Progress towards Open and FAIR Access in Australia

Martin Borchert, Chair, Australasian Open Access Strategy Group (AOASG)
Dr Ginny Barbour, Director, AOASG

@openaccess_anz
www.aoasg.org.au
AOASG: Who we are

Australasian Open Access Strategy Group

The AOASG is supported by twenty Australian and all eight New Zealand institutions

- Charles Darwin University
- Charles Sturt University
- Council of New Zealand University Librarians (CONZUL)
- Curtin University
- Edith Cowan University
- Flinders University
- Griffith University
- James Cook University
- La Trobe University
- Macquarie University
- Notre Dame University
- University of Melbourne
- University of Newcastle
- UNSW Sydney
- Queensland University of Technology
- Southern Cross University
- University of New England
- University of Southern Queensland
- University of the Sunshine Coast
- University of Western Australia

Affiliate members, Creative Commons Australia and Tohatoha

AOASG Executive Committee (elected 2020-22):

- Martin Borchert, UNSW (Chair)
- Donna McCrostie, Melbourne
- Scott Nicholls, UWA
- Maureen Sullivan, Griffith University
- Fiona Burton, Macquarie
- Anne Scott University of Canterbury, Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha

AOASG Patron, Emeritus Professor Tom Cochrane, QUT.

Director, Dr Ginny Barbour

Project Officer, Sandra Fry
What we do

Consultations and submissions
Work with Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) on Australian national strategy

Practitioners group
Communities of practice

Ongoing engagement regionally and internationally

Webinars and meetings
Writing and other public outreach
Website and other online activities
OA week 2020

Advocacy
Capacity building
Collaboration
Raising awareness
Examples of work in 2020: international

- UNESCO submission and follow up meeting [Sept 2020](#)
- Submission to White House OSTP RFI on open access to [APEC Open Science](#) meeting [presentation](#) August 21
- Hosting Australasian webinar on Plan S
CAUL and AOASG consistently working towards OA

- CAUL & AOASG statement on access during COVID-19 pandemic
- Articles in specialist and general press on OA and the pandemic
- Support for OA communities of practice
- Roadmap to Plan S
- Collection and reporting on APC costs
- Retaining rights to research publications
- Review of repository infrastructure
- Statement on open scholarship
Working towards an Australian nation approach
20 years of diverse initiatives on FAIR and open access in Australia
2020-21 program on an Australian national strategy

AOASG collaboration with CAUL and FAIR steering committee

- International consultations
- National discussions
- Roundtables June and December: *Towards a national strategy for FAIR and open access to Australia’s research outputs*
- Two public webinars and an unconference session
- Ongoing discussions with Dr Cathy Foley, new Chief Scientist
Current situation in Australia: strengths

Institutional repositories science 2003, with 2007 funding

Research assessment - focus on rankings and quality

Two major funders - ARC and NHMRC - have OA policies

FAIR data practices supported nationally by ARDC

CAUL managing consortial negotiation of transformative agreements

National approach can work - Cochrane Library
Current situation in Australia: challenges

Institutions’ approach to OA and data not coordinated
- Far from full OA or FAIR outputs

Responses to specific initiatives often siloed by sector and speciality
- No overarching coordination of support for open infrastructure

Costs neither contained nor transparent
- Many different organisations buy access to same content
Key elements of an (ideal) national approach

- High level national body/individual as sponsor
- Overarching unified vision
- Clearly articulated principles
- Alignment with international initiatives

- Specific actions for all relevant sectors
- Consultation and engagement across all sectors
- Incorporation of integrity and responsible research practices
- Recognition and reward for open research practices

- Ongoing national implementation group
- Plan for milestones and reporting
Dr Cathy Foley speech 17 March 2021: Achieving impact from Australian science

Four foundational issues for Dr Foley’s term as Chief Scientist:

- Embracing the digital revolution, including the changes it brings to the way science is done
- Educating our children for the technologies of the future
- Diversity in science and research
- Open access to scientific literature and open research

“Access to information is the great enabler for innovation and for research commercialisation. Lack of access to information is a real roadblock, and hinders our ability to compete internationally.

Dr Foley said there is substantial interest in developing an Open Access Strategy in Australia, and it is something she is closely considering.”
Ongoing work for AOASG and CAUL in 2021

Further discussions on what a national approach might look like

Gathering case studies on benefits of open research

Collaboration and alignment with relevant national & international initiatives

Moving from open access to broader equity in open research / open science (peer review, methods, data and publications)
Thank you for listening

Questions & feedback welcome

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