MOVING OA FORWARD
F O C U S   S E S S I O N S
The relevance of Open Research Information

25 September 2025

Colleen Campbell

00:00:00:00   Thank you again for joining us. We are really excited today because we have participants in this focus session from more than 40 countries around the globe, which really reflects the international nature of the open access community. I am delighted to open this session of the Moving OA Forward Focus Series, a space for our community to engage in candid, strategic conversations about some of the more complex aspects of the open access transition and scholarly communication.

00:00:38:10   In this session, we are going to focus on the relevance of open research information. Why truly open data about research outputs, citations, and funding is essential for transparency, accountability and sustainable open access negotiation strategies. We are very pleased to have two experts sharing their insights with us today. So I'm pleased to introduce Miranda Bennett, Director of Shared Collections at the University of California, California Digital Library in the United States, and Ludo Waltman, who is Scientific Director at the Centre for Science and Technology Studies, Leiden University in the Netherlands.

00:01:26:10   Miranda and Ludo are co-chairs of the Joint Task Force on Negotiating Openness of Publication Metadata, which is a partnership between the Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information and OA2020. This task force is a priority workstream of the OA2020 Transparency Working Group, which aims to steward the OA transition by embedding transparency into publishing practices and agreements. So we'll hear from both speakers together,

00:02:02:24   in a shared presentation with, Ludo, I think starting on behalf of the Barcelona Declaration, followed by Miranda on behalf of OA2020. Then after their talk, we will move into an open discussion with all of you. So with that, I am very happy to turn over the words to Ludo.

Ludo Waltman

Right. Thank you so much, Colleen. It's really a pleasure to be here and to have the opportunity to meet all of you and to discuss in the open research information transition, the Barcelona Declaration, the joint task force with OA2020.

00:02:38:19   Lots of things happening in this space, and I hope we can make all of you very enthusiastic about these developments. So I will share my screen, my slides.

00:02:56:19   Yeah. So, I will indeed start, and at some point, Miranda will take over. So, I will first introduce to all of you the Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information. I know that some of you actually are quite familiar with the declaration, but I also assume that some of you may not really know much about it.

00:03:17:16   So that's why I will do an introduction. And then we have also some further discussion about OA2020 and the Joint Task Force. So let me start with the introduction on the Barcelona Declaration. I'm first going to explain what we mean by this notion of open research information, because this is ultimately what the whole Barcelona Declaration is about.

00:03:44:05   But I think it might need a little bit of explanation. So what you see here at the top left is research information. And that is a term that we understand in a particular way. And I would like to briefly explain how, from the viewpoint of the Barcelona Declaration, how we interpret this notion of research information.

00:04:07:08   So research information is a concept that for us is quite broad, but it includes at least a number of things. It includes all kinds of information about what is happening in the research system, who is participating in the research system and what is being produced in the research system. And perhaps the most prominent example of this type of information is the bibliographic metadata of scientific publications; research articles, for instance, but also books and all the metadata that we have around these types of outputs.

00:04:44:13   But we also consider to be research information is metadata, research software, research data, these types of things, and so other types of outputs beyond I say the traditional publications. Information on research funding and grants is also a prominent example of research information and also information about actors in your research system. So this could be for instance, research organizations, research contributors, that type of information is also prominent and critical example of the notion of research information.

00:05:17:22   So just to be clear, research articles themselves and the full text of research articles, that's not really what we are referring to. We are referring to metadata about these articles. Same for research data: research data is not really what this is about. It's the metadata about all kinds of data sets. So of course I care a lot about openness of the full text of research publications, openness of research data.

00:05:46:02   The Barcelona Declaration community for sure cares a lot about this, but our focus is actually on the metadata because we feel that this metadata, this research information

deserves to get a bit more attention, a bit more attention in the broader kind of discussion in a transition towards basically open science, open ways of working. So basically, the Barcelona Declaration is advocating for a transition from research information to open research information.

00:06:21:06 And then the question, of course, is what do we mean by research information being open, what are the important elements to openness. And you will not be surprised, I guess. Open for us means the information being free to use, but also free from restrictions on reuse. So these are of course, very similar to the way openness is typically seen in discussion about open access publishing.

00:06:45:04 So these are the two, let's say necessary conditions for research information to be open. Why do we feel it is important? There are lots of reasons, but there are three that I would like to highlight. One thing is that research information, information about, for instance, the output of research to produce that information as I think you all know, is often turned into all kinds of performance indicators, metrics that are being used in research evaluation, research assessments.

00:07:20:16 I'm based in the Netherlands, in Europe and in particular in Europe, we have quite a long history in doing all this work, all these bibliometric indicators and, there's of course, as you probably know, lots of lots of discussions about the pros, but also the cons of doing this. But the viewpoint of the Barcelona Declaration is that whenever these types of indicators or metrics are being used in research assessments, it is critical that the indicators are fully transparent, so that we can also approach them in a critical manner.

00:07:56:04 We can kind of debate the validity of these indicators. We can try to reproduce them. We can try to adjust them. All these things should be possible and only then indicators, metrics can be used responsibly in research assessments. And this requires the underlying research information to be open. So that's one reason why open research information is really important,

00:08:16:17 from the viewpoint of the Barcelona Declaration. Going beyond evaluation, we see more generally that all kinds of analytics based on research information, based on metadata, research outputs… these types of analytics are often used in decision making by people in leadership positions in research organizations. If we want this information to be inclusive, to be equitable, then we feel strongly that this requires openness of the research information.

00:08:50:12 And openness in many cases also brings more inclusiveness in terms of what is covered by the data, by certain data sources, databases that we work with. And then third, which we also see globally, is this transition to open science, to open research. And we see more and more of these initiatives that aim to monitor that transition.

00:09:11:13 And what I personally always find painful is that sometimes these monitoring initiatives themselves actually don't meet basic standards of openness because they rely on research information that is proprietary, that's closed. So there is, of course, a bit of a painful irony in the whole idea of monitoring open science, open research in a kind of closed, proprietary way.

00:09:33:18	So we feel that if we want to incentivize open science, we must do that in an open way. And that again requires open research information. So these are some of the motivations behind the open research information transition number and the Barcelona Declaration. Okay. I'm going to tell you a bit more now about the declaration, how it emerged and kind of what it really entails.
00:10:01:13	And then I will also give some very practical hands-on examples of what do we actually mean in very concrete terms by information being open and also information being closed. And what are concrete examples of kind of transitioning from close to open. Okay. First, a bit more about the declaration. The declaration actually results from a workshop that took place in Barcelona in November 2023. It was an invitation-only workshop in which 25 experts, experts that have a lot of knowledge about research information, they came together in a room in Barcelona.
00:10:36:03	I was one of them. I had the privilege to be to be part of that group of people. And we spent a full day basically discussing the need to make a transition to open research information and also at a very practical level, preparing the Barcelona Declaration, the text of the Barcelona Declaration to set in motion this transition.
00:10:58:02	So that meeting in Barcelona in November 2023 was really crucial. So 25 experts got together. And I do want to emphasize this was a really diverse group of people. So there are people that have a lot of knowledge about, for instance, the way information, research information is used in research elevations, but also in funding context.
00:11:19:12	There were people that represent infrastructure organizations, that bring this infrastructure perspective. Research-performing organizations were also represented. So I think it was a diverse group that brought lots of different perspectives. And these experts together, they reached agreement on the need to have this transition, and also kind of the actual text of the Barcelona Declaration.
00:11:42:21	So the text of the declaration, the declaration itself was published a few months later in April 2024, on the website, the Barcelona Declaration website. So that's where you can find the actual declaration. What's in the declaration? The declaration is a statement that organizations can sign and that applies to organizations that carry out funds and evaluate research.
00:12:08:07	And an organization that signs the declaration makes four commitments. The first commitment, you could perhaps say this is the overarching commitment, is to make openness the default for the research information that you use and also the information that you produce as an organization. So let me try to give an example. As a university, for instance, many of us, we make use of databases that enable the academic staff to search for relevant scientific literature, scientific outputs.
00:12:44:20	There are proprietary databases, there are open databases. We need to make choices as institutions in terms of what databases do we want to make use of, basically what we want to subscribe to. So this is about the use of research information and the Barcelona Declaration is a commitment to actually move towards using open sources of open

source information, open databases, for instance, for searching the academic literature, for doing discovery.

00:13:14:07   But the Barcelona Declaration also turns things around and it also says, if you want to be part of this transition, there's an expectation that also for the information you produce yourself, you make openness the default. So again let's look at a university. A university is not just a user of research information. The university also has a lot of information about what is happening in the system.

00:13:35:18   For instance, many universities have these current research information systems with a lot of information about the outputs produced by the university. Can we make that information openly available? That's one of the key questions we need to ask ourselves. Some universities have a university press that publishes lots of articles. What about the metadata of these articles? Can we make that openly available in an appropriate way?

00:14:00:08   So this is the key commitment that universities signing the declaration are making. Then there are three more commitments that kind of support commitment one. The second commitment is "we will work with services and systems that support and enable open research information." So this is basically about all the things you need to make that declaration in practice, the infrastructure in particular that is needed for this, and it recognizes the need to reconsider our infrastructure choices.

00:14:30:09   Third, "we will support the sustainability of infrastructure for open research information." So the mistake that, of course, we should not make is to just assume that a switch to open research information and open infrastructures is going to be for free. It's not, we all know that. But the Barcelona Declaration very explicitly makes that point. If we want this transition to open research information to be successful, we also need to take responsibility for supporting the infrastructures.

00:15:01:15   That can be done in all kinds of ways, but one way of supporting infrastructures is also financially. So just like many organizations have been or still are financially supporting non-open research information infrastructures, in the future we need to do the same for open research information. We need to support them. We need to ensure they are sustainable.

00:15:25:18   And then fourth in the Barcelona Declaration is also the commitment to support collective action to accelerate the transition. This I see as a recognition that no single organization is able to do this on their own. This is too complex for any of us, to do on your own. This is not easy, and we can only be successful if we do it together. Turning it around,

00:15:49:19   if we do it together, we are in a much more powerful position. And actually, many of the things we are trying to achieve suddenly become significantly easier to do. So the Barcelona Declaration is really about building coalitions, building collaborations, to actually being in more powerful positions to realize the transition to open research information. I do want to emphasize that these four commitments take time to realize for all of these transitions, for all of these four commitments, it's clear you cannot just get there overnight.

00:16:23:13	This is a trajectory that for an organization will take at least a couple of years to implement. And if you are really ambitious and you want to be kind of fully 100% compliant with these commitments, it's perhaps a journey that will never really end. So these commitments should also be seen, to a certain degree, as aspirations that organizations have, aspirations that we should take very seriously, but also aspirations for which we realize that we will not be there tomorrow, not be there in one year.
00:16:55:00	This is going to be a longer-term effort. And we shouldn't be nervous about it. We shouldn't be nervous about not immediately being fully compliant with these four commitments. That's just reality. That's just how it works. And let's not be nervous about this. But if we work together, the fourth commitment, we can make the big transition in the longer term,
00:17:17:07	and we can realize these four commitments. That's basically what we as founders of the Barcelona Declaration, what we believe. The declaration has been signed now by over 120 organizations globally. So you can see them here on the world map. There's strong support in Europe, but also in other continents. We have quite a substantial number of supporters, in particular, as you can see in North America, but also in Latin America.
00:17:44:20	So we have signatories in more than 30 countries, universities, other research institutions, but also, for instance, funders and also governments. And we welcome more. The declaration can be signed by basically any organization that feels it is ready to make these four commitments, as I just showed. We also have supporters. Supporters are organizations that don't belong to the category of research-performing or research-funding organizations.
00:18:13:11	Typically they are more organizations that are active in the infrastructure space. So this is a subset of the supporters that we have. We have actually more than those, but it just illustrates the types of organizations that have decided to publicly endorse and publicly expressed support for the Barcelona Declaration. Then, of course, with a declaration like this, there's always the risk that we make nice promises and we sign things and then nothing is going to happen.
00:18:42:10	This, I feel, would be deeply problematic. I really don't want that to happen. And with the whole Barcelona Declaration team, from the start, we have had lots of very serious conversations about how can we make sure that this is not just going to be all of us making some nice, I say, gestures like, oh, we will do this and this and this, and then nothing happens.
00:19:02:16	No, that really shouldn't be the way this is going to develop. So what did we do? With the signatories, we have started a process in which we have translated the commitments, the four commitments into concrete plans for action. So we have done that at a conference in Paris that was hosted by Sorbonne University. And also, this year, a meeting in Bologna, hosted by the University of Bologna.
00:19:31:16	Both universities are signatories of the declaration. And then many of the signatories came together and we have done a lot of strategic thinking about what are our priorities, what are we now going to work on? What is the low hanging fruit, but also

what is the longer-term goals that we want to achieve. The result of this is a list of seven priorities.

00:19:53:16 And for each of these seven priorities you have a working group. So openness of journal articles and book metadata is one priority. Then also metadata of outputs and repositories. Preprint servers is a priority. Funding metadata, I will say a bit more about it later on. Replacing closed systems by open alternatives. Sustainability of open infrastructures. Evaluation of open data sources,

00:20:20:10 so what's actually the quality of for instance the data in these data sources, and does it meet the same standards as proprietary data sources do? And finally, what's the evidence of actual benefits of this whole transition. So these benefits that I mentioned at a somewhat abstract level in terms of doing more responsible research and valuation and better decision making, how do they materialize in practice?

00:20:46:00 So these are our priorities, which doesn't mean this is the only things we care about. There's more, there's more important things, but of course you need to set priorities to make progress, and these are the things we have decided to focus on. So we now have seven working groups with lots of people that are affiliated with the signatory organizations, also with supporters, sometimes with other types of organizations.

00:21:09:19 And these people donate some of their time to actually work on implementing the commitments we have all made in the Barcelona Declaration. The first working group are journal article and book metadata. That working group is very relevant for today's conversation. So that's the one that we will discuss in a bit more detail later on. I'm now first going to give you some very practical examples of what all of this is about.

00:21:35:20 So what you see here is discontinuation of proprietary bibliographic databases. So this is one example of the types of developments that are now taking place as a result of the Barcelona Declaration. So I'm going to give you some examples. This is not exhaustive, but it just highlights a few organizations that have taken quite significant steps in the open research information transition.

00:22:00:17 Sorbonne University in Paris is one of these organizations. So they decided in 2024 to discontinue their subscription to the Web of Science database. So their line of reasoning was that the Web of Science database is a proprietary database. You cannot use the data for free, there are also restrictions on how the data can be reused. And Sorbonne University made the argument that that's incompatible with their commitment to open science.

00:22:32:05 And as a result of that, they decided to discontinue their subscription to the Web of Science database. And they also don't have subscriptions to other similar databases you may know, for instance, Scopus database. They have made a commitment to actually work with a database that's called OpenAlex, you may know this database, an open alternative for sources like Web of Science and Scopus, where you don't have, for instance, all kinds of restrictions on how the data can be used and can be reused.

00:23:04:05 We see more universities that are also taking these steps. Some of them do it kind of in a low profile way or a kind of announce it publicly. In the Netherlands, for instance,

Utrecht University recently made such an announcement for the Web of Science database. So we see more and more universities are, kind of, evaluating whether it's still kind of in line with their commitments to open science and to the Barcelona Declaration to work with these types of databases.

00:23:32:04   My center at Leiden University has also gone through this process. And some of you may know, my center, Center for Science and Technology Studies, or CWTS, we have a history of almost four decades working actually in the field of bibliometrics, doing lots of bibliometric analysis. This is how we built a reputation and also this is how we serve lots of stakeholders in the research session. We made a decision last year to make a full transition to open research information.

00:24:01:05   So we have been working for a long time, and to a certain degree, we are still working with traditional proprietary data sources, like, for instance, this Web of Science database that was just mentioned. But now we made the decision that we need to transition fully to open alternatives. This is also for us not something we can do overnight;

00:24:21:00   this is a trajectory that will take us a couple of years, but the goal is clear. In a few years time, we will be fully working with data that is open, that's the commitments made. And we, for instance, have proved that some of you may know it's called the Leiden Ranking and that tool already has made that transition. So we released an open edition of the Leiden Ranking based on data from this OpenAlex database.

00:24:45:10   And this is a way to show that we are serious about our commitment, our commitment to the Barcelona Declaration. It's also way to show that it is possible in practice to make these transitions. So we now have alternatives to proprietary databases that we can use in practice to do the types of things that we also did in the past, but do them in more open, more transparent range,

00:25:09:01   and all of that. So this Leiden Ranking, for instance, all the data is now open, all the source codes are open, everything can be reproduced. If you don't like the way my center is producing the statistics, you can actually just change the algorithms and you can do it in your own way, you can you can publish it on your own website.

00:25:27:05   It's all fine. And this is, I think, very important. If we live in a world where we rely more and more on all kinds of analytics, all kinds of indicators, metrics, we need to make sure that we understand what we are doing, we need to make sure we can debate these statistics and analytics, and this requires openness and transparency.

00:25:47:22   We also see that some universities have decided to withdraw from commercial university rankings. And so this is University of Lorraine, in France. They decided to withdraw from the Times Higher Education in the QS rankings because they said these rankings are not compatible with our commitment to the Barcelona Declaration. They're based on closed proprietary data. We don't like that, we feel that's not responsible,

00:26:13:05   so we will no longer participate in these rankings, which, by the way, also means that these universities are willing to take a certain risk because we know that to a certain degree, for instance, students may take into consideration these rankings in choosing

where to study. But these universities, like Lorraine, have said, there might be a certain risk for us, but we are really committed to open science, to open research information,

00:26:38:13 so we accept these risks and we want to really show our commitment to these deeper values and the meaning these values have for us. Sorbonne University recently made a similar announcement. So in line with the Barcelona Declaration, they decided to withdraw from the Times Higher Education rankings.

00:26:58:17 One more example in the landscape of research funding. We have major research funders globally basically that have decided to support, to sign the Barcelona Declaration, but also to take concrete action to implement the commitments.

00:27:15:09 So a very nice example is the Wellcome Trust in the UK, but basically a global research funder. They recently, their CEO announced at a big conference the signature by Wellcome Trust of the Barcelona Declaration, pointing out the commitment of Wellcome Trust to open research, to open research information, and he also made clear why this is so important for Wellcome Trust.

00:27:43:12 For Wellcome Trust, the administrative burden on grantees is a big issue. They feel that they are actually putting quite a big burden on grantees, and their ambition is to move to open research information to reduce that burden on grantees. All this administration, reporting publication on outputs, Wellcome Trust is going to reduce that burden by moving to open research information.

00:28:06:20 So that's for them a very important reason for doing this. They also take responsibility for supporting the infrastructures that are needed for this transition. So that's basically the third commitment in the Barcelona Declaration. The Wellcome Trust, what they said is "we are going to give financial support to the OpenAlex database to enable them to better index information about research funding, about grants, and then also the way in which research funding is being acknowledge in outputs like scientific articles."

00:28:44:14 So Wellcome really stepped up to take responsibility for supporting this transition also in financial terms. Another example is that of the research council here in the Netherlands, they were one of the first funders that started to use so-called grant IDs, Crossref Grant, I think. So that means that you assign DOIs (digital object identifiers) to grants.

00:29:08:04 They were among the first funders taking that step, because they believe it's important that just like we expect publishers to assign DOIs to research articles, they feel that funders also need to take their responsibility in doing the same for grants and that then offers all kinds of opportunities to link funding grants to publications and to get much deeper insights into the outputs that result from research funding and the impact that research funding has.

00:29:37:10 And that ultimately is what the Dutch Research Council is aiming for. So this basically is a number of examples of concrete things happening as a result of the Barcelona Declaration. I'm going to briefly pause here to see if anyone of you has perhaps questions about the Barcelona Declaration.

Colleen Campbell

I think we had a couple questions in the chat already.

00:30:02:21 There was one. "Is there a Leiden Institutional Repository?" I think that came up when you were discussing your commitment.

Ludo Waltman

Yeah. Yeah. Indeed, Leiden University, like many universities, has its own repository. What happened actually, is that in light of when we had a discussion about signing the Barcelona Declaration… well, I was in favor, but we had an internal discussion, of course, about the project and that was a discussion that we took quite seriously with lots of internal stakeholders that got involved, including colleagues from the university library that are, for instance, responsible for the repository.

00:30:44:19 And well, we decided ultimately to indeed signed the declaration, there was broad support within Leiden University, but what we actually realized when we had these discussions is that for our institutional repository, we have our open metadata policy that is actually quite progressive. So Leiden University, even before signing the Barcelona Declaration, Leiden University already had a policy for openness of the metadata of the outputs in our repository.

00:31:13:07 It's something that, I must admit, I was not aware of myself, but I found out in the process of actually having these internal discussions. And that was one of the things that also made us feel comfortable to actually sign up to the declaration and the commitments.

Colleen Campbell

00:31:30:13 Do we have things, anyone else who has questions for Ludo before we move to Miranda, please, you can just raise your hand and I'll... Not seeing any for the moment. But we'll have time to continue with questions a little bit later as well. Okay. Shall we move on?

Ludo Waltman

00:31:57:17 I will again share my screen and then Miranda will take over.

Miranda Bennett

00:32:16:21 All right. Thank you so much, Ludo, and thank you, Colleen, for having us today. And welcome everyone who is joining us in real time and those of you who watched the

recording later. So it is my privilege to talk with you a little bit about OA2020. When Ludo and I were putting this presentation together, we assumed that our audience would probably have a little more familiarity with OA2020 than with the Barcelona Declaration.

00:32:42:02   This is being promoted as an OA2020 event, although we're very pleased to have a very diverse audience with us today. OA2020 has been around a little bit longer, so maybe has a little brand recognition advantage, and it's also not as directly focused on the topic today of open research information as the Barcelona Declaration is.

00:33:04:13   So Ludo took the bulk of the work explaining the whole concept of ORI to you. So I'll just talk a little bit about OA2020 as an initiative, as a community, and about how this idea of open research information aligns with the goals of OA2020. So you can see there on the screen, again, this will be familiar to many of you that OA2020 is focused on the transformation of scholarly communications, particularly scholarly journals, moving away from a closed toll access system to an open, free to read, open access world.

00:33:47:07   It's made a lot of progress over the last few years, but as you all know, much work remains to be done. Just like Ludo highlighted the signatories of the Barcelona Declaration, OA2020 has organizations and institutions that have signed on to the Expression of Interest. And, it's interesting that there's a lot of alignment between these two communities and these two initiatives have a lot of overlap.

00:34:14:15   Sometimes that is a little obscured by the fact that OA2020 has its kind of critical mass, its center is around libraries and library consortia, where the Barcelona Declaration is, you know, it's often universities. It's a kind of the broader open science community. So there is actually more overlap, I think, between the official supporters or signatories of these two organizations and initiatives than you might realize.

00:34:44:15   So my organization, California Digital Library, you will find on both lists. You can search for California Digital Library, you will see those words both on the Barcelona Declaration website and on the OA2020 website. Ludo's organization, his institution, Leiden University, you'll see that as a Barcelona Declaration signatory, it doesn't actually appear on the Expressions of Interest list,

00:35:12:14   but it is, it appears there in a kind of hidden way, because UKB, the Dutch Library Consortium is a very, very strong and active supporter of OA2020. So it's a little tricky to see where that overlap is, but trust me, it does exist, and there's a there's definitely a lot of alignment between our two initiatives.

00:35:34:18   All right. Let's go on to the next slide, please. All right. So you saw a map of where the Barcelona Declaration has taken hold, and we have an OA2020 map as well. These are both initiatives and communities that have international engagement, and they do seek global impact. And this makes sense, I think, for open research information.

00:36:00:07   ORI will serve the scholarly communication community best if it, like that community, is international in scope, and in his overview of what open research information is and why it's important, Ludo talked about it being free from restrictions on reuse, and in an international context, one thing that that enables at a very basic level is translation.

00:36:24:15	You could take any of the anything being produced openly, licensed openly, made available to the community, and you could translate that into whatever your local languages or any language of a community or a portion of the community you're trying to work closely with. So, I think this is really exciting. As was mentioned at the beginning of this presentation, we had registrants from over 40 countries for today's session.
00:36:50:24	I think Ludo and I were both really surprised and gratified when Ana sent us that spreadsheet. This does create, of course, some practical issues sometimes with our work. I think many on this call will have the experience of attending an online meeting in the middle of the night in your local time, but we try as best we can to be inclusive and create opportunities for participation in these communities,
00:37:17:06	even if you're in Australia and you often end up in a meeting in the middle of the night. I always feel for our colleagues there. And just I thought this was quite a charming example of the international character of the work that we do. Recently, I was scheduling a meeting for our joint task force, which you'll hear about in just a bit, was scheduling it in Microsoft Outlook and started getting the meeting accepted emails,
00:37:45:13	and they were coming through and the language of the person who accepted the meeting. So I would see accepted, but it would be in Greek or it would be in Dutch, or it would be in French. So, that was a really nice reminder that we're working across these national boundaries too, as Ludo said, the collaboration is so important and that's what's going to make us successful.
00:38:07:07	All right. Next slide, please. So this is a little bit more about OA2020 and how it does its work. As I said the idea of, this is very focused on changing some of the structures around scholarly publishing, all pointing in the direction of greater openness. For the purposes of today's discussion, I think that third bullet point is particularly important,
00:38:33:17	talking about this idea of transformative actions to achieve rapid and efficient transition for the benefit of scholarship and society at large. So this includes in, within OA2020 and within the context of negotiations, which our joint task force is focused on, negotiating not just financial terms and terms specifically around opening content, but around other noncommercial terms that advance transformation toward openness. For example, over the past few years, OA2020 has been at the forefront of efforts to preserve and increase awareness around issue issues of author rights.
00:39:16:05	And now as we're kicking off the work of this joint task force, there will be greater attention paid to bringing open publication metadata to the negotiating table. So these transformative actions are very, very much aligned with the broader goals of OA2020. Next slide please. And this gives you a highlight of some of the specific work that OA2020 supports and advances.
00:39:47:24	I think many on this call and many who are watching the recording will be familiar with the ESAC Registry of Transformative Agreements. This enables the sharing of specific agreement language. Often it will link to copies of agreements that libraries or library consortia have signed with publishers. And this can be a real boon in negotiations, including those efforts to advance open research information.

00:40:15:06   And we'll take a look at a concrete example of this in just a couple of minutes. You heard about the Barcelona Declaration working groups and what they call working group 1, on journal and book metadata, is where the joint task force sits on the Barcelona Declaration side. And for OA2020, the joint task force is under the umbrella of the working group on transparency to steward the transition.

00:40:46:18   And I will just note that I co-chair that working group with Arjan Schalken, who is in the audience today. So thank you, Arjan, for joining us and for being part of that really important work. So I'm not going to say any more specifically about OA2020, but if you have questions, you can put them in the chat.

00:41:04:24   We can talk about them after the presentation. I'm going to hand the, presentation back to Ludo now, to introduce you in a little more detail to our joint task force and to talk about some more specific examples of what this task force is going to be trying to accomplish. So, Ludo, back to you.

Ludo Waltman

00:41:26:11   Right. Thank you, Miranda. Yes. Indeed, I will tell you a bit more about the joint Barcelona Declaration/OA2020 task force, or formally, the Joint Task Force on Negotiating Openness of Publication Metadata. I will first give you a bit more, kind of more of a detailed understanding of what we kind of mean by openness of publication metadata.

00:41:56:09   So this scatterplot, I took this scatterplot from a preprint article that I co-authored myself, and this article actually presents all kinds of statistics on the current state of openness of publication metadata and in particular, actually, the metadata of journal articles. So what you see here is the following.

00:42:20:21   You see publishers, lots of publishers, and all these publishers, they work with Crossref to register DOIs for the articles they publish. And I think you are all familiar with that system. The articles get a unique identifier, a persistent identifier that's called DOI, and there are lots of benefits of having such an identifier. If the content moves to a different location on the web, then the DOI can remain the same and can make sure you can still find the content.

00:42:52:22   DOIs can be used also to facilitate linking between research articles. Lots of reasons why they are beneficial. So you see here all these publishers and then, what you also see on the vertical axis is just how many articles these publishers in recent years, these past recent years, how many articles they actually published.

00:43:19:05   And you see on the vertical axis, the share of those articles for which a certain metadata element is made openly available through the infrastructure of Crossref. So whenever a publisher registers a DOI at Crossref, there is an opportunity for the publisher to also deposit all kinds of metadata elements to Crossref and Crossref that will then take care of making that metadata openly available.

00:43:51:21	And then typically what happens is that metadata is ingested in all kinds of downstream databases tools. So for instance, think of for instance the OpenAlex database, but also the Dimensions database. These are examples of databases that ingest their data from Crossref, and Crossref in turn receives that metadata, metadata of publications,
00:44:17:21	it receives that metadata from publishers. But there are differences between publishers in what kind of metadata they do or do not make available. And that's what you see on the horizontal axis. And in this case, this particular scatterplot is about the affiliations of authors. So think about a particular university, so in my case Leiden University, in Miranda's is the University of California system.
00:44:44:24	And now many of you I guess are affiliated with universities. You feel very responsible for what your organization is doing and make sure that what is being published on behalf of your organization. So what we all want to know is which outputs, which journal articles are actually the result of research done at my organization. And to answer that question, it is extremely useful if somewhere we can find all the articles or at least the digital object identifiers, the DOIs of all the articles produced by our organization,
00:45:24:20	so in my case, by Leiden University. And Crossref is basically the place where that information can be found, at least for certain publishers, namely the publishers at the right of this graph. So these publishers have chosen to deposit for all the articles that they publish, or for a large majority of the articles, to deposit the affiliation metadata for the authors of the article, to deposit that to Crossref, which means that that data is openly available in Crossref and in lots of downstream infrastructures.
00:45:58:12	So we see for instance, looking at the larger publishers, we see Wiley, we see MDPI, we see Taylor & Francis, large publishers that make for all or almost all the journal articles these affiliations openly available. At the left we see publishers that have not yet reached that kind of that stage in their commitment to openness of metadata.
00:46:23:15	So looking again at the biggest publishers we see that Elsevier, Springer Nature at the moment don't make affiliations open available. Same applies to Frontiers and to a number of smaller publishers. So what does it mean if you want to know for your organization, what did we publish in journals published by, for instance, Elsevier or Springer Nature,
00:46:45:18	you will not be able to find that answer in the Crossref infrastructure. It's not there. For other purposes, the ones on the right, you can find that information. So this is a very practical terms, the difference it makes. So what you see here, many publishers make affiliation metadata openly available through Crossref, but there also are still many others that fail to do this at the moment.
00:47:10:12	Sometimes that's just a lack of awareness. Sometimes it's a kind of, it's a lack of understanding of what is possible through infrastructures like Crossref. Sometimes it is because of all kinds of technical obstacles with computer systems that don't kind of facilitate this deposition of this metadata to Crossref. There may also be cases where publishers deliberately make a decision not to do this.

00:47:38:06	So there can be lots of different reasons. The Barcelona Declaration feels that we need to move to a world in which all the publishers are on the right side of this graph. All the publishers make this metadata openly available, because that's a way for research institutions, for signatories of the Barcelona Declaration, to actually make progress in implementing their commitments.
00:48:05:02	Another example. Similar graph, but now this is about abstracts. The abstracts of research articles, which we also see as a metadata element. And again we see a lots of publishers on the right side that make these abstracts openly available. So for instance, looking at the big publishers, there is again Wiley, there's MDPI, Sage, there's Frontiers… they make this metadata openly available, the abstracts.
00:48:30:18	OUP. We see also publishers that don't do this. Elsevier, Taylor & Francis, IEEE, American Chemical Society. Springer Nature is interesting is a bit of an in-between case. They do it only for their open access content, not for the closed content. My feeling is that abstracts are hugely important.
00:48:53:13	For instance, the question of what is my university contributing to? To give just one example, these Sustainable Development Goals; this is a question that many people in leadership positions are facing. You want to have some kind of high-level insight into that question, and then, of course, you would like to drill down to more concrete cases.
00:49:13:03	That high-level insight you can get by just identifying publications that, based on their abstracts, seem to relate to one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals. This means you need to have access to these abstracts. Only then you can kind of identify these publications. So for Elsevier publications, for part of the Springer Nature publications, we don't have that access, at least not through the Crossref infrastructure,
00:49:38:10	so we cannot identify these publications. For other publishers, as you can see, this is possible. So this again, in very concrete terms, this shows the implications of openness or lack of openness of metadata, in this case, abstracts. So if we want to understand what we are producing, what are all these outputs about, to what extent do they contribute to, for instance, the SDGs, we need the abstracts to be openly available.
00:50:04:24	Lots of publishers are already doing this, but also lots of them are not yet doing this. And it's important that we as libraries, library consortia, institutions, that we have more conversations with publishers to emphasize how important we feel this is and to find out what are the barriers, why aren't these abstracts already openly available, and how can we overcome these barriers.
00:50:30:11	Another example, this is a blog post that I already showed before. One of the founders, the Dutch Research Council, one of the founders supporting the Barcelona Declaration, they have made all that effort to register grant IDs for all the grants that they have awarded. When you read this blog post, what you actually see is that this funder is a little bit disappointed because what they were hoping is that they would now get in that insight into the extent to which their grants lead to research outputs.
00:51:01:04	So they expected to be able to have, at a fine-grained level, all the connections between the funding they award and the resulting outputs. But they found out that at the

moment they get these insights only in a very partial way. And the reason is, on the one hand, that some authors are not yet properly acknowledging the funder and the specific grant that they benefited from, but also in many cases, the authors actually did make the proper acknowledgment in their article,

00:51:29:21   but the publisher did not properly process that acknowledgment, and it not properly, deposit the funding metadata to Crossref. So in this blog post, this blog post by Hans de Jonge, you can see some very practical examples of that problem. It means that we have funders here that have made significant efforts, significant investments to get better data about funding and resourcing outputs,

00:51:56:24   but at the moment it doesn't work yet because some publishers are not yet properly processing the funding acknowledgment of metadata in publications. So here we see how we can make progress only if different actor groups in the system—funders, publishers, institutions—if we all take our responsibility, only then, progress is possible. And also, I feel that institutions and libraries should push this agenda, this agenda of openness, of funding metadata, because it's also in our interest that we have deeper insights into research funding. What can libraries and consortia do?

00:52:35:18   I think, Miranda, if I'm not mistaken, this is where I will hand back to you. Yeah.

Miranda Bennett

Thank you so much, Ludo. So if you want to just advance it so we can see, a really nice example. So this will look very familiar to you, at least in maybe the font and the structure to those of you who negotiate library licenses and agreements with publishers.

00:52:59:09   And, this is an example of some model language, you will find it in the Taylor & Francis contract with our friends from Jisc, the UK library consortium. So model language is very, very helpful, as those of you who negotiate know, it's really just, it just doesn't work very well to approach a negotiation with a publisher with a with a goal around open research information that's essentially, "hey, do better."

00:53:29:09   Like, "we know you can do better, help us out here," if instead you can present them with some concrete expectations, and even better, if you can say "this is the language," or you, you know, you modify the language, you say, "this is the language that we would like to see in a license." So this helps to make the negotiation goals clearer for both sides.

00:53:53:06   It also encourages standardization and consistency across publishers and across expectations of libraries and consortia, which streamlines things, it just makes it easier all around. Again, provided we can come up with language, we can come up with goals that serve us well. I'll also note that this, I mentioned earlier, that we would refer to the ESAC Registry again.

00:54:19:01   And you can find this very agreement in the ESAC Registry. It's the Jisc 2021 agreement, and you'll find information about it as well as a link to the agreement itself. And I think, you know, in an era where, I don't know about the rest of you, but terms that get tossed

around at work are doom spiral or, you know, doom loop and death spiral, and but I think here we have a really nice example of a virtuous cycle where openness begets openness, the openness of these transformative agreements, by making the license language available to anyone who's interested in seeing it, that is actually supporting this other related goal of greater openness

00:54:58:16 of research information. Next slide please. Ludo. All right. Another scatter plot, but one that tells a, I think, a much more positive story. This has to do with the openness of reference lists. So I think if you advance one more Ludo, you'll see the thanks to the initiative for Open Citations, which has been working on this for a while now,

00:55:23:07 reference lists are made openly available through Crossref at a much higher rate than some of the metadata elements that Ludo talked about, areas where perhaps there is room for improvement, like author affiliations and abstracts. So I think this tells a story that fulfills one of my favorite adages, which is "it has been done,

00:55:43:07 it must be possible." So we have evidence that this works when we work together. And it's very exciting to be working, with OA2020 and the Barcelona Declaration, united to advance this effort to improve the openness of publication metadata in our negotiations with publishers. So if you go on to the next slide, this will give you the specifics of this joint task force that we keep talking about.

00:56:11:22 So, these are some of the initial goals that we have. So negotiation framework and model clauses. So something along the lines of what we saw in that Jisc agreement just a minute ago, developing practical tools, templates, all of this as a way to work together, so that we can all advance these shared goals.

00:56:37:03 And we're also trying to build awareness and capacity across the community. So I think today's session, is really getting us started very much in that spirit. So this joint task force is now formed, and it will kick off its work and get that underway early in October. And then our final slide just gives you some tips if you would like to get more involved in one or both of these communities.

00:57:04:21 There is an OA2020 listserv that will keep you informed of events and activities. There's also some discussion on that listserv. There's an events page. Maybe that's where you got information about this Moving OA Forward Focus Session. And if you're interested in, one of the OA2020 working groups, you can also contact OA2020. The working group rosters,

00:57:29:17 they can't be infinite, they can just keep adding people, but knowing that you're interested, there will always be a need for people to get involved and to support and advance this work in various ways as different work streams are being rolled out. So I'll turn it back over to Ludo to encourage you to get more involved with the Barcelona Declaration community.

00:57:48:23 And then I think we'll have some time for questions and answers and discussion. So, Ludo, back to you.

Ludo Waltman

Thank you. Miranda. Yes. For the Barcelona Declaration. It's actually quite similar to OA2020. We would like to invite all of you to basically consider whether the Barcelona Declaration might be something your organization may wish to sign, if you haven't already done so, of course.

00:58:13:04   We are happy to answer any questions you may have about the declaration and about the implications of signing the declaration. So you can reach out to us at this email address. It's also, by the way, okay to just reach out to me personally. Happy to answer your questions, and any other things you may want to know about signing or supporting the Barcelona Declaration.

00:58:41:11   I also want to recognize that, for some organizations, it's not easy to make a decision about signing an initiative like the Barcelona Declaration. And that's understandable. It is a significant step to take. So, of course, organizations need to do considerable internal kind of, decision making and all of that. So sometimes we have organizations that say like, "well, we feel we are not at the moment ready to sign up to this.

00:59:10:16   although we kind of like it, and probably next year or so, we can sign." If your organization is like that, you're also welcome to join our community. So the working groups also provide a space in which organizations and individuals that are not yet formally part of the Barcelona Declaration community in the sense of being signatories or supporters, are still very welcome to take part in community discussions.

00:59:36:14   So that's the invitation I would like to make. I will put down my slides, and back to Colleen.

Colleen Campbell

Thank you so much. Ludo, Miranda, this has been just such an informative presentation. So thank you very, very much for your time and thought that you put into it.

- End -

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