The culture of Research Metrics in research organisations

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Content

- Open Science
- Culture of Research Metrics

Plaster Relief by John Flaxman, Flaxman Gallery, UCL
What is Open Science? It is endeavours to preserve the rights of others to reach independent conclusions about your data and work.

JeffRouder @JeffRouder. 8.47 PM – 5 Dec 2017

Open Science (Open Outputs + Open Infrastructure)

Access, reuse and discoverability

Cultural change

Evaluation & Researcher behaviour

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Content

- Open Science
- Culture of Research Metrics

Plaster Relief by John Flaxman, Flaxman Gallery, UCL
Culture of Research Metrics in research organisations

- 14 questions
- 96 responses
  - 68 organisations named themselves
- 72 responses were from HE providers

- Large response rate shows this is a topic many bodies are considering
- Cultural change is needed to deliver new forms of evaluation
- Institutions see a need for guidance
- There is a wish for UK institutions to be aligned with the principles of international statements
Q1 DOES YOUR RESEARCH ORGANISATION HAVE A RESEARCH METRICS POLICY?

- **No**: 75
  - 53 Named institutions
- **Yes - Standalone**: 6
  - 7 Named institutions
- **Yes - Part of a Wider Policy**: 11
  - 7 Named institutions
- **No Answer**: 1
  - 1 Named institution
Q2 HAS YOUR RESEARCH ORGANISATION SIGNED DORA?

- **YES**: 21
  - 17 Named institutions

- **NO**: 75
  - 51 Named institutions
Q5 IS YOUR RESEARCH ORGANISATION CONSIDERING SIGNING DORA?

- We are considering signing DORA: 31 institutions
- We are not considering signing DORA: 31 institutions
- Decided not to proceed: 12 institutions
- No answer: 22 institutions

24 Named institutions
17 Named institutions
11 Named institutions
16 Named institutions
Question 6 asked for reasons for signing/not signing DORA. A wide range of answers was given and no particular reason predominated in the answers:

- The Dean of my school is metric and spreadsheet crazy
- The level to which we use metrics within the organisation has been such that we did not feel the culture we have necessitated signing DORA
- DORA is strongly supported by senior staff leading research.
- Not regarded as a key concern at this time.
- At initial discussions, we did not wish to sign up without being able to fully implement the necessary changes as they deserved more than just lip service. In discussion with current DORA signatories, the overwhelming response from institutions was that they viewed both DORA and the Leiden Manifesto as a statement of intent, aiming for a culture where they were complying, whilst knowing that it would be a journey before they fully (if ever) met those principles. With this in mind, we are now revisiting DORA as a statement of principle to aspire to.
- Signed as part of LERU in 2015
Q7 Does your research organisation agree with the principles of the Leiden Manifesto?

- **YES**: 54 named institutions
- **NO**: 2 named institutions
- **NO ANSWER**: 17
- **OTHER**: 21 named institutions
Where comments were left on this question, typical responses were:

- We have not formally considered these principles at institutional level, however the principles appear largely in line with our current approach to research evaluation and we do seek to adopt specific institutional principles for bibliometric analyses.

- Not aware of Leiden manifesto
Q8 DOES YOUR RESEARCH ORGANISATION AGREE WITH THE FRAMEWORK OUTLINED IN THE METRIC TIDE?

- YES: 63
  - 54 Named institutions
- NO: 2
  - 2 Named institutions
- NO ANSWER: 17
  - 0 Named institutions
- OTHER: 14
  - 12 Named institutions
Question 9 asked what action had been taken locally to promote the principles of the Leiden Manifesto, DORA and/or The Metric Tide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>No. of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implemented Nothing</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implemented Something</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No answer; or Answer does not answer question</td>
<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<th>Action forms a start to future activity</th>
<th>Action can be regarded as comprehensive</th>
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<td>48</td>
<td>4</td>
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What sort of implementation?
Where comments were left on this question, typical responses were:

- None
- Absolutely none
- 1/ We have published a statement (following wide consultation) on the use of quantitative indicators in research assessment: <URL> Many of the institutional initiatives to promote the principles of Leiden etc are described in that document; for example, we only use metrics that are normalised by subject, and ask candidates at recruitment to describe their best four papers and their contributions to it (thus favouring quality over quantity, and not relying on simple proxy indicators). 2/ Our Code of Good Practice in Research was updated in Nov 2017 to include a much expanded section on good publication practice (section 3.7): <URL>
Q10 DO YOU SEE VALUE IN THE UK DEVELOPING AN AGREEMENT SIMILAR TO DORA AND THE METRIC TIDE?

- Yes: 59
  - 53 Named institutions
- No: 16
  - 13 Named institutions
- No Answer: 21
  - 2 Named institutions
Where comments were left on this question, typical responses were:

- I think this would be helpful, particularly if it is owned by UKRI
- cf. Concordat on Open Data as an exemplar of broad policy makers collaboration
- One of the great strengths of the DORA declaration is that it is international and reflects opinion on the global stage. A UK equivalent would have value but would not replace the DORA declaration and it would need to be made clear why institutions should sign both (especially to those institutions who have already signed the DORA declaration). Any such declaration should have detailed guidance for HR implementation of its evaluative suggestions.
If you have been...

- Thanks for listening
- Over to Claire Fraser (HEFCE)

UCL – University College London