The Five Pillars of Open Research in the Arts and Humanities: Opportunities for Cultural Change

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Introduction

The University of Cambridge Working Group on Open Research in the Humanities was formed to examine the principles of Open Research (based on LERU’s eight pillars of Open Science) and to make them more applicable to research(ers) in the arts and humanities, resulting in five adapted pillars.

Pillar 1: The Future of Scholarly Communication

- Uncertainty around OA monographs
- Expertise and labour of those involved in producing a finished book or article must be acknowledged and rewarded
- Concerns that OA publishing will threaten the incomes of learned societies

Pillar 2: CORE data

- Data in the humanities is Collected, Organised, Recontextualised and Explained
- Reproducibility is not really a relevant concept in humanities
- Context is important for humanities data so as not to reinforce existing structures and epistemologies

Pillar 3: Research integrity and care

- Consideration for the wider scholarly ecosystem, the processes behind scholarship, the networks of people involved
- Need for appropriate representation across a diversity of voices and communities

Pillar 4: Public engagement

- Humanities academics are often proudest of local outreach that embeds them in their communities, rather than REF-related impact case studies
- How can social media activity be evaluated?

Pillar 5: Research evaluation

- Metrics have always been less relevant in the humanities as an evaluation tool
- How can we best evaluate non-traditional research outputs?
- Should openness in research be an assessment category in hiring/promotions?