

# **IDCC24 Workshop 4: Developing research data sharing policy and practice in the UK**

**19 February 2024, 13:00-16:00 (lunch 12:00-13:00)  
Surgeon's Quarters, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9DW  
Room: G B Ong**

## **About this workshop**

Good data sharing and management can enhance discovery, productivity, collaboration, and research integrity; it enables reuse, verification, and reproducibility. Rapid scientific and technological developments mean this is becoming ever more important, across all disciplines.

UK Research and Innovation's (UKRI) corporate plan prioritises updating its policies and approaches. It states: "we will develop our open data policy to incentivise research data sharing, and where appropriate protocols, software, and code to support re-use, research integrity and collaboration."

To take forward this priority we are seeking to engage the research sector and learn about current practice, needs and how to better incentivise and support good research data practice.

This UKRI workshop will provide the opportunity for the community to share and discuss opportunities and challenges to develop UK policy and practice to better support the sharing and management of research data.

Outputs from the workshop will help inform UKRI's policy and strategic work on open data, including in relation to the research UKRI funds and its wider role supporting UK government ambitions for open research, international alignment, and other UK policy such as the Research Excellence Framework.

Participants will be informed of the current plans and status of UKRI policy, and hear about other relevant developments in the UK and internationally.

## **Agenda**

**Registration opens at 11:45.**

**A pre-workshop buffet style lunch will be available 12:00-13:00 in the Playfair Hall.**

To facilitate discussion on the day, we encourage participants to consider the questions below ahead of the workshop, including the definition of research data attached at Annex 1.

Some optional background reading is attached at Annex 2.

This agenda may be subject change.

Time	Item
13:00-13:05 (5 mins)	<b>Welcome</b>
13:05-13:20 (15 mins)	<p><b>Presentation: UKRI and international research data policy developments</b></p> <p><b>Dr Paul Richards</b> (Open Research Lead, UKRI) will talk about UKRI's research data activities, including work on open data policy and strategy and digital research infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Rachel Bruce</b> (Head of Open Research, UKRI) will talk about international developments in research data policy and their relevance to UK and UKRI activities.</p>
13:20-13:30 (10 mins)	<p><b>Presentation: UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN) Sustainable and Transparent Research Data (STAR) Project</b></p> <p><b>Dr Kirsty Merrett</b> (Research Support Librarian/UKRI Open Research Programme, University of Bristol) will talk about UKRN's work to support open research data, including its STAR project, which aims to understand current progress towards implementing the principles of UK Concordat on Open Research Data at research institutions.</p>
13:30-13:45 (15 mins)	<b>Questions and discussion</b>
13:45-13:50 (5 mins)	<b>Introduction to workshop sessions</b>
13:50-14:20 (30 mins)	<p><b>Research data management and sharing policy in the UK</b></p> <p><b>Table discussions (20 mins)</b></p> <p>Each table will be allocated <b>two</b> of these actors in research data sharing and management policy and practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UKRI and funders</li> <li>• Research organisations</li> <li>• Researchers and research communities</li> <li>• Publishers and service providers</li> </ul> <p>Participants will discuss and capture on post notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are these groups doing already? What is working well?</li> <li>• What are the gaps, barriers and/or risks?</li> <li>• What are the possibilities/opportunities?</li> </ul> <p>We will also ask for volunteer to help capture some notes of their table's discussion, to supplement the post notes.</p>

	<p><b>Reporting back (10 mins)</b></p> <p>Each table will share a few key points from their discussion.</p>
<p>14:20-14:45 (25 mins)</p>	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p>
<p>14:45-15:10 (25 mins)</p>	<p><b>How should we define research data and what would this mean in practice?</b></p> <p><b>Table discussions (15 mins)</b></p> <p>Each table will discuss the definition of research data and other research-relevant digital objects from the <a href="#">OECD recommendation on access to research data</a> (see <b>Annex A attached</b>).</p> <p>Participants will discuss and capture on post notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is this a good definition?</li> <li>• Are there other ones to consider?</li> <li>• What are the implications of this definition e.g. for policy, costs and practice in different disciplines?</li> </ul> <p>We will also ask for volunteer to help capture some notes of their table's discussion, to supplement the post notes.</p> <p><b>Reporting back (10 mins)</b></p> <p>Each table will share a few key points from their discussion.</p>
<p>15:10-15:50 (40 mins)</p>	<p><b>Focus topics</b></p> <p><b>Table discussions (20 minutes)</b></p> <p>Each table will discuss one of the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing data through the research life cycle &amp; DMPs</li> <li>• People - skills, training, support, talent</li> <li>• Sustainably supporting costs and infrastructure</li> </ul> <p>Participants will discuss and capture on post notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What's working &amp; examples of good practice</li> <li>• Things we should stop doing or do less of</li> <li>• Things we should start doing (more of), including new and innovative opportunities</li> </ul> <p>We will also ask for volunteer to help capture some notes of their table's discussion, to supplement the post notes.</p> <p><b>Opportunity to visit other topic tables (20 minutes)</b></p> <p>Participants will have the opportunity to visit other topic tables to consider and discuss the points already made and add new or supplementary points.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Upvote a favourite point using a sticker dot.</li><li>• Add a new or supplementary point using a post note.</li></ul> <p>Facilitators will remain at each table to discuss the points already captured and help participants to add to and build on these.</p>
15:50-16:00 (10 mins)	<b>Wrap up &amp; close</b>

## Contacts

- Enquiries about the content of this workshop or UKRI's open research activities: [paul.richards@ukri.org](mailto:paul.richards@ukri.org) or [openresearch@ukri.org](mailto:openresearch@ukri.org).
- Questions about workshop registration and the IDCC conference: [info@dcc.ac.uk](mailto:info@dcc.ac.uk)

## Annex 1: Research data definition from the Recommendation of the OECD concerning Access to Research Data from Public Funding

The UK is an adherent to the [OECD's recommendation](#) and it is something UKRI will need to consider in updating its open research policies.

Defining 'research data' and what should be within scope of open research policies can be challenging. To stimulate discussion, we will consider the OECD's definitions of research data and other research relevant digital objects in the second part of the workshop (copies will also be provided at the workshop for reference).

**Note:** while the OECD recommendation specifically covers research data from public funding, the definitions below can be discussed in the workshop in the context of any research, whether publicly funded or not.

- "...Research data from public funding: factual records (such as numerical scores, textual records, images, and sounds) resulting from research that is partially or fully funded by public funds, used as primary sources for scientific research, and that are commonly accepted in the scientific community as necessary to validate research findings. This term does not cover laboratory notebooks, preliminary analyses, or drafts of scientific papers, plans for future research, peer reviews, personal communications with colleagues, or physical objects, (e.g., laboratory samples, strains of bacteria, or test animals)."
  
- "...Other research-relevant digital objects from public funding: metadata, algorithms, workflows, models, and software (including code) resulting from research that is partially or fully funded by public funds, which are used in a research and development context.
  - Algorithms: the computational steps and rules to be followed in calculations or other problem-solving operations, especially by a computer.
  - Code: source code, that is, a set of human-readable computer program instructions that expresses an algorithm so that it can be executed by a computer.
  - Software: refers both to code, and to executable files and libraries that are produced from source code.
  - Workflows: a precise description of the steps of a method used to generate research results using analogue (such as clinical protocols or anthropological interviews) and digital resources (such as data and code, including parameter settings, random number seeds, data and software dependencies, and code invocation sequences). Scientific workflow descriptions are often interpreted and executed by workflow management software that manages code access and execution, data access and movement, logging, and error handling."

## Annex 2: Optional background reading

### UKRI's current research data sharing policies and guidance

<https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/publishing-your-research-findings/making-your-research-data-open/>

### Concordat on open research data

[UKRI-020920-ConcordatonOpenResearchData.pdf](#)

### Phase 1 report of the Research Concordats and Agreements Review, which looked at the impact of the Concordat on Open Research Data

<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/what-we-do/policy-and-research/publications/research-concordats-and-agreements>

### Final report of the Open Research Data Task Force

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-research-data-task-force-final-report>

### Other useful links:

**UKRI Good Research Resource Hub.** The Hub brings together UKRI and external policies, standards, and guidance, including in relation to open research.

<https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/good-research-resource-hub/>

**UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN).** UKRN is a peer-led consortium whose vision is for the UK research system to be outstanding in conducting and promoting rigorous and transparent research

<https://www.ukrn.org/>

### Medical Research Council (MRC) Regulatory Support Centre

MRC's Regulatory Support Centre provides support and guidance for research involving human participants, their tissues, or data.

<https://www.ukri.org/councils/mrc/facilities-and-resources/find-an-mrc-facility-or-resource/mrc-regulatory-support-centre/>