University of Essex

Open Research Position Statement

A. Purpose of the Statement

1. The mission of the University is one of excellence in education and research, for the benefit of individuals and communities. Our aim is to produce new knowledge from research that is open and conducted with integrity, carried out by researchers who are ambitious creative and collaborative.

2. The University is committed to undertaking high quality research in an environment of high standards of research integrity, governance, and good practice. We seek to operate an open research environment, enabling access to, and sharing and replication of, our research. The University is committed to disseminating its research and scholarship as widely as possible to contribute to society as well as to academic advancement.

3. This Statement summarises our commitment and approach to Open Research. We explain what it is and why it is important. Our statement is informed by external frameworks, including the YERUN Statement on Open Science and the Concordat on Open Research Data, and is underpinned by more detailed University policies on Open Access, Publications, Research Data Management and Research Integrity.

4. Research should be 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary'. Some research outputs cannot be openly available due to ethical, legal, or commercial restrictions.

B. What is Open Research?

5. The terms 'Open Research' and 'Open Science' are often used interchangeably to talk about openness and transparency within the whole research life cycle. The University has adopted the term Open Research because this is more inclusive.

6. Open Research is a set of principles and practices which aim to make the outputs of research freely accessible and usable, maximising the possibility of public benefit. Consideration should be given to the best route to achieve public benefit, and development of commercial propositions may be necessary to enable partners to facilitate dissemination of output [*link to commercialisation strategy*].

7. Open Research is relevant to all researchers, although the applications will vary according to discipline and research context.

8. The basic principles of open research are:

   - To make publications available open access.

   - To make underlying data relating to publications openly available.

   - To share protocols and methodologies.

   - To share software and code.

   - To share negative results to prevent unnecessary repetition of research.

   - To establish rights for (archival) source material to be digitised and shared where possible.

   - To apply appropriate licences to open material e.g. Creative Commons.

   - To use persistent identifiers consistently throughout e.g. DOI and ORCID, to aid discoverability and re-use.

   - To exploit online tools to aid collaboration including blogging, social media, altmetrics, pre-print servers.

   Many of these principles of Open Research are increasingly aligned with the priorities of funders, research organisations and academic publishers, and with the expectations of the public.

C. Benefits of Open Research

9. For some researchers, practicing open research is already second nature. Others may feel it adds another stage to the research process, but there are significant benefits for both researchers and the research community. However, not everything can or should be made openly accessible, and the communication of results should not be at the expense of research quality or the researcher's own interests.

10. Practicing open research:

    - demonstrates that research is robust

    - helps other researchers to reproduce results

    - helps other researchers to avoid repeating research

    - ensures that researchers retain access to their own work in the long term

- enables faster dissemination and impact, helping to raise researchers' profiles

- extends the reach and impact of research outside academia

- increases opportunities for collaboration

- increases chances of citations.

D. Expectations of our Researchers

11. The University expects that all researchers will observe the highest standards of research integrity as set out in the <u>Research Integrity statement</u> and <u>Code of Good Research Practice</u>.

12. Researchers have the freedom to choose the most appropriate means to disseminate research outputs and data (in all its forms); but within that free choice, we encourage research outputs and accompanying data to be made 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary'.

13. The University expects its researchers to be open with other researchers and the public regarding their work and promote the open exchange of ideas and information. This may include:

- Ensuring all outputs are Open Access where possible, i.e. outputs should be discoverable, and free to read, download and search within, by anyone with an internet connection.

- Making the underlying data relating to publications openly available where it is appropriate and possible.

- Using collaborative approaches including blogging, online editions, releasing teaching materials and pre-print deposit, where appropriate.

- Ensuring Open Research requirements are considered when costing a research project and throughout the project lifecycle.

- Acting in accordance with the expectations of research funders, and within at least the minimum thresholds set by regulatory bodies. For example: <u>Plan S</u>, the <u>UKRI Open Access Policy</u>, <u>UKRI's Common Principles on Research Data</u>, the <u>Wellcome Trust Open Access Policy</u> and <u>Horizon 2020</u>.

14. We encourage our research community to explore the possibilities and benefits of using open practices in their research, to discuss their needs with us and to draw on the available support.

E. Support for Open Research

15. Support is provided by the <u>Research and Enterprise Office</u> and the <u>Library and Cultural Services</u>. It includes the University's <u>Research Information System (RIS)</u>, <u>Research Repository</u>, <u>Research Data Repository</u>, help with funding for <u>publishing gold Open Access</u> and training, particularly through our Network for Early Career Essex Researchers (<u>Newcomers</u>).

16. Please contact us at <u>repository@essex.ac.uk</u> or <u>ressup@essex.ac.uk</u> if you want to know more about Open Research at the University and the support available.

Title	Open Research Position Statement
Version number	1.0
Authors	Sarah Manning-Press, Research Governance and Planning Manager; Jim Jamieson, Institutional Repository Manager Jonathan White, Assistant Director: Academic and Research Services Hannah Pyman, Scholarly Communications Co-ordinator
Owner	Dr Rob Singh, Director of the REO Catherine Walsh, Director of Library and Cultural Services
Approved by	Research Committee, March 2022 Senate, April 2022
Effective date	May 2022
Date of last review	Reviewed three yearly or after major policy changes. Next review January 2025
Document status (after approval)	Published
Document classification	Public
Questions and queries	Email <u>sarahm@essex.ac.uk</u>
Relevant policies and guidelines	Visit our website at: https://www.essex.ac.uk/staff/research-governance