

OR2020 Presentation Submission

15th International Open Repositories Conference, June 1st–4th in Stellenbosch, South Africa

A reminder that the theme for OR2020 is “Open for All”. We particularly welcome submissions that reflect the conference theme and answer questions focused on how well repositories support knowledge in the service of society, enable local knowledge sharing and support not only academic use but also use in education and practice. 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: Supporting Open Access in Scotland through institutional repositories

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Abstract

The 2019 CWTS Leiden statistics show 3 Scottish institutions in the Top 10 and 4 in the top 15 in Open Access. This presentation will focus on brief case studies of 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 Scotland’s Open Access journey from 2004 to today through the experience and expertise of these institutions and the support of the Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries (SCURL). This journey will include the conditions of their local environments, key drivers and a mix of approaches for success, choice of platform(s) and the challenges, at an institutional level in embedding open repositories. These case studies taken together will demonstrate the drive to ensure Scotland’s research is “Open for All” and further enable the global impact for research undertaken in Scottish institutions.

Keywords

- Open Access
- Policies
- Declarations
- Research Culture

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. These include University Librarians and Directors, Repository Managers, Policy Makers and Funders.

Proposal

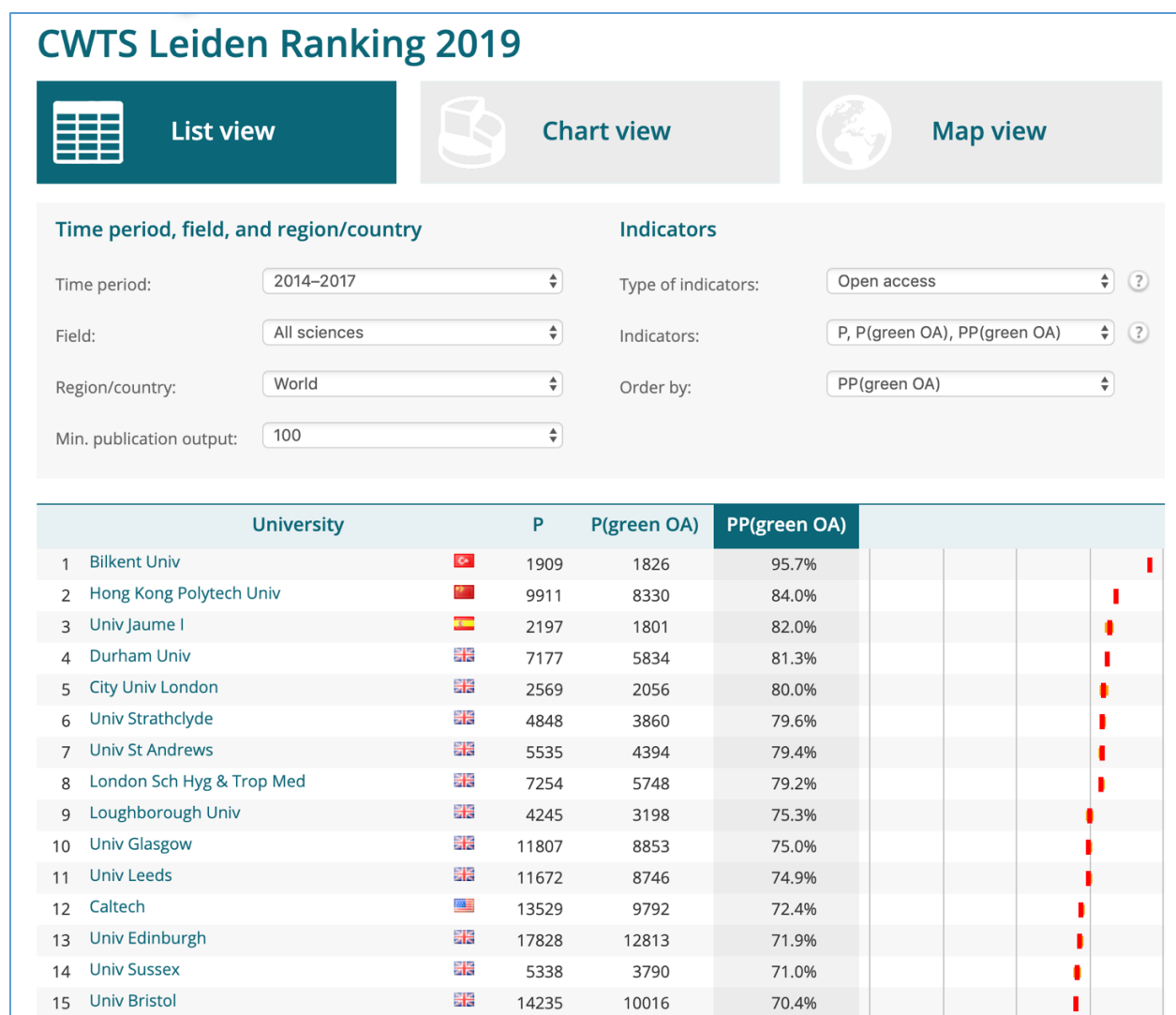
Introduction

The 2019 CWTS Leiden statistics show 3 Scottish institutions in the Top 10 and 4 in the top 10 in Open Access. ⁱ This presentation will focus on the experience of three of those Scottish institutions and their institutional repository services as a demonstration of a wider national commitment to Open Access. It will highlight the opportunities for national collaboration and co-ordination across these institutions and the wider Scottish higher education sector.

2019 CWTS Leiden for Open Access

The 2019 CWTS Leiden ranking (2014-17) using Open access as the type of indicator, Green as the Indicators and PP(green OA) – the proportion of green open access publications of a university – show 3 Scottish universities in the Top 10, 4 in the Top 15. They are

- (6) University of Strathclyde
- (7) University of St Andrews
- (10) University of Glasgow
- (13) University of Edinburgh



Analysis of these rankings 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”ⁱⁱ provides further context and comments on how impressive these results are for Scottish, and more widely British universities.

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. 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.

Open Access Scotland Group

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 co-ordinating Open Access in Scotland is 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.”^{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. These case studies taken together will demonstrate the drive to ensure research undertaken in Scotland is "Open for All".

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. These, along with shifts in policy like Plan S and those from funders provide new opportunities for the wider Open Repositories community to be "Open for all".

References

ⁱ CWTS Leiden Ranking 2019, Open Access, <https://www.leidenranking.com/ranking/2019/list> [Last accessed: 20th January 2020]

ⁱⁱ Scottish (and British) Unis doing a good job at making their research outputs openly available, Pablo de Catro, Open Access Scotland Group Blog, May 2019, <https://oascotland.wordpress.com/2019/05/17/scottish-and-british-unis-doing-a-good-job-at-making-their-research-outputs-openly-available/> [Last accessed: 20th January 2019]

ⁱⁱⁱ Scottish universities sign open access deal, Guardian, 14th March 2005 <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2005/mar/14/highereducation.uk> [Last accessed: 20th January 2020]

^{iv} Open Access Scotland Group, <https://oascotland.wordpress.com> [Last accessed: 20th January 2020]