Implementing a National Open Access Agenda in Ireland

Patricia Clarke,
Senior Policy Analyst
Health Research Board
Gathering existing expertise

rían.ie PATHWAYS TO IRISH RESEARCH

Introduction
rían.ie is the Irish national open access portal which currently harvests metadata from the repositories of eight higher education institutions to make Irish research material more freely accessible. The aggregation of this open access content represents a significant dissemination of the results of Irish research.

Metadata is harvested via OAI-PMH and then normalised before being presented in a consistent manner through a clearly agreed metadata standards ensure accurate searching of approximately 17,000 full text records. The funders browse options made to research by various funders and has been attracting much attention. Publicly accessible statistics on the competitive edge between contributing institutions while administrator reports provide useful feedback on the most cutting authors. A unique distributed administration system allows local institutional repository (IR) managers complete other functions through an easy-to-use user interface. IR managers can suspend harvesting or force a full harvest at a time.

rían.ie began as an investigation into institutional repositories by the Irish Universities Association (IUA) Librarians’ Group in 2005. In 2006, the group successfully applied for support from the Irish Government’s ‘Strategic Innovation Fund’ and was awarded €1.6 million, half of it to be found in matching funding. The project was run between 2007 and 2010 by the seven Irish university libraries with support from the IUA. It is intended to extend the harvest to other Irish research institutions as rían.ie develops.

Showcasing Irish research excellence and sharing open access to Irish research publications
“Coordinate activities and combine expertise at a national level to promote unrestricted, online access to outputs which result from research that is wholly or partially funded by the State”
National Membership

- **Funders**: HRB, SFI, HEA, IRC, Teagasc, Marine Institute, DAFM, and EPA

- **Researchers**: IUA, HSE, IOTI, DIT, WIT, RCSI, DKIT

- **Library and repository**: CONUL, RIAN IUALG, Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI), Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

- **Expert Individuals**
Phased approach

1. Broaden infrastructure coverage beyond universities
2. Increase number of publicly funded publications made available
3. Use OA to develop a national picture – funding acknowledgements and value-added metrics
4. Promote OA to any underlying research data and materials
5. Develop sustainable long-term solutions
Consultation

National Principles for Open Access

New and updated institutional policies
National Principles for Open Access Policy Statement

- Definition of Open Access

Reaffirm:

- Freedom of researchers
- Increase visibility and access
- Support international interoperability, link to teaching and learning, and Open Innovation
Defining Research Outputs

“include peer-reviewed publications, research data and other research artefacts which feed the research process”
General principles (1)

- All researchers to have deposit rights for in an OA repository

Deposit

- post-prints/ publishers version & metadata
- peer-reviewed journal articles and conference publications. Others where possible
- at time of acceptance for publication
- in compliance with national metadata standards
General principles (2)

- Release
  - immediate for meta-data
  - Respect publishers copyright, licencing and embargos (not normally exceeding 6 months/12 months)
- Green route policy – but not exclusive
- Suitable repositories
- Research data linked to publications
High-level principles

Infrastructure and sustainability
- Depositing once, harvesting, interoperability and long-term preservation

Advocacy and coordination
- Mechanisms for and monitoring of implementation, awareness raising and engagement for ALL

Exploiting Open Access
- Preparing metadata and national value-added metrics
Signatories (Jan 2013)
Implementation

• A statement on the achievements
• Baseline analysis
• General principles for research publications
• General principles for research data
• Infrastructure and sustainability
• Advocacy and coordination
• Exploiting OA
• Resourcing OA
Thank you

Dr Patricia Clarke
Senior Policy Analyst
Health Research Board
pclarke@hrb.ie