outcomes of each group discussion were recorded to allow the project team to assess the most valuable toolkit resources and framework for a regional OA community of practice.

2.1 Key Strengths and Challenges



The project team were keen to understand the extent to which the strengths and challenges in OA support differed according to type of institution. The priorities for each group are listed below. However, discussion during feedback on this activity highlighted advocacy as the dominant issue for all institutions, although the reasons varied between groups.

Group A (representatives from Salford, Oxford Brookes, Bournemouth)

Strengths	Challenges
Institutional OA mandate	Separating responsibilities between departments, eg, library and research office
Support for OA at senior institutional level	Increasing focus in research for REF2020
Library as partner in process	Advocacy
Having a CRIS	Direct communication with publishers
	Appeal of 'rogue' journals

Group B (mostly representatives from Russell Group – Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Salford)

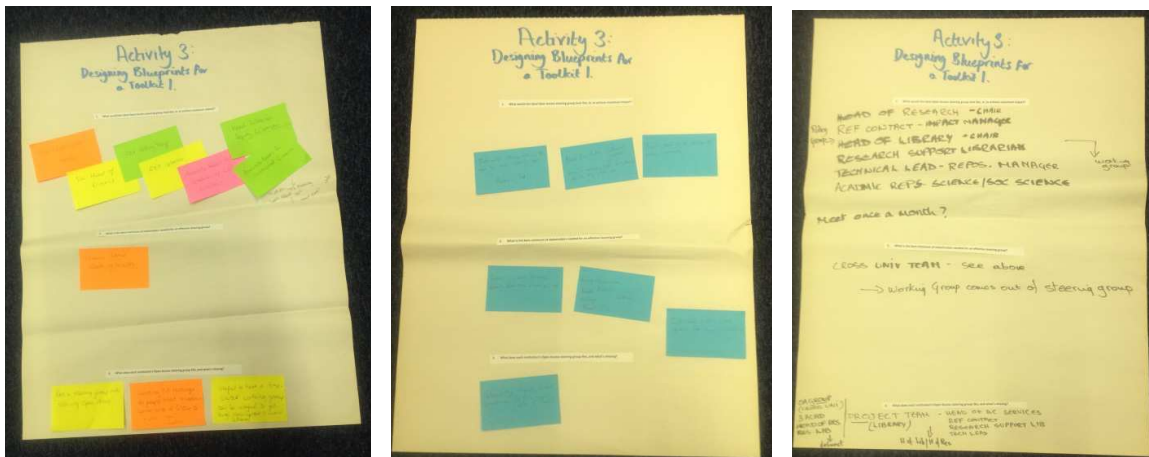
Strengths	Challenges
Top-level advocacy and support	Changing landscape and inconsistencies across funder and publisher policies
Involvement in communities of practice, eg, EPrints	HEFCE policy – providing support at 'point of acceptance'
Cross-institution discussions and solutions	Payment challenges, eg, foreign VAT

Librarians delivering 1-1 engagement activities	Lack of top-level advocacy
Straightforward in-house payment processes	Compliance monitoring

Group C (mostly teaching-led HEIs – representatives from Edgehill, Manchester Metropolitan, Liverpool John Moores, Sheffield Hallam)

Strengths	Challenges
Making use of tools and services, eg, IRUS	Low level of Green deposits
Agility of smaller institutions	Woolly OA policies - confusion around embargoes, copyright, versions
Strong relationship between library and research office	Skills/knowledge gaps in support staff
HEFCE policy as motivator	Impact of staffing cuts on OA support
New focus on research as motivator	Working with similar HEIs

2.2 Stakeholder Analysis



The importance of support for OA at the senior institutional level emerged as a key factor in successes over recent months. The groups discussed this further in Activity 2 by considering a blueprint for membership of the ideal OA Steering Group.

Although the groups didn't achieve consensus about the need for an ongoing institutional level group they did feel that membership would be determined by the culture of an institution. However there was agreement that core membership of such a group should include representation from across an institution, and particularly the following categories of staff -

- Head of Research
- REF co-ordinator/impact manager
- Head/Deputy Head of Library
- Research Services Librarian
- Institutional Repository technical lead
- Academic representatives, eg, Heads of Faculty/School/Research
- Head of finance
- Research Administrators

It was suggested that a model of good practice might include both a strategy-focused group and a working group to oversee implementation, although membership would overlap in some cases, eg library and research administration input.

Participants who felt that the group at their institution was lacking in influence cited the need for greater academic involvement.

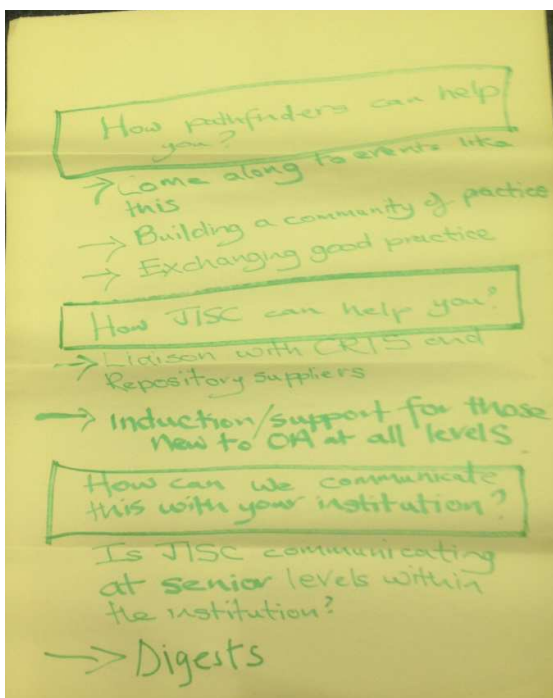
2.3 Jisc Update

Sarah Fahmy and Frank Manista attended the workshop and Sarah gave a presentation on the research support services Jisc offer through the publication lifecycle.

It was useful to try and map the established and emerging services to the key challenges identified in the morning session.

The group also noted that some of the key challenges were also being addressed in other Pathfinder projects. Sarah explained that she is encouraging all the project leads to identify and fully explore synergies.

Publication lifecycle	Services for researchers	Services for librarians and institutional repositories	Services for Jisc	Support for HEIs
On submitting an article to a journal	Information on journal OA policies, and how they relate to your funder policy	Information on journal OA policies, and how they relate to your funder policy	Checklist of OA policies, and how they relate to your funder policy	The Good Practice Pack, an OA Research Information Service (ORIS) project, providing guidance on OA policies
On acceptance of the article by the journal	Automatic deposition to fund permanent deposit of the article and your institutional repository	Automatic deposition to fund permanent deposit of the article and your institutional repository	Jisc Publications Router (jiscpublications.ac.uk)	Repository Technical Support Package (technical support for institutional repositories)
On deposit of the APC	Other arrangements to cover costs for institutions	Other arrangements to cover costs for institutions	Jisc Collectives registrations (jisccollectives.ac.uk)	Repository Technical Support Package (technical support for institutional repositories)
On publication of the article	Adding the article, reach and impact of your article on the internet	Adding the article, reach and impact of your article on the internet	COPE (crossref.org/COPE), Jisc ARMA (jisc.ac.uk/arma), Jisc Monitor (jisc-monitor.ac.uk)	Repository Technical Support Package (technical support for institutional repositories)
On investigating reporting compliance with funder policies	Having a reader for you to keep your ORCID record up-to-date	Having a reader for you to keep your ORCID record up-to-date	Jisc Monitor (jisc-monitor.ac.uk)	Repository Technical Support Package (technical support for institutional repositories)
On archive depositing the article	Checklist for the article to be deposited in your institutional repository	Checklist for the article to be deposited in your institutional repository	Jisc ARMA (jisc.ac.uk/arma), Jisc Monitor (jisc-monitor.ac.uk)	Repository Technical Support Package (technical support for institutional repositories)



Participants recognised the **value of attending Pathfinder workshops** to learn about updates, feed into developments and build a community of good practice.

Further suggestions for Jisc support included **liaison with CRIS/repository suppliers** and developing **induction support for staff new to OA**.

The workshop discussed the significant increase in communication about OA from a range of sources. It was suggested that the most effective communication from Jisc would be in the form of a **quarterly digest** to ensure that important messages aren't missed.

2.4 Toolkit resources

In the final activity of the day the groups were asked to consider the type of toolkit resources that would address the challenges identified in the morning session. Each group was given a number of resources used at the University of Manchester to help focus thinking. The following ideas were recommended as useful support tools,

- Grant award information
- Standard letters to authors/templates/workflows to encourage deposit
- Template for key OA contacts
- Publisher knowledge base (eg, including more 'process'-type information than SHERPA/RoMEO)
- Q&A/crib sheets/workflows for wider library staff

3 Next Steps

As the workshop ended the groups were encouraged to consider practical ways to maintain the momentum of the session and build stronger links within regions. Following the workshop the project team will review the ideas generated throughout the session against the initial project plan.

Emerging ideas to explore further included addressing the training needs of staff new to OA; one suggestion was 'OA Boot Camp', which might be delivered regionally (NoWAL? CILIP ARLG?), or nationally (SCONUL?).

Joined up communication was also recognised as key to keeping staff at all HEIs up to date with Jisc developments, and Sarah offered to add all participants to the OA Good Practice email list. OAWAL (a OA good practice wiki created by Huddersfield and Pittsburgh) and FOSTER (European project looking at open science) were also flagged as useful resources for further investigation.

4 Feedback

Comments made at the workshop and by follow-up feedback forms highlighted the value of the event, eg,

“I thought the workshop was very good. It was useful to hear overviews of national activity and to assess where we are in relation to other institutions on OA... Quite reassuring.”

“I wanted to say that I think the activity to put people into groups according to institution actually worked really well, and overcame some of those “our situation’s different to yours” discussions you can often get at such events.”

“A very useful day and great to meet colleagues in other universities working on OA.”

“It was a really good day and I felt that I made a contribution on behalf of the ‘modern university group’.”

