



Confederation of Open Access Repositories

*Working towards a sustainable, global knowledge commons based on a network of
open access repositories*

COAR Annual Report 2019-2020 – Public Version

**March 2020
Version for members**

<http://coar-repositories.org>

Table of Contents

I Introduction	3
2 Programmatic Activities.....	4
2.1 Strategic Direction I	4
2.2 Strategic Direction II	5
2.3 Strategic Direction III	7
2.4 Strategic Direction IV	
2.5 Strategic Direction V	11
3. Organisation & Governance	
4. Dissemination Activities	
Appendix I: Governance and Staffing 2018/19	19

I Introduction

COAR is an international association with over 150 members and partners from around the world representing libraries, universities, research institutions, government funders and others. COAR brings together individual repositories and major repository networks in order to build capacity, align practices, define future functionalities, and act as a global voice for the repository community.



Working for a sustainable, global knowledge commons based on a network of open access digital repositories



Five strategic directions guide COAR's activities:

- I. Advocate for the role of a sustainable and distributed network of open repositories as the foundation of a global knowledge commons
- II. Provide support for the open repository community and build local capacity for the development and management of repositories and repository networks
- III. Define and promote alignment and interoperability across repositories, repository networks, and between repositories and other systems and platforms
- IV. Advance the adoption of new behaviours, technologies and roles for repositories and repository networks
- V. Increase the sustainability and effectiveness of the organization and strengthen the COAR brand

Programmatic Activities

COAR's programmatic activities for 2019-2020 were organized according to the five strategic directions:

1.1 Strategic Direction I

Advocate for the role of a sustainable and distributed network of open repositories as the foundation of a global knowledge commons

Presentations and Keynotes

COAR representatives participate in numerous conferences, events and sessions related to the open science, open access, and repositories. In particular, the COAR Executive Director, Chairman and other Executive Board members delivered presentations about the high level vision of COAR and the work we are doing to progress this vision internationally in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas. A complete list of presentations is available at the end of the end of the report.

Bibliodiversity and repositories

The transition to open access and open science presents an opportunity to develop strategies for fostering greater diversity in scholarly communication; what the Jussieu Call refers to *bibliodiversity*. Bibliodiversity, by its nature, cannot be pursued through a single, unified approach, however, it does require a strong coordination in order to avoid a fragmented and siloed ecosystem. Repositories are an important part of a diverse scholarly communications landscape because they can support local management and dissemination of research outputs, allowing local needs to define priorities. To raise awareness of COAR the importance of diversity, COAR has convened a small group of experts to draft a briefing paper that outlines these issues, and will be useful for promoting the adoption of policies and funding and evaluation practices that support diversity.

International Repository Directory

As we work to create a robust, trusted and interoperable network of repositories around the world, COAR recognizes that a comprehensive and accurate source of information about repositories is becoming increasingly important. An authoritative international repository directory will allow us to develop better services on top of repositories, can be used for the purposes of communications and advocacy, and will give us a deeper understanding of the repository landscape. In November 2019, COAR launched a task group, with two sub-groups to define an operational, funding and governance model for an international repository directory with the aim of improving the quality and inclusiveness of existing services.

(Data) Repository Assessment Criteria

In order to expand and strengthen the current infrastructure for research data management, we need to ensure that repositories are using best practice and are interoperable with repositories internationally. While there is an existing certification schema for repositories, called the CoreTrust Seal that outlines "Trustworthy Data Repositories Requirements", the requirements set a very high bar and many repositories will not be able to comply with them in the near or medium-term future. Therefore, using the CoreTrustSeal as a condition for repositories to be recognized in RDM policies or funding proposal will end up excluding the vast majority of repositories and inhibit the growth and development of the infrastructure needed world-wide. In February 2020, COAR launched a working group to assess the current frameworks for relevance in various communities and regions, and if needed, develop a set of benchmarks/good practices for repositories that can be used as an assessment tool to ensure repositories are using best practices. The tool will be developed and validated by repository experts around the world.

COAR / Plan S

On October 7, 2019, COAR announced that it would work with Coalition S to support the implementation of guidelines for repositories outlined in Plan S. [cOAlition S](#) is a group of (mainly European) public and private charity research funders who want to accelerate the transition to open access through the adoption of a common strategy, called Plan S, that will require full and immediate Open Access to peer-reviewed scholarly publications resulting from the research they fund beginning in 2021. One of the routes for complying with Plan S is for authors to make the final published version or the Author's Accepted Manuscript openly available in a Plan S compliant repository. While some of the specific technical requirements of Plan S will entail extra effort for some repositories, these requirements can for the most part be addressed by the community. A joint work plan has been developed to help assess the ease of adoption of Plan S requirements by repositories and work together to address any challenges. Work began in early 2020, including undertaking a survey of the major repository platforms, promoting adoption of Plan S metadata requirements, and working with cOAlition S to raise awareness of perspectives and positions of different regions.

1.2 Strategic Direction II

Provide support for the open repository community and build local capacity for the development and management of repositories and repository networks

Webinars

COAR continued its webinar series with one interactive event showcasing some of the discovery services for repository content. These webinars, some for members only and some for the public, are a mixture of virtual presentations and facilitated discussions about important issues for COAR members. A detailed list of webinars is available at the end of the report.

Training Activities

COAR contributed to training events in different regions.



Tunisia: On April 26-28, 2019 in Tunis, Tunisia, co-organized with ASREN (Arabic States Research and Education Network). This interactive workshop provided an opportunity for participants to discuss their challenges related to open access and share solutions being applied locally. The ASREN countries are very diverse and there is no universal solution for all countries in the region, however, several valuable shared priorities surfaced during the workshop: a federated discovery system for the region, similar to LA Referencia in Latin America, that would bridge access across repositories and other content providers from the region enabling a one-stop search interface; increasing the value of Arabic content by improving its visibility and discoverability; shared content hosting platform; and advocacy, training, and strong communities of practice. National and institutional policy templates have also been shared and discussed, based on OpenAIRE policy templates, available at [LIBSENSE website](#).

Costa Rica: In October 2019, COAR participated in 2 workshops in San José, Costa Rica. The first workshop was mainly focused on technical collaboration between OpenAIRE and LA Referencia to share information about network services, new technologies and policies and practices. The second was a workshop jointly organized by COAR and Duraspace/Lyrasis and focused on providing support for DSpace users in Costa Rica and Latin America. The DSpace platform is used by 80% of repositories in Latin America.

National Aggregator Working Group There is a growing number of national repository networks around the world. These networks aggregate metadata from repositories and other data sources and provide a number of services including tracking open access content, discovery of national research outputs, standardized usage statistics, and more. Aggregators can also act as an important mechanism to bring together the national community of repositories to help adopt good practice, define policies, and develop a shared vision for

repositories. The group will meet virtually bimonthly and undertake work (when identified) in between meetings. COAR will also convene an in-person meeting of national and international networks and aggregators in conjunction with the COAR Annual Meeting.

1.3 Strategic Direction III

Define and promote alignment and interoperability across repositories, repository networks, and between repositories and other systems and platforms

COAR has been making steady progress towards greater alignment of repositories and repository networks. Much of this work is undertaken as part of the OpenAIRE projects, funded by the European Commission. COAR is the lead organization for Work Package, “Global OA Scholarly Communication Infrastructure” in the OpenAIRE Advance Project. Some of this effort involves advocacy and promotion and advocacy (covered earlier in this report). Other activities are summarized below:

Meeting of Repository Networks On May 21, 2019 COAR convened a meeting of repository networks to discuss services and technologies of networks around the world. Repository networks aggregate the metadata and (sometimes content) from repositories and increasingly offer value added services such as integrating resources, discovery and tracking of research outputs, text and data mining, and assessment of usage and impact of research outputs. While different aggregator services have different users and varying objectives and scopes (e.g. some are regional and national, while others are international), they tend to use common technologies and methods. The meeting enabled networks to share their challenges and solutions with each other. Because the quality of these services is built on metadata, the quality of metadata remains an issue. COAR also organized a workshop specifically focusing on metadata to discuss how we can collectively balance interoperability related to metadata, while still supporting a variety of local, national and regional requirements.

COAR Controlled Vocabularies The COAR Controlled Vocabulary Editorial Group continued to work on translations of the “Resource Type” and “Access Rights” vocabularies. They are now available in 7 languages and have also been adopted into the OpenAIRE Metadata guidelines. This year, the COAR vocabularies are being migrated to another hosting organization and COAR staff are working with the chairpersons of the Controlled Vocabularies Editorial Group to identify the most appropriate solution.

Quality Metadata Working Group In February 2020, COAR has launched a working group to develop resources that will help repositories compare, contrast and choose the most appropriate metadata elements for their specific requirements. The metadata schemas or application profiles which will be in scope of this work will have the following characteristics: They are used in more than one repository; They have broad applicability: domain-specific metadata schemas and profiles may be in scope, but only where they are widely used; They are developed, maintained and documented in an open process.

OpenAIRE Advance - Bilateral Projects COAR acts as the facilitator and go-between for several bilateral projects between OpenAIRE and other regional and national networks (or proxies) to adopt common standards, exchange and enhance metadata across networks, and collaboratively develop interoperable network services.

Africa: COAR has been participating in the LIBSENSE project, which is led by WACREN (West and Central African Research and Education Network). LIBSENSE is an initiative aimed at developing collaborations between libraries and research and education networks (RENs) in Africa to support open science. LIBSENSE is being progressed through a series of workshops in different regions in Africa, in conjunction with the annual meetings of the regional RENs. Several resources have been produced by the LIBSENSE Project to date and are available on the LIBSENSE website. Currently the partners are working to design a better web presence and provide more detailed information about the various activities in different African countries.



Latin America: LA Referencia is an important stakeholder for COAR as it represents nine national repository networks in Latin America, and provides a mechanism for engaging with the repository community in that region. LA Referencia will be participating in several aspects of the OpenAIRE Advance project: Common usage statistics between Europe and OpenAIRE, Broker-as-a-service, and capacity building/training activities. While these activities will be launched in 2019-2020, LA Referencia has been planning for these events through technical development. They have also been developing a strategy for the adoption of OpenAIRE guidelines version 4 in Latin America.

Canada: This project involves OpenAIRE aggregating metadata (and full text) from Canadian repositories and other information providers (publishers, international repositories and Crossref), to provide a comprehensive view (knowledge graph) of research outputs in Canada and support the tracking and monitoring of compliance with the three largest funders open access policies. The service will integrate with OpenAIRE infrastructure in order to: (i) provide its content as part of the European aggregation, and (ii) collect enrichments (e.g. links to projects, links to datasets) and (iii) enhance the local Canadian knowledge graph. COAR has been working with the Canadian Association of Research Libraries to help to prepare the Canadian data providers to be ready for the OpenAIRE service which will be ready in 2020. In December 2019, the three major Canadian research funders (referred to as the Tri-agencies), formally endorsed the project and will be working with CARL to provide OpenAIRE with an authority list of names of Canadian funders and define a more standard vocabulary for identifying each agency in metadata of research outputs.

2.4 Strategic Direction IV

Advance the adoption of new behaviours, technologies and roles for repositories and repository networks

Next Generation Repositories

COAR has been working with members, regional groups and other stakeholders to promote the vision of next generation repositories at relevant conferences, meetings and other events, with a special emphasis on the use case of distributed peer review/assessment on repository resources. In addition, the NGR [Expert Group](#), made up of a subset of members of the Next Generation Repositories Working Group, continues to monitor new and emerging technologies to assess their relevance for repositories.



Inviting community input – Pubfair

COAR is inviting community feedback on a white paper authored by Tony Ross-Hellauer, Benedikt Fecher, Kathleen Shearer and Eloy Rodrigues. The white paper, entitled Pubfair – A Framework for Sustainable, Distributed, Open Science Publishing Services, provides the rationale and describes the ...

Pubfair

In September 2019, COAR posted a paper “Pubfair: A Distributed Framework for Open Publishing Services”, authored by Tony Ross-Hellauer, Benedikt Fecher, Kathleen Shearer, and Eloy Rodrigues. Pubfair is a conceptual model for a modular, distributed open source publishing framework which builds upon the content contained in the network of repositories to enable the dissemination and quality-control of a range of research outputs including

publications, data, and more. The 1st version of the paper was published using comments press and the community was invited to provide input and comments. We received and reviewed over 25 comments from community members and there was a lot of very useful and valuable feedback which was incorporated into the revised version. One of the major revisions was to try to re-articulate Pubfair as a framework (rather than a platform). That is, to describe Pubfair as a distributed content layer, connected to a variety of diverse assessment and dissemination services. This is more in-line with the architecture envisioned through the NGR work. The revised version is available on the COAR website. COAR is continuing to work with the NGR Expert Group and other partners on profiling and implementing technologies and protocols that will enable us to implement Pubfair and other overlay models.

Overlay journals and distributed peer review on repositories

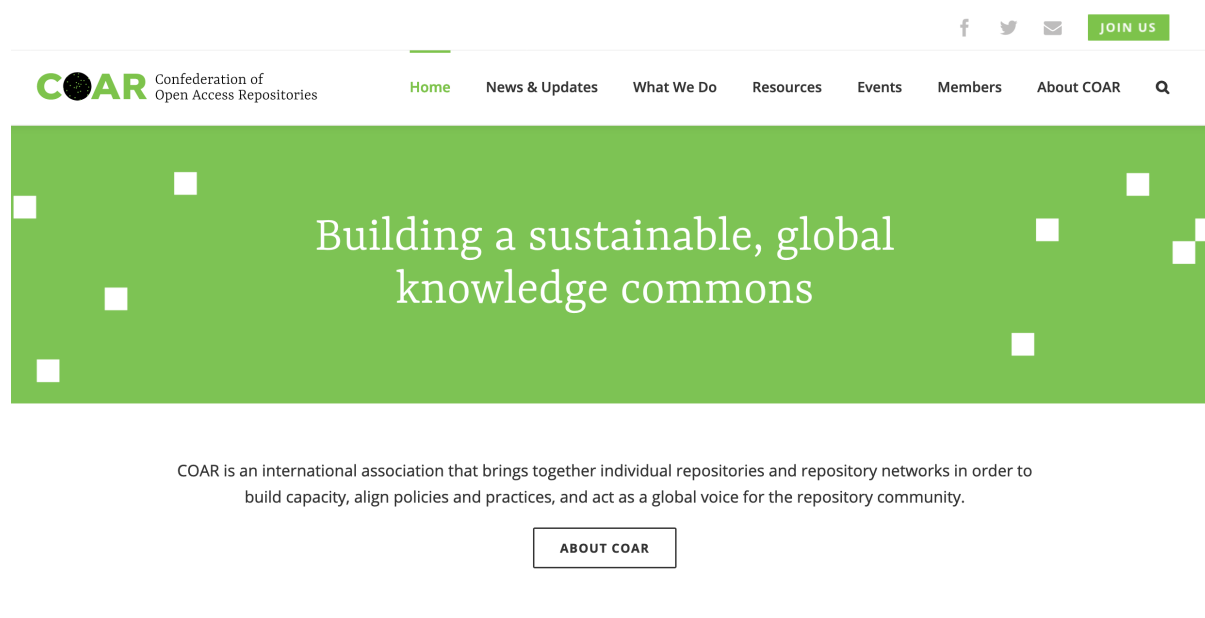
On January 23-24, 2020, COAR (Confederation of Open Access Repositories) convened a meeting to investigate the potential for a common, distributed architecture that would connect peer review with resources in repositories. The aim of the meeting, hosted by Inria in Paris, France, was to share the current workflows of various projects and systems that are managing or developing overlay peer review on a variety of different repository types (institutional, preprint, data, etc.), and assess whether there is sufficient interest in defining a set of common protocols and vocabularies that would allow interoperability across different systems. The outcome of the meeting was a consensus by participants to work together to further specify the proposed architecture, through detailing the use cases, developing a common model, and further profiling the technologies.

Next Generation Library Publishing Project

COAR is a partner in a 3 year, Arcadia-funded project called, “Next Generation Library Publishing” that was launched in September 2019. The aim of the project is to develop a framework and open source tools that connect repositories with publishing functionalities. It is an opportunity to flesh out in more technical detail one of the Next Generation Repositories user stories related to peer review layer on repositories. The project is funded by Arcadia—a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin, led by Educopica, California Digital Library, and STRATOS. The main contribution of COAR to the project was to undertake the technical scan of publishing and dissemination platforms. The scan was undertaken in the fall / winter of 2019/2020 and will be made publicly available sometime in the spring of 2020. The project leads are currently doing extensive consultations with library publishers and other stakeholders to identify the needs of the community, which will eventually be translated in functional requirements and requests for proposals to develop the new tools for scholarly publishing.

2.5 Strategic Direction V

Increase the sustainability and effectiveness of the organization and strengthen the COAR brand



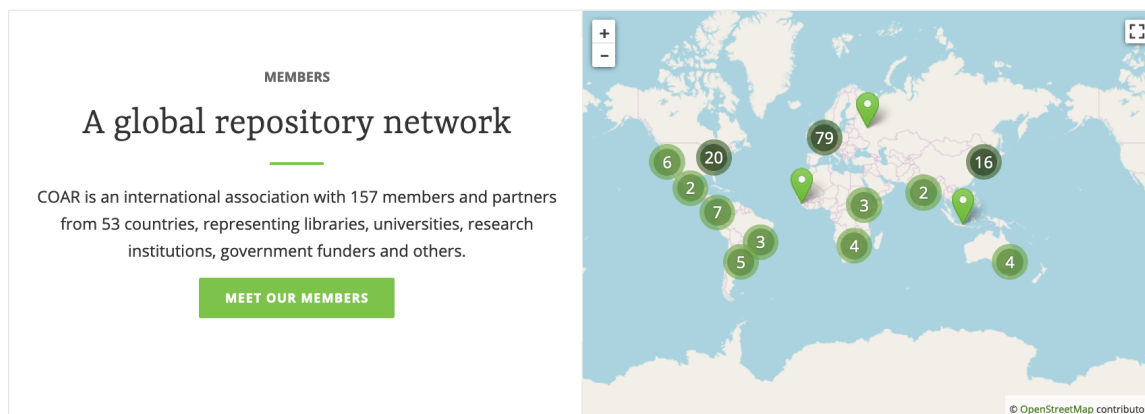
New COAR website and branding

COAR published a new logo in summer 2019, and launched a new website in fall 2019. The new wordpress website provides an easier user experience for visitors of the COAR website, through simplified navigation across news items and major activities. In addition, it is more visually appealing, using more images and modern fonts.

Increase in COAR Membership Fees

In 2019, the COAR membership fees were raised to 750 EURs and will remain so for the next several years. In addition, organizations that are able to pay an additional fee of 2000 EURs or more, on top of the 750 EURs, will become “Supporting Organization” and will receive special recognition for their support on the COAR website as well as up to 2 free registrations for the COAR Annual Meeting. The aim is to reduce reliance on external granting funding and ensure greater sustainability of the COAR organization so that we can deliver value to members.

3 Organisation & Governance



COAR would like to especially thank our supporting members who contribute to COAR's sustainability by providing extra funding beyond membership fees. Current supporting members of COAR are:



3.1 Memberships and Partnerships

In the 2019-2020, COAR had 9 new institutional members from eight different countries (Australia, Sierra Leone, USA, France, Austria, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Serbia) joined since April 2019, three of them as a special member. At the same time, two institutions ended their membership at the end of 2019.

The number of partners has grown, with the agreement with WACREN and RDA to be actively engaged in COAR activities and be aligned with COAR through:

- Common goals and values
- Working together on specific activities
- Certain benefits to COAR

At the General Assembly 2018 members voted to add a new type of membership: supporting organizations, for institutions that are able to pay an extra 2000€ or more on top of the 750€ annual fee. In March of 2020, we had one supporting organization, Harvard University.

	Full single members	Consortia (# of institutions)	Special members	Supporting organizations	TOTAL	Partners
April 2019	120	2 (20)	2	1	142	6
March 2020	123	2 (19)	5	1	148	8

Table 1 Development of Membership April 2019 – March 2020**New members since the General Assembly 2019:****Individual members**

Centre pour la communication scientifique directe (France)
 Ithaka S&R (United States)
 Graz University of Technology / Library and Archives (Austria)
 Université de Strasbourg (France)
 University of Belgrade (Serbia)
 UNSW Sydney Library (Australia)

Special members

Consortium of Ethiopian Academic and Research Libraries (Ethiopia)
 University of Sierra Leone (Sierra Leone)
 Zimbabwe Universities Libraries (Zimbabwe)

3.2 Executive Board

The Executive Board takes the lead on major strategic decisions regarding the activity areas of COAR as well the overall responsibility for the organization and its finances. A focus of discussions during the past year has been to move the Next Generation Repository vision to implementation, as well as ensuring greater financial sustainability of the organizations. The Executive Board meets every two or three months via teleconference with one face-to-face meeting during the COAR Annual Meeting. During 2018/2019, one face-to-face Executive Board meeting took place on 15 May 2018 in Hamburg, Germany.

Eloy Rodrigues from University of Minho, Portugal has been COAR Chairman since October 2015 and we re-elected as Chairman for another 3-year term in 2018. Eloy has been an active participant in COAR since its inception in 2009 and offers a wealth of experience with repositories and open access. He is known and respected around the world and brings a valuable strategic perspective about the role of repositories in the future of scholarly communication.

Other members of the Executive Board are Kazu Yamaji, Vice Chairman (National Institute of Informatics, Japan), William Nixon, Treasurer (University of Glasgow, United Kingdom), Bianca Amaro (IBICT, Brazil), Wolfram Horstmann from (Göttingen State and University Library, Germany), Oya Rieger (Cornell University, USA), Daisy Selematsela (UNISA, South Africa), and Martha Whitehead (Queen's University, Canada) who all contribute their considerable experience, regional perspective and diverse outlooks to COAR.

The current Executive Board is in its first year and will continue until summer of 2021.

3.3 COAR Office

The main administrative activities of COAR are managed by the University of Minho in Portugal. While the legal seat and permanent contact point of COAR remains in Göttingen, in Göttingen, Germany. The Library in Göttingen continues to manage the legal affairs of COAR through in-kind contributions.

3.4 Personnel

COAR currently has approximately 1.75 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) in total staffing, split over several persons and locations. Kathleen Shearer is Executive Director, working from Montreal, Canada; Ilkay Holt provides works with Controlled Vocabularies and Quality Metadata groups, manages the COAR webinar series and provides support for communications and the annual meeting. Carla Marques, based at the University of Minho is responsible for administrative aspects of COAR and Paul Walk acting as a technical consultant for COAR.

3.5 Funding

COAR receives funding from the following sources:

- Membership fees
- European Commission
- Arcadia Project: Next Generation Library Publishing Project
- Fundraising: Voluntary contributions
- Registration fees
- Benefits in Kind

Membership fees: All regular members contribute through the annual fee of 750 EURs. Invoices are sent to members in the 1st quarter of the year. A small number of supporting members pay an additional fee of 2000 EURs. Funding through membership fees supports the permanent functioning of the association and represents about two-thirds of the annual budget.

European Commission: COAR continued its participation in the OpenAIRE Advance project, which is funded by the European Commission. This project will end at the end of 2020, with final funding provided in 2021.

Arcadia Project: Next Generation Library Publishing Project: COAR is a partner in this project, which began in September 2019 and will run until the end of December 2021. COAR receives most of the (modest) funding from this project between September 2019 - August 2020.

Fundraising: Voluntary contributions: On a non-regular basis, COAR also receives financial contributions from the partner institutions or other organizations, either as subsidies and/or for specific programme activities. In 2019/2020, COAR received financial and organizational support for the Annual Meeting from CCSD in France, SPARC North America, the University of Alberta Libraries.

Registration fees: Some of the costs of the Annual Meeting 2019, hosted by CCSD in Lyon, France were covered through registration fees of participants.

Benefits in Kind: Several institutions provide significant staff time in contributing to the different activities of COAR. Especially generous contributions have been made by the members of the COAR working groups, CCSD in France for hosting the Annual Meeting in 2019, CONCYTEC and UPC for hosting the Annual Meeting in 2020, Göttingen State and University Library, and University of Minho, Portugal for providing rent-free office space and infrastructure.

3.6 Annual Meeting



The 10th COAR Annual Meeting took place last year in Lyon, France. This was the most well-attended COAR meeting to date, with about 110 participants from over 40 countries. The meeting was an opportunity to take stock of progress related to several of COAR's major strategic objectives including aligning repository networks, next generation repositories and interoperability between repositories and publishing services. There were several pre-meeting workshops. Session topics for the main meeting included collaborations across networks, bridging domain and institutional communities, layering peer review on top of repositories, and research data management. The Keynote speakers were John Willinsky, from the Public Knowledge Project and Marin Dacos, Frances Open Science Advisor. COAR's 11th Annual Meeting, planned to take place in Lima Peru, was cancelled due to the covid-19 pandemic.

4. Publications and Dissemination Activities

4.1 Webinars

November 25, 2019: [Getting up to Speed on Repository Discovery and Deposit Services](#) by Heather Piwowar (Our Research), Peter Kraker (Open Knowledge Maps) and Joseph McArthur (Open Access Button).

All COAR webinar recordings are available on the [COAR Website](#).

4.2 Publications

Kathleen Shearer, Ilkay Holt, Paul Walk. *Roadmap for internationalization of metadata guidelines and vocabularies: OpenAIRE Deliverable 5.2*. Confederation of Open Access Repositories. September 2019. Available: <https://www.coar-repositories.org/files/Metadata-Roadmap.pdf>

Tony Ross-Hellauer, Benedikt Fecher, Kathleen Shearer, and Eloy Rodrigues. *Pubfair A distributed framework for open publishing services. Version 2*. Confederation of Open Access Repositories. November 27, 2019. Available: <https://www.coar-repositories.org/files/Pubfair-version-2-November-27-2019-2.pdf>

Tony Ross-Hellauer, Benedikt Fecher, Kathleen Shearer, y Eloy Rodrigues. *Pubfair: Un marco de referencia distribuido para servicios de publicación abiertos. Versión 2*, 27 de noviembre de 2019. Traducido en español por Gonzalo L. Villarreal (PREBI-SEDICI, Universidad Nacional de La Plata and CESGI, Comisión de Investigaciones Científicas), 12 de diciembre de 2019. Disponible: <https://www.coar-repositories.org/files/Pubfair-version-2-November-27-2019-espanol-2.pdf>

Eloy Rodrigues. *Revitalising the role of universities in scholarly communication*. Expert Voices. European University Association. February 17, 2020. Available: <https://www.eua.eu/resources/expert-voices/150-revitalizing-the-role-of-universities-in-scholarly-communication.html>

4.3 Infographics

- [Good Practice Principles for Scholarly Communication Services](#)

4.4 Meetings and Presentations

The COAR Executive Director, Executive Board, members and partners have presented COAR at various international conferences and other events (see table below). It supported various members and partners in strategic issues and COAR priorities.

Date	Conference - Location	Presentation title	Speaker
2019, April	LIBSENSE II Workshop, Accra, Ghana	LIBSENSE II Workshop	Iryna Kuchma, Omo Oaiya, Kathleen Shearer, Kazu Yamaji
2019, April	LIBSENSE III Workshop, Tunis, Tunisia	LIBSENSE III Workshop	Iryna Kuchma, Omo Oaiya, Kathleen Shearer
2019, May	COAR Annual Meeting and General Assembly	Numerous presentations	
2019, June	Open Repositories 2019, Hamburg, Germany	Enhancing and connecting repositories in Africa NREN-library collaboration.	Omo Oaiya, Iryna Kuchma, Kathleen Shearer
2019, June	Open Repositories 2019, Hamburg, Germany	Adoption of NGR technologies - status update.	Kathleen Shearer, Lars Holm Nielsen, Dom Fripp, Paul Walk, David Wilcox, Andrea Bollini
2019, June	Open Repositories 2019, Hamburg, Germany	A conceptual model for building publishing services on top of a distributed network of repositories.	Eloy Rodrigues and Kathleen Shearer
2019, June	Open Repositories 2019, Hamburg, Germany	Adding value to repositories through overlay journals.	Courtney Matthews, Oya Rieger, Kathleen Shearer, Martha Whitehead
2019, June	Open Repositories 2019, Hamburg, Germany	Panel discussion: Plan S and the future of open access repositories	Kathleen Shearer, et. al.

2019, June	Northeastern Institutional Repository Day. Boston, US	Open is not enough! Sustainability, inclusiveness, and innovation in scholarly communication.	Kathleen Shearer
2019, July	Open Access Meeting of Intergovernmental Organizations, Geneva, Switzerland.	Open is not enough! Sustainability, inclusiveness, and innovation in scholarly communication.	Kathleen Shearer
2019, September	Austrian Library Association. Graz, Austria	Rethinking the role of repositories in the future of academy-owned scholarly communication.	Kathleen Shearer
2019, September	Open Science Fair. Porto, Portugal.	Synergies for Sustainable, Open and Responsible Research.	Martha Whitehead
2019, October	Force 11. Edinburgh, Scotland	Building a global coalition to “flip” to community-based infrastructure for open access.	Kathleen Shearer
2019, October	LA Referencia Technical Workshop and Council Meetings. University of Costa Rica, San Jose, Costa Rica	Various Presentations	Alberto Cabezas, Paolo Manghi, Natalia Manola, Lautaro Matas, Kathleen Shearer, Eloy Rodrigues
2019, November	Berlin Open Access Debates. Berlin, Germany	Berlin Open Access Debates.	Kathleen Shearer
2019, December	OpenAIRE Meeting. Paris France	Report on WP5: Global OA Scholarly Communications Infrastructure.	Kathleen Shearer
2020, January	Meeting to define architecture for distributed peer review on repositories. Paris, France	Meeting to define architecture for distributed peer review on repositories	Kathleen Shearer, Eloy Rodrigues et. al.

Table 2 - Presentations made by COAR Executive Director, Executive Board, members and partners at various international conferences and other events.

Appendix I: Governance and Staffing 2019/2020



Executive Board

Eloy Rodrigues, University of Minho, Portugal (Chairperson)
Kazu Yamaji, National Institute of Informatics, Japan (Vice Chairperson)
William Nixon, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom (Treasurer)
Bianca Amaro, Instituto Brasileiro de Informação em Ciência e Tecnologia, Brazil
Wolfram Horstmann, Göttingen State and University Library, Germany
Oya Rieger, Cornell University, United States
Daisy Selematsela, University of South Africa, South Africa
Martha Whitehead, Harvard University Library, United States

Staff

Kathleen Shearer (Executive Director)
Ilkay Holt (Consultant)
Paul Walk (Consultant)
Carla Marques (Office Manager)

COAR Community Groups

Controlled vocabularies

This group aims to develop and maintain controlled vocabularies for repositories to enhance the interoperability across repositories and with other related systems such as harvesters, CRIS systems, data repositories and publishers.

[see recent activities >](#)

Next generation repositories (NGR) expert group

This group aims to work towards the implementation of NGR technologies, helps with profiling use cases, and continues to monitor the environment for new technologies.

We are currently not accepting new members of this group.

[see recent activities >](#)

Research data management (RDM)

The aim of this group is to help the repository community expand their operations to support RDM. The group provides a forum for discussion about managing research data, identify best practices and strategies, and support capacity building for RDM in the repository community.

[see recent activities >](#)

National aggregators

There is a growing number of national repository networks around the world. These networks aggregate metadata from repositories and other data sources and provide a number of services including tracking open access content, discovery of national research outputs, standardized usage statistics, and more. This group focuses on the exchange of information and experience across national networks.

(Data) Repository assessment framework

In order to expand and strengthen the current infrastructure for research data management, we need to ensure that repositories are using best practice and are interoperable with repositories internationally. While there are other existing certification schema for repositories, they are not always relevant for institutional repositories or the requirements set a very high bar and many repositories will not be able to comply with them in the near or medium-term future. The aim of this group will be to assess the current frameworks for relevance in various communities and regions, and if needed, develop a set of benchmarks/good practices for repositories that can be used as an assessment tool.

Engagement strategy for quality metadata

The aim of this group is to undertake several activities that will contribute to improving the quality, comprehensiveness and alignment of metadata in repositories internationally. While there are other efforts to improve scholarly metadata, this working group specifically targets the repository community by working with regional networks and other regional associations, who have more direct access with the local organizations managing repositories

Asia OA

Asia OA is a special forum hosted by COAR in which members of the Asian open access community can share information, meet each other and build relationships. It has a mailing list and organizes meetings to facilitate greater exchange beyond national boundaries. It celebrates Asian cultural diversity and unique way of doing things. The aim is to support information sharing through a mailing list and organize regular in-person meetings in Asian countries.

[see recent activities >](#)

International repository directory

A comprehensive and accurate directory of repositories is an increasingly important service for repositories and other stakeholders. In order to adopt policies, undertake advocacy, and develop effective services on top of repository content, the community need an authoritative (accurate, comprehensive, up-to-date) source of information about repositories. This group aims to help define the operational and governance aspects of an international repository directory in order to improve existing IRD services.

We are currently not accepting new members of this group.