Collaboratively is the way forward: Joint response on the UK Open Data Concordat

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Draft Concordat on Open Research Data

This draft concordat has been developed under the auspices of the UK Open Research Data Forum by a multi-stakeholder working group, which includes RCUK, JISC, the Wellcome Trust and Universities UK. The concordat aims to help to ensure that the research data gathered and generated by members of the UK research community is made openly available for use by others wherever possible in a manner consistent with relevant legal, ethical and regulatory frameworks and norms.

The concordat aims to establish a set of expectations of good practice with the intention of establishing open research data as the desired position for publicly-funded research over the long-term. It recognises the different responsibilities of researchers, their employers, and funders of research, however, it is not the intention of the concordat to mandate, codify or require specific activities.

On behalf of the working group, RCUK is now seeking views and comments on the concordat. We are not asking specific questions, rather we welcome your feedback on any aspects of the concordat and the value you think it will have for the UK, and wider, research community.

Concordat On Open Research Data

Feedback and comments should be sent to OpenData@rcuk.ac.uk by 28 September 2015.

http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/opendata/
Two (many!) heads are better than one
September 2015 Research Data Management Newsletter

1. **How to license your software to meet funders’ expectations for sharing**
2. **Open Data – moving science forward or a waste of time and money**
3. **Copyright and licensing in Open Access - Monday lunchtime series**
4. **Job vacancy: Institutional Repository Manager**
5. **Survey results: What should Research Data Management Facility look like?**
6. **Vote for your favourite data repository name**
7. **UK Concordat on Open Research Data - feedback welcome**
8. **Cambridge Area Sequencing Informatics - workshop on reproducible research**

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To: Members of the Open Access Project Board

Dear Colleagues,

As anticipated at the OA Project Board meeting on 23 July, the draft public consultation paper and Research Councils UK is seeking feedback[here](http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/opendata/).

Although RCUK states that ‘it is not the intention of the Concordat to impose’ nevertheless a concern that what starts as good practice guidelines...
Open communication is key for community engagement

In conversation with Ben Ryan from EPSRC

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In response to Ben Johnson

- Fantastic idea

- Surely researchers would be happy to share their ideas on how to incentivise open research culture in REF
Joint response on the draft UK Concordat on Open Research Data

October 1, 2015 | Uncategorized | concordat, data, data management, data scientist, open data, research, Research Institutes, research lifecycle, Universities

During August the Research Councils UK on behalf of the UK Open Research Data Forum released a draft Concordat on Open Research Data for which they have sought feedback.

The Universities of Bristol, Cambridge, Manchester, Nottingham and Oxford prepared...
Selected comments from Cambridge

1. The scope and the definition of research data needs to be relevant to all fields of research if the Concordat is to apply to all fields of research.

2. The Concordat refers to a process at the end of the research lifecycle, when what actually needs to be addressed is the support processes required before that point to allow it to occur.

3. How an appropriate proportionality between costs and benefits might be assessed?

4. The Concordat should encourage proper management of physical samples and non-digital research data.
1. Required clearer statement about the purpose of the Concordat

2. “It might be wiser to start with a concordat of good data management before pushing hard on open data” … “It would be good to get to a point where researchers are comfortable with managing their data so that it is at least citeable and discoverable – e.g. it has a freely available online record. Once that is more common practice, then the openness of data can be pushed more.”

3. “Where commercial benefits (and therefore contributions to GB PLC) can be quantified (i.e. the return on investment of a research project) this should be recognized as a reason to embargo access to data until such things as patents can be successfully applied. University bodies charged with the commercialization of research should be entitled to assess the potential value of research before consenting to data openness.”

4. It’s hard to balance the costs of data curation against the “real benefits” when the benefits will only become obvious over time.
Shaping policy whilst retaining institutional control

• Oxford’s RDM and Open Data Working Group keen to balance clarity of policies and guidelines with institutional control over implementation

• Clarity is good, but highly specific instructions may conflict with what’s sensible or practicable at local level – and we’re still finding new case studies

• RCUK Guidance on Best Practice in the Management of Research Data serves as a case in point
  − ‘quiet word’ approach, rather than loud combined response
1. What is the purpose of open data: support and validate the research vs. maximising societal and economic benefits of data reuse?

2. The concordat needs to recognise the cultural change required around data sharing. Needs a balance of aspiration and attainability.

3. What is the scope of the concordat beyond publicly funded research?

4. Is further consultation with commercial partners needed to ensure the concordat is influential beyond HE?
A few thoughts on collaboration

Good open communication

...within our own institutions

...with collaborating institutions

...with RCUK

Image: Ghozt Tramp, Flickr CC-BY-SA
Better understanding and coherence
You don’t always have to agree on everything!
Thank you

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