

## Focus on Open Science, Rome chapter



A meeting of an Italian chapter in Rome on 9 May 2019 reached a number of conclusions on the future of Open Science in La Sapienza. The Workshop was organised by Scientific Knowledge Services, the Library System of La Sapienza, Rome, in collaboration with UCL Press and LIBER (Association of European Research Libraries)

### **The role of libraries in supporting Open Science**

1. Open Science practice is best established at university level where there are advocacy and training programmes to support it. Across Europe, such activities are usually led by the University Library – which is well placed to offer leadership in this area to all players in the Scholarly Communications arena.

### **Current engagement**

2. A list of lively topics by Italian speakers in the Workshop underlined the strength of activity in Citizen Science which is present in Rome. Libraries across Europe are engaging with this topic and LIBER (Association of European Research Libraries) is forming a Working Group in this area.

### **Collaboration**

3. The organisation of the event is designed to encourage ideas of sharing and collaboration between universities and other research organisations, and it was good to see registrations from universities and institutes outside La Sapienza.

### **Pan-European approaches needed**

4. For Open Science to be a success, the concept needs to be embraced in all European countries; otherwise, Europe will lose the leadership role that it currently enjoys.

### **Leadership**

5. Leadership is crucial for a university to succeed in embedding Open Science principles and practices. For this to be a success, there needs to be a senior manager in each university who is responsible for Open Science developments.

## **Policy development**

6. Equally important, there needs to be policy development at the university level – with policies spelling out what the university position on Open Access and Open Science is. Without these, individual efforts will lack an overall strategy and the university’s activities will lose visibility. Open Science represents a fundamental change in the way universities work and those who have leadership and policies in this area are the ones who will succeed in securing the benefits that Open Science brings.

## **Diversity**

7. There are many stakeholders in the Open Science landscape – researchers, research funders, professional service staff, libraries, commercial providers – it was good to see a mix of such roles represented in the speakers listed on the Programme. The audience itself reflected a diversity through age, gender and professions.

## **Cultural Change**

8. 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. This change can only take place where the arrangements for leadership (outlined above) are in place.

## **Research evaluation**

9. It is important to build knowledge about how research evaluation is performed both at funder level and in other research institutions and what role Open Science principles could play to improve such evaluations. Such knowledge is best built through planned events that generate follow-up processes and lead to future success.

## **Self-Evaluation**

10. Universities should undertake annual self-evaluation of their progress in all eight areas of Open Science, as identified by the European Commission, and assess their progress in building all eight pillars of Open Science activity.

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

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

15 May 2019