

COAR - Annual Report 2013/14

(September 2014)

I. Strategy and outreach

COAR has been participating actively in repository related activities internationally and is becoming increasingly recognized as a key player in the scholarly communication environment.

Membership recruitment: With a fivefold reduction in membership fees (from 2500 Euros to 500 Euros), COAR must recruit a significant number of new members to maintain current levels revenues. Therefore, a major focus for 2013-2014 has been to increase the visibility of COAR internationally.

To this end, COAR has taken a four-pronged strategy: (1) Actively move forward work at COAR that is valuable for the repository community; (2) Ensure that COAR has a presence at major conferences, meetings and other related activities and that COAR's work is promoted widely; (3) Liaise and work with organizations with common objectives or principles; and (4) Actively recruit new member institutions through letters of invitation and direct contact. In terms of direct invitations, several geographic areas and countries were targeted this past year: China, Spain, North America as well as through specific events in Africa - in addition to contacting those individuals who have expressed interest in COAR in the past.

Aligning Repository Networks: In March 2013, COAR convened a meeting to develop a strategy to better align regional repository networks. At this meeting, delegates from Australia, Canada, China, Europe, Latin America and the United States identified several key elements that will be addressed immediately and agreed to work together on an ongoing basis on other issues to further align their repositories.

Strategically, Aligning Repository Networks will give the repository community a stronger global voice and raise the visibility of the role of repositories as critical research infrastructure. It will act as leverage for

local initiatives and demonstrate that networks are aware of and operate consistently with international trends. Practically it will allow repository networks to discuss and adopt best practices for metadata standards, vocabularies and services and support the development of value added services on top of a global repository network.

Aligning repository networks activities will extend the existing work being done in COAR. COAR will launch a Strategic Committee for Aligning Repository Networks, which will act as a forum for exchange of information between repository networks and identifying priorities. In



Ī



addition, with input from the Strategic Committee, COAR is developing strategies for the implementation and take-up of priorities by the regional networks.

A first concrete outcome from the initiative Aligning Repository Networks initiative is the release of a statement on embargo periods, along with a number of other international associations including EIFL, LIBER, National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences, OpenAIRE and SPARC. The purpose of this statement was to counteract the growing publishing lobby pushing for longer embargo periods.

COAR has been engaging in other international discussion about strategic issues related to repositories. COAR together with LIBER (the Association of European Research Libraries) and the EU-project Open-AIRE (Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe) offered recommendations to the European Commission regarding the development of an effective Open Data pilot within the context of the new research framework programme "Horizon 2020" in July 2013. In February 2014, COAR provided comments on the NISO's draft Open Access and Metadata Indicators Recommended Practice, supporting efforts to harmonize the expression of open access and re-use rights for publications and specifically highlighting the benefits of a common approach to these indicators across the entire scholarly community.

2. Annual Meeting

Each year, COAR holds a General Assembly, which is one of the most important opportunities for discussion and decision-making at COAR. The 2013 Annual Meeting took place on May 7th & 8th, 2013 in Istanbul and was hosted by Özyegin University.

New members introduced themselves via a Pecha Kucha session and all attendees were invited to contribute to a poster. In his keynote speech Microsoft Research's Vice President Tony Hey stressed the growing momentum for open access and emphasized the important role that repositories play in supporting OA implementation. As well, the meeting included presentations and hands-on tutorials covering trends, best practices, and repository projects from all around the world. Topics of the tutorials were:

- CRIS IR Interoperability (Anna Clements University of St Andrews, the UK, euroCRIS Board Member – Executive for Communications)
- Author persistent identifiers (Titia van der Werf OCLC, Pablo de Castro UK RepositoryNet+ Project, EDINA, The University of Edinburgh, ORCID Technical Steering Group Member)
- Addressing institutional data management (Robin Rice EDINA, UK)
- Impact metrics services and repositories as usage data providers (Jochen Schirrwagen University of Bielefeld, Germany).

All presentations of the meeting are available on the website.





To give the meeting and the association more visibility worldwide it was decided to hold the next Annual Meeting in conjunction with another big conference. This year the Annual Meeting took place together with the OpenAIRE project during the joint conference "Open Access: Movement to Reality - Putting the Pieces together" on May 21 & 22, 2014 at the Acropolis Museum in Athens, Greece. To fit into the overall programme, main features, like the call for papers, a poster award or Pecha Kucha presentations had to be left out. However, a number of workshops, meetings of the Strategic Committee and the Executive Board complemented the programme.

3. Executive Board and working groups

Executive Board

The Executive Board takes a lead on major strategic discussions reflecting the areas of activity in COAR and its membership. Members of the Executive Board have presented COAR at various international conferences and events (see table below) and support member organizations in their strategic developments. As such, the introduction of the national OA policy in Argentina in November 2013 was supported by COAR.

Members of the Executive Board come together in meeting on a three-months-turn. Face-to-face meetings were held twice. Additionally, Board members met with the Strategic Committee on 8 May 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey. The Strategic Committee encompasses the chairpersons of the Working Groups, representatives from the regions, members of the Executive Board, the Executive Director and the Head of Office. The central topic of discussion in Istanbul and following weeks was how to outreach and campaign for COAR membership.

Key decisions: The Executive Board meets every three months. Members participate in all key decisions of the organization, offer general guidance on strategy and activities; and review membership applications, MoUs and any formal relationships with other organizations.



Budget: The Executive Board oversees the COAR budget to ensure that COAR achieves a balanced budget. This is challenging given the membership fee reduction and therefore we are also looking at some bridge funding to assist us until we gain sufficient new members to cover COAR's operating budget.

Membership recruitment: The Executive Board members are each individually active in our various regions in terms of membership recruitment and we work hard to raise the visibility of COAR in this context. This includes representing COAR at conferences and major events in those regions.

Working Groups, Interest Groups and Task Forces

COAR aims to ensure that our activities are directly relevant to the interests and challenges of our member organizations. As such, COAR has shifted its focus in activities, moving away from working in the context of the large working groups towards working in smaller groups. This has proven to be a more effective way of making progress on the topics and issues brought forward by members. The larger working groups now act as broader topic umbrellas and consultation groups for the work undertaken within these smaller groups.

A brief summary of each COAR group and their recent activities are listed below:

Working Group I: Repository Content (chair: Silvia Nakano, MINCyT, Argentina)

In June 2013, WGI published a report documenting sustainable practices for populating repositories, <u>Incentives</u>, <u>Integration</u>, <u>and Mediation</u>: <u>Sustainable Practices for Population Repositories</u>. The profiles were gathered from organizations across the globe, and represent a mixture of approaches involving the introduction of incentives; integration of the repository with other institutional services; and/or mediation of the deposit process. In October 2013, the report was translated <u>into Spanish</u> and is available on the COAR website.

Open Access Agreements and Licenses Task Force (chair: Kathleen Shearer, COAR, Canada)

The task force has been monitoring, evaluating and promoting the implementation of effective open access agreements and licenses in order to improve access to research papers globally. In October 2013, they produced a report, Open Access Clauses in Publishers' Licenses – Current State and Lessons Learned.

Repository Impact and Visibility Interest Group (chairs: Wouter Schallier, ECLAC, Chilé; Silvia Nakano, MINCyT, Argentina; Jeff Mixter, OCLC, USA)

This recently launched interest group will be exploring existing approaches for maximizing repository visibility as well as develop new and innovative strategies for the various targeted user groups for adoption by repositories around the world. The group has identified 3 areas of work in the coming year: Linked data, metadata optimization, and marketing the repository.

Working Group 2: Repository Interoperability (chairs: Eloy Rodrigues, U Minho, Portugal; Syun Tutiya, DRF, Japan)

This group has been focusing its work on the interoperability roadmap described below, but also stands by where needed to provide important input about issues of interoperability where needed, In particular, input from the WG was crucial in preparing a COAR response to the NISO draft open access and metadata indicators and the background information for the Aligning Repository Networks meeting.



Interoperability Roadmap (chair: Friedrich Summann, U Bielefeld, Germany)

COAR Interoperability Project enters the next stage of a process aiming to establish the COAR Roadmap for Future Directions for Repository Interoperability, trying to maximize the use and reuse of existing guidelines and best practices. The Roadmap will identify and prioritize emerging issues and trends for future repositories interoperability as key component of the wider e-infrastructure for research and education. To date, the internal Editorial Roadmap group has derived a list of the relevant interoperability issues out of this and then has prepared a questionnaire. An expert advisory panel has reviewed and prioritized the issues; the editorial board is reviewing this feedback and the COAR Interoperability Roadmap will be published in the near future.

Usage Data and Beyond Interest Group (chairs: Daniel Beucke, U Goettingen, Germany, Paul Needham, Cranfield U, UK)

This interest group has been reviewing existing and emerging article level metrics with the aim of identifying a common set of metrics that can be adopted across repositories, enabling the community to compare statistics across repositories. The interest group is working closely with the COUNTER initiative to contribute to the maintenance of a "robot list". It also plans to identify and recommend a set of standard usage measure for repositories internationally.

Controlled Vocabularies for Repository Assets Interest Group (chair: Jochen Schirrwagen, U Bielefeld, Germany)

A controlled vocabulary ("info:eu-repo") was developed by the DRIVER and OpenAIRE initiatives for European repositories and has been widely used in the repository landscape in Europe and beyond. The vocabulary is now being hosted by COAR and the interest group will maintain the repository and attempt to widen its applicability for global use. The group will review other existing vocabularies and identify strategies for adopting common elements and mapping across vocabularies where appropriate.

Working Group 3: Training and Education (chairs: Iryna Kuchma, EIFL, Ukraine; Ikuko Tsuchide, DRF, Japan)

The focus of this group during the past year has been the Joint Task Force on Librarians' Competencies below. The group will continue its work at this Task Force in the future.

Joint Task Force on Librarians' Competencies in support of e-Research and Scholarly Communication (chair: Iryna Kuchma, EIFL, Ukraine)

This joint task force between COAR, ARL, CARL and LIBER has been outlining the competencies needed by librarians. As a first step, three competency profiles have been developed in the area of research data management, scholarly communication, and digital humanities librarian. Several other profiles are also planned: digital preservation, digital curation and digital repository managers. Clearly there are important overlaps between these new roles and the next step will be to map to the competencies across the research lifecycle, identify common competencies and develop recommendations.



Other Groups

RDA Long Tail of Research Data Interest Group (chairs: Wolfram Horstmann, U Oxford, UK; Najla Rettberg, U Goettingen, Germany; Kathleen Shearer, COAR, Canada)

This group, which is managed under the auspices of the Research Data Alliance, was launched by COAR in conjunction with LIBER and OpenAIRE. The group has been identifying best practices for managing the "long tail" of research data. To date, the group has been exchanging information about current practices, undertaken a survey of discovery practices in the long tail context, and will publish shortly some recommended practices for improving discovery of research data.

Repository Observatory (chair: Alicia López Medina, UNED, Spain)

The COAR Repository Observatory identifies trends and future scenarios in the context of the use of repositories in research and education, to help open access repositories to anticipate and respond the constant state of rapid evolution. The <u>second edition</u> of the Repository Observatory focused on linked data, including: "7 things you should know about...linked data"; a profile of the EconSTOR repository; an interview with Richard Wallis, a Technology Evangelist at OCLC; and links to other resources.

4. Office

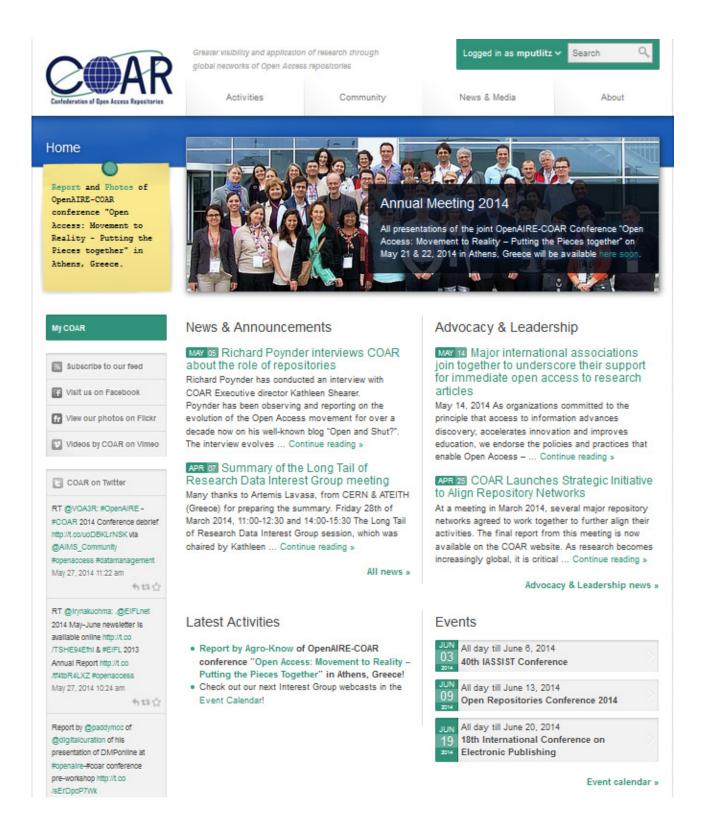
On June 1, 2013, Kathleen Shearer, Canada became the Executive Director of COAR, taking over from Alicia Lopez Medina (UNED, Spain) who stepped down. The COAR office is based in Goettingen, Germany on the premises of Goettingen State and University Library. The team consists of Katharina Mueller (Head of Office), and Maxie Putlitz (event organization and communications) and Elif Dogan (until mid-December 2013, administration and marketing). As of May 2014, the overall staff adds up to 1.4 Full Time Equivalent. Besides working together on a long-distance-basis, a team meeting of Executive Director, office, and local colleagues took place in Goettingen in December 2013.

Executive Director and Office staff are a permanent component of COAR. They facilitate and maintain the ongoing activities of the governance committees, working and interest groups and ensure the daily management of the organization. Ongoing tasks encompass the membership management, financial administration, marketing and communications as well as organization of events or support for conferences. During 2013/2014, focus was set on membership recruitment and organisational development.

5. Marketing and communications

The <u>COAR website</u> is one of the major mechanisms for distributing information and promoting activities marketing and must be continually updated to meet the evolving needs and technical requirements. In the beginning of 2013, the website had a complete makeover and was relaunched in early May, just before the Annual Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey.





Besides the new look & feel, the homepage has a new structure and design. In the slider on the top are previews of substantial topics that are relevant to the association and our community. The boxes below give notice of the latest news regarding general announcements, leadership and advocacy, from the Work-



ing Groups and of forthcoming events. We also added an <u>event calendar</u> where dates and descriptions of upcoming conferences, workshops etc. will be announced. On the bar on the left side our Twitter Feed and links to our Social Media sites can be found.

Also new is the structure of the general navigation. Main topics of COAR Working and Interest Groups as well as information about advocacy and leadership are now in the section "Activities", membership-related topics and events in the section "Community", news and dissemination materials in the section "News & Media" and all topics related to the association itself in the section "About".

Moreover, in early 2014 the new member-login was launched, which allows members and partners to create own expert-profiles", communication with other members, creation or edition of events, particular pages and news items or to see special documents that are stored in the members area.

Some of the web pages, especially the ones that explain important themes, like the frequently asked questions, general information about COAR or the benefits of joining the association have been translated into other languages, like Chinese and Spanish. A multilingual theme for the website has been prepared and will be implemented in the near future.

The COAR newsletter has been published quarterly in four editions in 2013. The format of a document of 6 to 8 pages with news about the Working and Interest Groups, new members, from the regions, COAR Executive Board and Office were maintained. With the launch of the members-only section of the COAR website, where the newsletter was stored from this moment on, a digest of the newsletter was published additionally to provide information about important topics, i.e. the lowered membership fee also for non-members.

As for the social media channels the COAR Twitter feed has currently 276 tweets, 924 followers and is following 256 users (state of May 13, 2014). In addition to the already existing COAR Facebook group, which has 194 members the association has its own Facebook page, which has 131 likes (state of May 13, 2014).

As part of marketing activities printed materials have also been created. Posters were presented as follows:

Date	Conference/Meeting	Who?
June 13th - 14th, 2013	Digital Poster Presentation at the 17th International Conference on Electronic Publishing, Karlskrona, Sweden	Aina Svensson, Ulf Kronman
June 19th - 21st, 2013	Poster Presentation at the 8th OAI Workshop on Innovations in Scholarly Communication, Geneva, Switzerland	Katharina Müller
June 26th - 28th, 2013	Digital Poster at the 5th African Conference for Digital Scholarship & Curation 2013, Durban, South Africa	Dale Peters
September 16th - 18th, 2013	Poster Presentation of Long Tail of Research Data Interest Group at RDA Second Plenary Meeting, Washington D.C., USA	Kathleen Shearer



	Poster at the 16th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD 2013), Hong Kong	Takayuki Manaka
October 1st - 2nd, 2013	Poster presentation Open Access Days 2013, Hamburg, Germany	Daniel Beucke
	Spanish poster presentation "Incentives, Integration, and Mediation: Sustainable Practices for Population Repositories" at BIREDIAL 2013, Costa Rica	_
· ·	Poster presentation at Knowledge Exchange (KE) workshop "sustainability of OA services"	Birgit Schmidt





Supporting the membership campaign, which started in autumn 2013 a postcard has been created, which displays the benefits of joining COAR. Furthermore a new leaflet will be created in 2014.

COAR Sponsorship of Open Repositories 2013 and SPARC Open Access Meeting: Given the strong overlap in objectives and topics, COAR provided sponsorship for these two events.

6. Membership

From the beginning of COAR, membership has increased over the years and membership recruitment has been a central activity in 2013/2014. 17 institutions from Argentina, Belgium, Canada, China, Cyprus, Ecuador, France, Luxembourg, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, UK, and USA joined the association during the past months, an increase of more than 10 percent.



Based on the decision at the General Assembly in Istanbul 2013, the membership fees are significantly lowered from January 2014 on. This was designed in order to lower the barrier and make it possible for a larger number of institutions to join COAR. At the same time the complex composition of different membership types (full single members, group membership, consortium membership, each with different conditions, voting rights and fees) was simplified and group membership has been removed.

Following from these changes, a membership campaign was the main topic at the meeting of the Strategic Committee in Istanbul and was launched at the end of summer in 2013. For this, a benefits statement and invitation letter (in English and Spanish) have been composed and distributed. A number of member institutions have taken an active lead on dissemination in their countries and networks. Where feasible, materials have been produced in different languages: Besides the mentioned documents in Spanish, a postcard is available in Turkish, some pages of the website are translated to Chinese and a section of the website contains links to descriptions and /or webpages about COAR in Hungarian, Spanish, Danish, Portuguese, and Turkish.





7. Conferences, Meetings & Presentations

The COAR Executive Board and Director as well as COAR members and partners have presented COAR at various international conferences and events (see table below). It supported various members and partners in strategic issues, in particular in the Latin American region.

Date	Conference/Meeting	Who?
May 13th - 14th, 2013	EuroCRIS Meeting, Bonn, Germany	Najko Jahn, Daniel Beucke
May 22nd, 2013	Webinar: Towards the Universality of Open Access, Spanish	Eloy Ro- drigues
May 28th - 31th, 2013	Panel on the International Perspective on Open Access Repositories at IASSIST 2013, Cologne, Germany	Jochen Schirrwagen
June 26th - 28th, 2013	Presentation at the 5th African Conference for Digital Scholarship & Curation 2013, Durban, South Africa	Dale Peters
July 8th - 12th, 2013	Workshop "Institutional Repositories Dealing with Data: What a difference a 'D' makes!" at Open Repositories conference 2013, Charlottetown, Canada	Robin Rice, Kathleen Shearer
August 19th - 21st, 2013	4th International PKP Scholarly Publishing Conference, Mexico City, Mexico	Kathleen Shearer
September 9th - 10th, 2013	euroCRIS Strategic Seminar, Brussels, Belgium	Friedrich Summann
September 23rd - 26th, 2013	Presentation at the 16th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD 2013), Hong Kong	Takayuki Manaka
October 9th - 10th, 2013	Presentation at ARL Membership Meeting, Washington D.C., USA	Kathleen Shearer
October 15th, 2013	Open Access: Practices, Opportunities and Challenges, Breakfast Workshop of the European Commission, Brussels, Belgium	Alicia Lopez Medina
October 21st - 22nd, 2013	Presentation at 2nd National Open Access Workshop, Izmir, Turkey	Gültekin Gürdal
October 21st - 25th, 2013	Webinar Presentation at the Argentinian Open Access	Kathleen



	Week, Buenos Aires, Argentina	Shearer
November 19th - 20th, 2013	Berlin 11, Berlin, Germany	Norbert Los- sau
November 20th - 21st, 2013	UNESCO Regional Consultation on Open Access, Berlin, Germany	Norbert Los- sau
November 29th, 2013	Presentation at the launch of the national network, Buenos Aires, Argentina	Kathleen Shearer
March 3rd - 4th, 2014	SPARC Open Access Meeting 2014, Kansas City, USA	Kathleen Shearer
March 11th, 2014	Presentation at "Opening science to meet future challenges" conference, Warsaw, Poland	Iryna Kuchma
March 20th - 21st, 2014	Aligning Repository Networks Meeting, Rome, Italy	Executive Board, Direc- tor, repre- sentatives of regions
March 26th - 28th, 2014	3rd RDA Plenary Meeting, Dublin, Ireland	Kathleen Shearer, Bir- git Schmidt
March 31st - April 1st, 2014	Presentation of Task Force on Librarians' Competencies at CNI Spring 2014 Membership Meeting, St. Louis/Missouri, USA	Pascal Calar- co, Judy Rut- tenberg
April 3rd, 2014	FAO AIMS webinar on COAR	Kathleen Shearer
April 18th - 20th, 2014	Keynote at ANKOSLink Conference 2014, Antalya, Turkey	Kathleen Shearer
April 24th - 30th, 2014	Panel participation at AUC Open Access Days, Cairo, Egypt	Iryna Kuchma
May 13th - 15th, 2014	Presentation at euroCRIS 2014 Conference, Rome, Italy	Pablo de Cas- tro
May 19th - 20th, 2014	Keynote at 3rd LIBER Workshop, Vienna, Austria	Norbert Los- sau



8. Publications

COAR Working Group I "Repository Content": <u>Incentives, Integration, and Mediation: Sustainable Practices for Populating Repositories</u>, 2013

COAR Working Group I "Repository Content": Incentivos, Integración y Mediación: <u>Prácticas Sostenibles</u> para poblar Repositorios, 2013

Open Access Agreements and Licenses Task Force: <u>Open Access Clauses in Publishers' Licenses – Current State and Lessons Learned</u>, 2013

Pablo de Castro, Kathleen Shearer, Friedrich Summann: <u>The gradual merging of repository and CRIS solutions to meet institutional research information management requirements.</u> CRIS2014, May 2014

Other

<u>Interview with Kathleen Shearer</u> about the Joint Task Force on Librarians' Competencies in Support of E-Research and Scholarly Communication, American Libraries Magazine, issue Nov/Dec 2013

Argentinian Senate passes law requiring Open Access – Interview with Dr Alejandro Ceccatto, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation: https://www.coar-repositories.org/news-media/argentinian-senate-passes-law-requiring-open-access/, Dec. 2013

also translated into Russian: Секкато Алехандро Политика Open Access в Аргентине // Научная периодика: проблемы и решения. — 2014. — No I. — c. 5-6. — http://nppir.ru/article/8809/

Blog "Open and Shut?" by Richard Poynder - Interview with Kathleen Shearer, Executive Director, http://poynder.blogspot.co.uk/2014/05/interview-with-kathleen-shearer.html, May 2014

Report written by Kathleen Shearer, Katharina Müller, Maxie Putlitz September 2014