

Focus on Open Science, London chapter



A meeting of a UK chapter of the European Focus on Open Science Workshops took place in London on 23 May 2019. The event was organised by UCL and Scientific Knowledge Services.

Current engagement

1. A list of lively topics by a diversity of speakers underlined the strength of activity in certain areas of Open Science which is present already in UCL, particularly Digital Science's Report which shows that UCL consistently comes first in their assessment of Open Access engagement across the UK.

Collaboration

2. The organisation of the chapter encouraged other universities and research institutions in London to attend, allowing UCL to share its experience and to learn from a wider circle of those interested in Open Scholarship.

Diversity

3. Diversity, which is one of the hallmarks of Open Science, was represented on the speaker list by the inclusion of both male and female speakers, Early Career Researchers and speakers from both academic and private organisations.

New Agendas

4. A number of new themes were represented on the agenda, notably Citizen Science and also the concept of Registered Reports. Registered Reports emphasize the importance of the research question and the quality of methodology by conducting peer review prior to data collection. High-quality protocols are then provisionally accepted for publication if the authors follow through with the registered methodology. (Center for Open Science: <https://cos.io/rr/>).

Leadership

5. Leadership is crucial for a university to succeed in embedding Open Science principles and practices. UCL's leadership in Open Scholarship activities was freely acknowledged at the Workshop.

Cultural Change

6. For Open Science to succeed, there needs to be a fundamental change in how research and education are performed, recorded, shared, published, evaluated and rewarded. Presentations on international developments in Open Scholarship revealed that UCL still has some way to go in terms of implementing statements such as DORA (San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment) and in the Responsible use of Metrics.

Structures

7. As UCL's engagement with Open Scholarship increases, there will be a need to co-ordinate activity across the whole of the university, to share best practice and to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort. We recommend accompanying the Cultural Change emanating from (6) with accompanying Structural Change where required. Cultural Change will set in place new principles, while Structural Change will establish new priorities and operations.

Advocacy and Training

8. Open Science practice is best established at the university level where there are advocacy and training programmes to support it. Engagement with UCL academic Departments should be increased to offer such training and awareness opportunities.

Early Career Researchers

9. The engagement of Early Career Researchers in the Workshop was notable. Going forward, UCL should ensure that the interests of this cadre of scholars are represented in all areas of UCL's activity in the Open Scholarship landscape.

Self-Evaluation

10. Universities such as UCL should undertake annual self-evaluation of progress in all areas of Open Scholarship.

Reciprocity

11. Open Science works in a global environment. Individual institutions are not in a position to act under the new principles of Open Science if change does not happen, at a similar pace, around the world. For that, leading universities like UCL should push for Open Science reciprocity at international levels.

Actions

Action Point	Description	KPI	By whom	By When
1	Build a case for a UCL Office for Open Science	Case presented in 2019/20 budget round	Library	2019/20 budget round
2	Liaise with Faculties, Schools and Departments to identify opportunities and needs	Communication identifies opportunities	Library	Start of 2019/20
3	Ensure that Early Career Researcher needs are included in policy revisions	Relevant policy developments implemented	Paul Ayris and UCL HR	Summer 2019
4	Undertake annual evaluation of progress for UCL's Open Science Platform	Evaluation Report produced	Paul Ayris	End of each academic session

Paul Ayris, Pro-Vice-Provost ([UCL Library Services](#))

Tiberius Ignat, Director, [Scientific Knowledge Services](#).

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