Putting policy into practice – the use of open research information at German research performing organizations

Dorothea Strecker
0000-0002-9754-3807
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Sophia Dörner
0000-0001-8747-3422
Göttingen State and University Library

Background

Since its release in 2024, the Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information has evolved into an essential policy document for the advancement of open research information (ORI). But how do research performing organizations (RPOs) put this policy into practice?
On this poster, we explore how RPOs in Germany implement Commitment 1 of the Barcelona Declaration with a focus on the use of ORI.

Commitment 1 We will make openness the default for the research information we use and produce.

Method

We interviewed 8 representatives at 6 German RPOs of different types about their use of ORI. The participants were all Open Access (OA) practitioners at the library or information services department of their institution and had previously demonstrated an interest in using ORI.

Results

Type of use

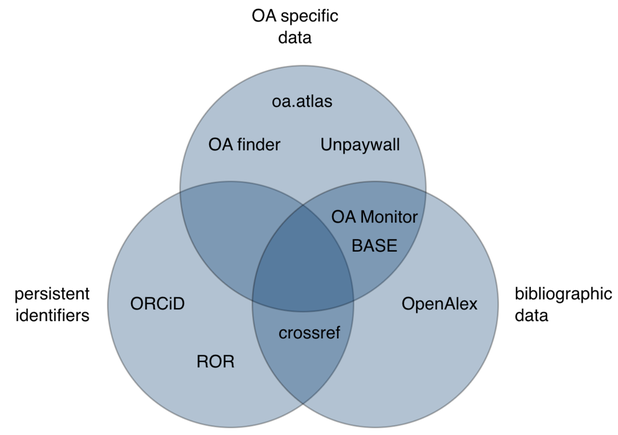
Participants use ORI for different purposes. ORI are not only used for monitoring, but also to support specific processes. Often, ORI are not used as primary data.

1 collection ORI are used for collecting information without specifying the purpose.
- **1.1 foreground use** ORI are used as primary data.
  - **1.1.1 publication output** ORI are used to collect the publication output of the RPO as completely as possible.
  - **1.1.2 publication costs** ORI are used to collect the publication costs of the RPO as completely as possible.
- **1.2 background use** ORI are not the primary data.
  - **1.2.1 addition** ORI are used to complete an existing collection.
  - **1.2.2 comparison** ORI are used to evaluate an existing collection by comparison.

2 support of a process ORI are used to support a specific process.
- **2.1 process a request for payment** ORI are used to support the processing of requests for payment, for example of APCs.
- **2.2 report to funder** ORI are used to support the reporting to funders, for example the DFG.
- **2.3 self archiving** ORI are used to support self archiving, or green OA.
- **2.4 consulting researchers on OA** ORI are used to support the consultation of researchers on OA publishing options.

Sources of ORI

Participants use different sources of ORI. They can be grouped into *bibliographic data sources*, *OA specific data sources*, and *persistent identifier systems*. Sources of ORI are often used in combination with other types of ORI or non-ORI sources.



Type of use and sources of ORI

Participants use different sources of ORI for different purposes.

	OpenAlex	*crossref*	*OAM*	*ORCiD*	*ROR*	*BASE*	*Unpaywall*	*OA finder*	*oa.atlas*
1 collection	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-
1.1 foreground use	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-
1.1.1 publication output	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-
1.1.2 publication cost	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.2 background use	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	X
1.2.1 addition	X	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	X
1.2.2 comparison	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
2 support of a process	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	-
2.1 process a request for payment	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.2 report to funder	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.3 self archiving	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-
2.4 consulting researchers on OA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-

Conclusion

- **uses of ORI are varied** The interviews revealed that ORI are used for many different purposes. Not all uses are related to monitoring or scientometrics. Participants asked for more guidance on using ORI specifically for OA practitioners.
- **uses of ORI are complex** The interviews showed that the use of ORI involves complex processing and analysis steps. Participants pointed out that implementing Commitment 1 of the Barcelona Declaration does not simply mean replacing one data source with a source of ORI - it requires specialist OA knowledge, computational skills, and sometimes organizational change.

About the project

The project OA Datenpraxis explores the role of data in the Open Access transformation and supports structural development at research institutions in Germany.

This work is licensed under the CC BY 4.0 International license.

Funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) – Project number 528466070