

OR2022 Presentation Submission

17th International Open Repositories Conference, June 6th-9th in Denver, Colorado, USA

A reminder that the theme for OR2022 is “Building Trust Together”. We particularly welcome submissions that reflect the conference theme and answer questions focused on ways repositories enable trust, integration, collaboration and sharing. See the Call for Proposals for more detail on the themes. You will be asked to select a sub-theme at the time of submission.

The Wee Country that rOared: Measuring, Supporting and Building Trust in Open Access in Scotland through institutional repositories

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Abstract

The 2021 CWTS Leiden rankings show 24 UK institutions in the global Top 10 by percentage of Open Access publications and 25% of those institutions are in Scotland. ⁱ This presentation will focus on the experience of some of these Scottish institutions and the growth of their institutional repository services as a demonstration of a wider national commitment to Open Access. It will also highlight the growth in Open Access demonstrated by the CWTS rankings and Scotland’s Open Access journey from 2004 to today. This will be done through brief case studies which showcase the experience and expertise of these institutions and the support of the Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries (SCURL). It will also highlight the opportunities for national collaboration at a Scottish and UK level set against the context of updated UK open access funder policy and a national assessment exercise (REF2021) which was committed to Open Access.

Keywords

- Open Access
- Policies
- Declarations
- Research Culture
- Metrics

Audience

The audience for this talk includes staff who can influence the take-up and impact of open access at an institutional and national level and those interested in global OA metrics. These include University Librarians and Directors, Repository Managers, Policy Makers and Funders.

Proposal

Introduction

The 2021 CWTS Leiden rankings show 24 UK institutions in the global Top 25 by percentage (PP(OA)) of Open Access publications and 25% of these are in Scotland. This presentation will focus on the experience of some of these Scottish institutions and their institutional repository services as a demonstration of a wider national commitment to Open Access. It will also highlight the opportunities for national collaboration at a Scottish and UK level set against the context of updated UK open access funder policies and a national assessment exercise (REF2021) which was committed to open access.

2021 CWTS Leiden Rankings for Open Access

The 2021 CWTS Leiden ranking (2016-19) using Open Access as the type of indicator and the percentage of open access publications of a university (PP(OA)) – show 6 Scottish universities in the global Top 25, 2 in the Top 10. They are

- (6) University of St Andrews (91.3%)
- (9) University of Strathclyde (90.4%)
- (11) University of Dundee (90.3%)
- (17) University of Stirling (88.9%)
- (18) University of Edinburgh (88.9%)
- (24) University of Glasgow (88.0%)

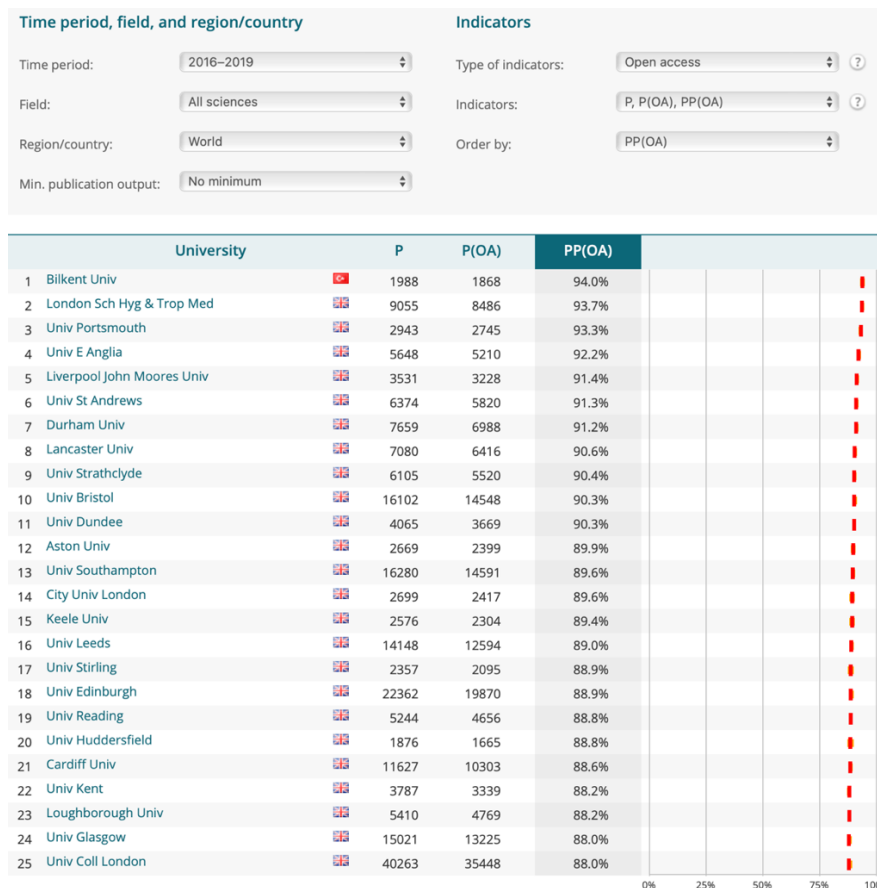


Image: 1 CWTS 2021 Open Access Ranking by PP(OA) - No Minimum

Rescoped by a minimum of 10000 publication outputs, the Top 10 are all UK institutions and the University of Edinburgh ranks 4th and the University of Glasgow 6th globally.

Time period, field, and region/country		Indicators		
Time period:	2016–2019	Type of indicators:	Open access	
Field:	All sciences	Indicators:	P, P(OA), PP(OA)	
Region/country:	World	Order by:	PP(OA)	
Min. publication output:	10000			

University	P	P(OA)	PP(OA)				
1 Univ Bristol	16102	14548	90.3%				
2 Univ Southampton	16280	14591	89.6%				
3 Univ Leeds	14148	12594	89.0%				
4 Univ Edinburgh	22362	19870	88.9%				
5 Cardiff Univ	11627	10303	88.6%				
6 Univ Glasgow	15021	13225	88.0%				
7 Univ Coll London	40263	35448	88.0%				
8 Univ Warwick	12050	10322	85.7%				
9 Univ Sheffield	14190	12081	85.1%				
10 Univ Oxford	41154	35031	85.1%				

Image: 2 CWTS 2021 Open Access Ranking by PP(OA) - 10000 Min Publication Output

An analysis of CWTS rankings in 2019 by Pablo de Castro, University of Strathclyde in a May 2019 blog post “Scottish (and British) Unis doing a good job at making their research outputs openly available”ⁱⁱⁱ provided further context and comments on how impressive those results were for Scottish, and more widely British universities. This proposal provides an opportunity to build on that work with data from 2020 and 2021.

Scotland and Higher Education

Scotland as a nation is proud to support and enable the widest possible access to the research of our universities as possible. It has an internationally successful higher education sector and a long history of support for education. Three of these universities are the oldest in Scotland (dating from 1413). The Scottish Enlightenment of the 18th and early 19th century also brought a wide range of intellectual and scientific achievements and the University of Glasgow’s institutional repository service is named “Enlighten” to reflect those achievements while looking to the future.

The Scottish Open Access Declaration

In 2004, the Scottish Confederation of University of and Research Libraries led an open access initiative called the Scottish Open Access Declaration. This declaration, by 2005 had been signed by all of the Scottish Higher Education institutionsⁱⁱⁱ and committed them to:

- Setup institutional repositories, and/or liaise with other organisations to establish a joint repository.
- Encourage, and where practical mandate, researchers to deposit copies of their outputs (articles, reports, conference papers, etc) in an institutional or co-operative repository.
- Review intellectual property policies, to ensure that researchers have the right and duty to provide an open access version of their research.

From Open Access to Open Research Scotland

During the intervening years Scottish universities, refined and developed their institutional repositories, initiated their own local policies and worked with colleagues at national and international levels to support the shift to open.

A key forum for supporting and coordinating Open Access in Scotland was the *Open Access Scotland Group*. The group “encompasses a wide remit on open access, including but not exclusive to, research, data,

education, and special interest groups such as archives and special collections.” And is intended to “provide a voice for open access in Scotland, allow the sharing of best practice, facilitate opportunities for networking between stakeholders, and lobby on behalf of Scottish organisations.” This group has evolved into Open Research Scotland – “a voice for Open Research in Scotland”^{iv}

Open repositories have been a key driver to delivering on the aspirations of the Scottish Open Access Declaration and while there is still much work to be done, Scotland and its institutions can be proud of the progress made to date.

Case Studies

This presentation will highlight Scotland’s Open Access journey from 2004 until today through brief case studies of the experience and expertise of some of these institutions. It will highlight the conditions of their local environment, key drivers and a mix of approaches for success, choice of platform(s) and the challenges, at an institutional level in embedding open repositories. It will also be set against the context of an updated UK wide policy landscape and the UK’s Research Excellence Framework (REF2021)^v which had a clear Open Access mandate to ensure eligibility for assessment.

Looking to the future

Looking ahead, work is already underway in enabling open access to the entire collections of research theses held by both Edinburgh and Glasgow. Repositories for research data repositories have rapidly matured in recent years with new roles for repositories in connecting rich seams of research content beyond just publications, in particular open data. Scottish Universities are also working on a new Open Access publishing press “that is owned and managed by the participating HEIs. The press aims to provide a clear and cost-effective route for researchers to make their work freely available to a global audience, meeting the requirements of funders and realising the government ambition to extend the impact of research across society”.^{vi}

These initiatives along with shifts in global policies like Plan S and national UK policies with a new UKRI open access funder policy^{vii} provide new opportunities to further our networks of trust, to collaborate and to share across our wider Open Repositories community.

References

ⁱ CWTS Leiden Ranking 2021, Open Access, <https://www.leidenranking.com/ranking/2021/list> [Last accessed: 3rd March 2022]

ⁱⁱ Scottish (and British) Unis doing a good job at making their research outputs openly available, Pablo de Castro, Open Access Scotland Group Blog, May 2019, <https://openresearchscotland.wordpress.com/2019/05/17/scottish-and-british-unis-doing-a-good-job-at-making-their-research-outputs-openly-available/> [Last accessed: 3rd March 2022]

ⁱⁱⁱ Scottish universities sign open access deal, Guardian, 14th March 2005 <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2005/mar/14/highereducation.uk> [Last accessed: 3rd March 2022]

^{iv} Open Research Group Scotland <https://openresearchscotland.wordpress.com> [Last accessed: 3rd March 2022]

^v Research Excellence Framework, REF 2021, <https://www.ref.ac.uk> [Last accessed: 3rd March 2022]

^{vi} Scottish Universities Open Access Press, <https://www.scurl.ac.uk/open-access-press> [Last accessed: 3rd March 2022]

^{vii} UKRI Open Access Policy, <https://www.ukri.org/publications/ukri-open-access-policy/> [Last accessed: 3rd March 2022]