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Workflows and key messages to enable Open Research

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Session Type (select one)

- ☐ ~~Panel~~
- ☐ Presentation ✓

Abstract

The movement towards more open research has significant impact on the culture and practice of all disciplines. Researchers are increasingly expected to consider the end user's ability to reuse data[1-3] and scholarly publications[4-7] by sharing these outputs through repository systems.

The approach of the University of St Andrews Library (Digital Research Division) is to consider the needs of researchers holistically and provide a joined up support service for Research Data Management and Open Access. We use a Research Information System (Pure) to present a single interface to researchers for recording and depositing all research outputs. The combination of import sources, synchronized data, connected repository, web services and customized portal are employed to maximize visibility of data and publications, while presenting a seamless experience for researchers.

This paper will describe how we develop workflows that can be communicated through key messages, easily remembered by researchers, and mapped to existing research lifecycles. Workflows can be tailored to disciplinary needs, for example using existing metadata from subject-repositories already used by researchers. We will describe a range of solutions that include staff in the Library and School offices providing different levels of mediation, and the benefits of an overall joined up approach.

Conference Themes

Select the conference theme(s) your proposal best addresses:

- ☐ Supporting Open Scholarship, Open Data, and Open Science ✓
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- ☐ Integrating with the Wider Web and External Systems
- ☐ Exploring Metrics, Assessment, and Impact

- ☐ Managing Rights
- ☐ Developing and Training Staff ✓

Keywords
OA and RDM workflows, Open Research, CRIS.

Audience
Repository managers, librarians, research administrators

Background
The focus of this paper is on the experience of researchers during a potentially disruptive transition to a scholarly environment built on shared data[1-3] and Open Access[4-7]. We look at how repository/CRIS infrastructure can provide the basis for a process and an embedded support system that can in turn enable the transition to more open ways of distributing outputs. In our experience researchers are happy to embrace 'openness' provided they understand the rationale behind it, have some evidence of the benefits, and crucially have the support and infrastructure to make it achievable.

Presentation content
In the presentation we will highlight the strength of the joint approach between Research Data Management and Open Access teams.

We will also expand on the individual steps of the workflows illustrated in Figure 1. For example: an alternative method of import using ArXiv tailored to the needs of the School of Physics and Astronomy and cases where datasets are stored elsewhere.

The presentation will show examples of cross-linked content within the CRIS and how this can help exposing related items.

We will outline the roles involved in the workflows and the journey to develop and implement them across the University.

The role of the Open Access Good Practice Pathfinder projects will be described to show how collaborations with other universities helped us develop models of support.[8]

Finally, we will present the positive outcomes discussing the issues and challenges.

Institutions, research administrators and librarians looking for practical examples and case studies could be interested in our flexible process as it can be adapted to their needs and those of their researchers.

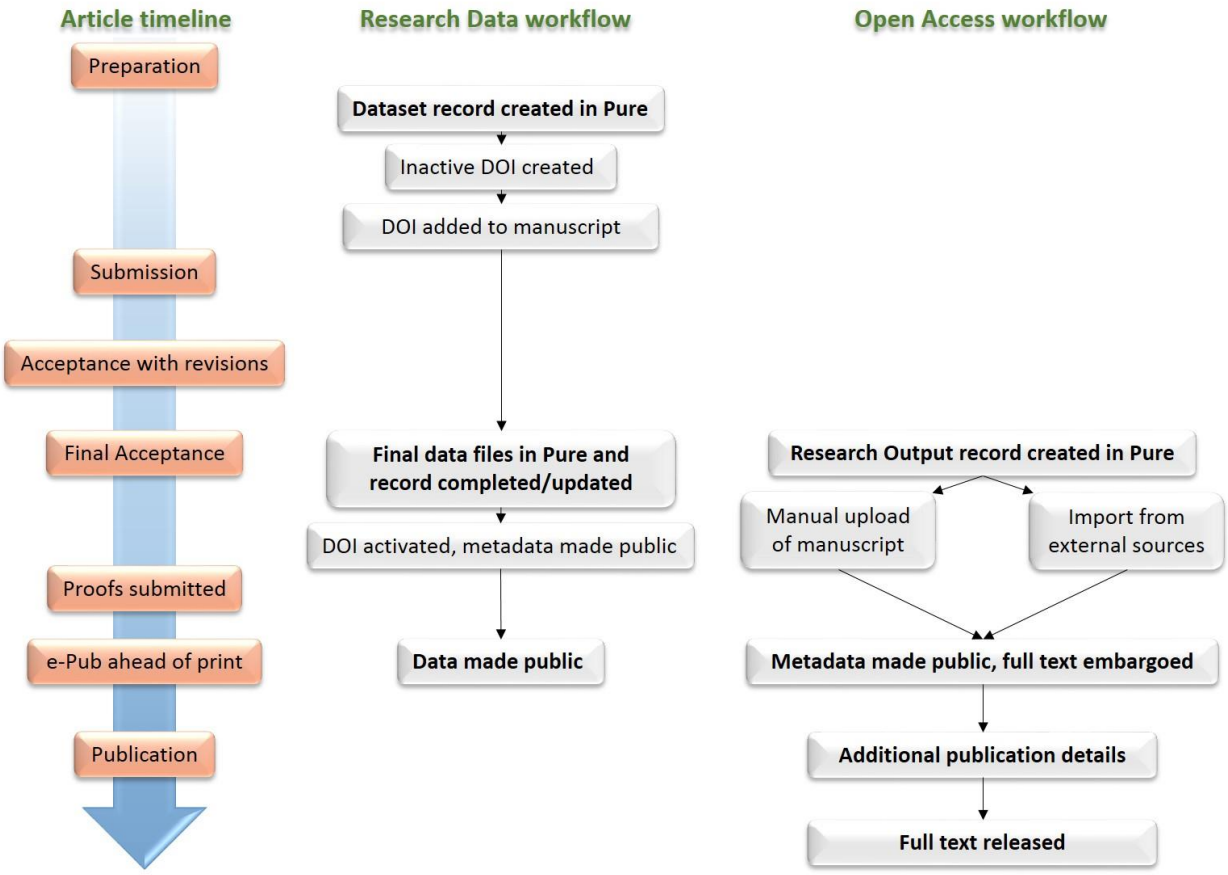

Figure 1 Flowchart illustrating both RDM and OA workflows referenced against the article publication process that researchers are familiar with.

Conclusion

In order to help bringing research outputs to light it is important to frequently review existing processes and have a constant dialogue with researches. In summary:

- Researchers need a simple message and a process/workflow that they can reference against existing ones;
- Both RDM and OA workflows must be flexible to be adapted to the needs of different Schools/disciplines but also of individual researchers;
- There are benefits in using a single interface to capture both research outputs and data;

- The workflows tasks can be distributed to school office administrators employing the right knowledge and skills at the right place and time;

- Additionally this distributed model allows for more effective communications when needed.

References

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