Minutes  
Meeting of Open Access Advisory Group

Date: 7th December 2017

Present: Tracey Clarke (TVC) Chair  
Anne Horn (AHH), Alasdair Rae (AR), Jez Cope (JC), M Pidd (MP), Robert Collins  
(RC), Robert Shoemaker (RS), Sherif El-Khamisy (SE), Stephen Pinfield (SP),  
Andrew Booth (AB), Deborah McClean (DM), Tom Stafford (TS), Chris Burton (CB),  
Andrew Narracott (AN)

Secretary: Ellie Reynolds (ERR)

Apologies: John Derrick, Christopher Newman, James Wilsdon, John Haycock, John McAuley,  
Michael Croucher, Simon Foster, Dorothy Kerr, Helen Kennedy

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| 1. | Minutes of the meeting held 24th January 2017
    Accepted as a correct record. |   |

Matters arising

Item 1. Action SP to investigate difference between Green/Gold citation drivers and report at future meeting.

There are differences in the number of citations. These are fully in the presentation SP gave to the meeting on the UUK report.

The different publishing routes were explained to the meeting as follows:

- Green – the article is open access but usually after an embargo period (typically 6, 12 or 24 months);
- Gold – the journal is fully open access;
- Hybrid – the article is open access but the journal may not be.

Item 2. Action ALL to feedback to AHH on Terms of Reference before next meeting. Feedback received and TOR now agreed.

Item 2. Action JD and RF to initially discuss OAAG/ RDMSG overlap with Prof David Petley R&I. Discussed and TOR reviewed to reflect output of discussion.

Action AD to provide further information on proposed reports at next meeting. Action complete
Item 5. Action to circulate EU project documentation regarding Gold. SP to circulate after the meeting

Item 6. Action AD to revise and circulate update paper and draft communications strategy. AHH updated the meeting on UK SCL. Publishers are bringing this to ministers’ attention. A lot of miss information. Experimental space, business models are changing. A disrupted environment. Combative approach by publishers and we are still exploring where we are and when we might move further using existing collaborative frameworks. New resources in the Library to support copyright and ownership. Publishers trying to source information out about institutional plans. Keeping a watching briefing. Further update at future meeting.

2. “Monitoring the transition to open access 2017” report commissioned by UUK.

Aim of the report is to surface the data but not to conclude about policy indications/changes that might result from the data.

5 Key strands of the report:
- availability of OA options,
- take up of options,
- usage of OA articles,
- financial implications,
- impact on learned societies.

Headlines: everything is rising; increased uptake of OA, increased usage of OA articles, increased prices and pressure on finances and increased impact on learned societies.

Options for publication expanded between 2012 and 2016 especially for UK authors with over 70% offer gold OA. More embargoes on depositing in repositories - made it more difficult to do. Slight shift to long embargoes. More difficult to deposit authors work. Publishers protecting their subscription business model.

UK has accelerated beyond the globally averages. 1/3 of publications globally are available open access after 12 months. In UK 54% is available open access. This is a significant milestone and the policy environment is leading to increased uptake of OA.

Gold uptake has increased from 12% to 30%. UK ahead of global trends.

Hybrid increase has been very significant for the UK.

Green uptake increasing. Difficult to count the number of green articles and duplication between gold and green.

Other areas of interest- very big rise in Research Gate. Large amount is illegal as it doesn’t comply with author agreement with publishers.
OA articles are downloaded more than non OA

Institutional repository deposits rates increased by 60%. 1 article accounted for 1% of downloads. Indicators are of an upward trend.

Costs are rising at a rapid rate; average cost of APC risen by 16%. Hybrid more expensive than fully open. Impact of offsetting in hybrid may be supporting the convergence of the hybrid and gold options.

Comparison of subscription costs and APCs shows both are rising but subscriptions not rising as much as they might have!! May suggest that offsetting is mitigating some of the cost of offsetting deals.

More than half of APC expenditure goes to 3 publishers Elsevier, Wiley and Springer Nature.

Impact on learned societies - very different range of dynamics and motivators for publishing and whether they rely on publishing for income. Revenue from publishing is beginning to decline. Learned societies are not uniform in their missions, policies and structures; impact is therefore variable.

Discussion
Open discussion picked up on 46% of publications not OA and therefore what does that mean for ref compliance. There are wide disciplinary differences. Trends in funding the costs - patchy data about funder recorded. Some institutions making strategic decisions to invest its own funds. Pain not yet felt by the publishers but starting to see where the pressure will be felt. Off set deals need to become more overt and widespread. Jisc Collections are negotiating offset deals in the UK on behalf of the sector.

3. **RCUK OA Block Grant 2017-18 Consultation**

3.a ERR provided a verbal Finance update, 70k operating balance. Staff costs of administering the grant are being absorbed by the Library so that the maximum level of grant can be awarded to support publication. TVC reported that recent contact with RCUK indicates that they are viewing such a high proportion of spend on the grant as a success. UKRI will be reviewing OA in 2018 partly with affordability in mind.

3.b AHH opened up for discussion about interim arrangements and beyond and summarized the situation with publishing options as the situation varies by discipline. Green is compliant so if no funds available authors can mostly publish in green journals and still meet REF requirements. Not many Gold journals in arts and humanities but some hybrid options. REF will not be interested in the route other than it being compliant. There are citation advantage for green and hybrid.

Does the University want to prioritise REF outputs? Philosophically good but practically very difficult and would require a change in faculty/departmental approach.
3.c Need more faculty thinking in this space. What would be required to have a process that operated at faculty level?

How do we support authors to publish in their journal of choice? Faculties to contact TVC with ways of approaching this issue. Library to put up interim guidance on how to manage in the interim. Library will provide guidance and support to inform decision making for authors.

**Research Data Management**

4. **Next steps for open data principles.**

JC provided and update. Policy in the form of GRIP that sets out minimum levels; some funders have additional requirements. There is a need for a University policy that supports these requirements. Not binding as there will always be data that we cannot make open and should not try to.

*Discussion:* Positive feedback provided. Now need some practical examples to help to illustrate and socialise the policy. Integrating into existing processes is the easiest way to ensure adoption of new procedures.

*Action:* Need to create the stories as to why this is important. Create some strong case studies.

5. **Data visualisation project**

JC introduced the item and asked: Is this a sensible way forward? ORDA deposit rate is slowly increasing. Small numbers of deposits are get very high levels of downloads and interest. Need to engage researchers in doing this beyond just doing for the REF. Need to be careful about level of support being provided so that engagement is by individuals using tools that they are provided with rather than the Library providing a central service.

Support was given for signposting for researchers rather than creating a new service offer.

*Action:* Case studies of where the visualisation of the data has increased the impact would help but need to make sure there is a balance.

6. **REF Update**

DM provided a current situation report: 94% compliance in the stock take recently. As long as an article is OA within 3 months of publication for this REF it will qualify but this may not be an option at the next REF.

*Action:* to have an OA coordinator in each faculty.

7. **AOB**

Nothing to note.
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