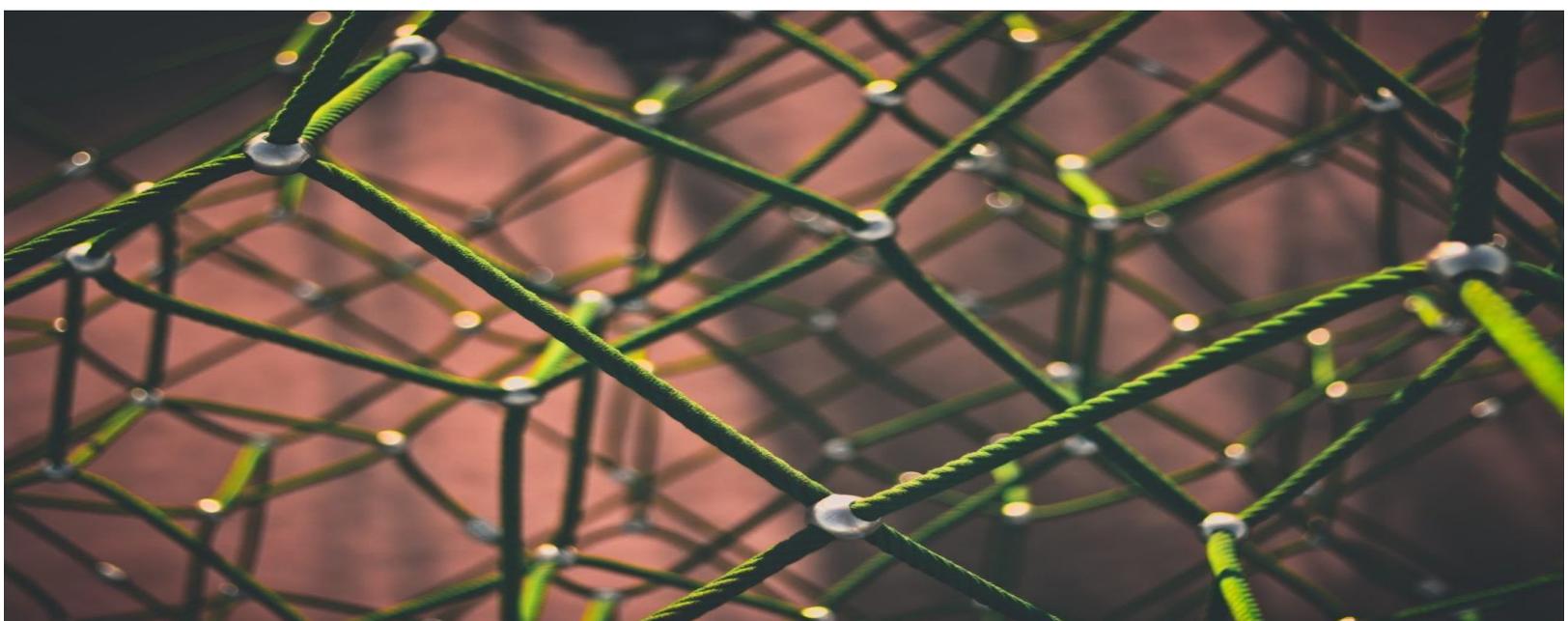# COAR Confederation of Open Access Repositories

COAR Strategy 2019-2021 and Work Plan 2021

November 9, 2020

*Underpinning all COAR activities is the notion that a distributed repository network can play a fundamental role in advancing the principles of **diversity, equity**, and **inclusion** in scholarly communications*

COAR Strategy 2019-2021

The Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR) is an international association with over 150 members and partners from around the world representing libraries, universities, research institutions, government funders, repository networks and others. COAR brings together individual repositories and repository networks in order to build capacity, align policies and practices, and act as a global voice for the repository community.

Collectively, repositories form a sustainable foundation for a global knowledge commons that preserves and provides access to diverse and valuable research outputs (articles, data, etc.), in support of open scholarship, thereby advancing new discoveries, the social and economic impacts of research, and scientific transparency.

Vision

A sustainable, inclusive, and trusted global knowledge commons based on a network of open access digital repositories

Mission

To enhance the visibility and application of research outputs through a global network of open repositories based on international collaboration and interoperability

Strategic Directions 2019-2021

To realize our mission and advance our vision, COAR will focus on community, leadership and engagement at the international level.

Five strategic directions will guide COAR's activities:

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

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

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

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

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

COAR Work Plan 2021

For the year 2021, COAR will deliver its strategic directions through the following work plan:

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

Objectives	Activities
1.1 Promote the value of repository networks with important stakeholder communities	Present and promote COAR's work and vision at relevant conferences
	Contribute to discussions on mailing lists and other online forums (when appropriate)
	Participate in working groups and other related initiatives that reflect COAR's strategic objectives
	Engage with cOAlition S and other policy makers to ensure repositories are appropriately represented in open access and open science policies
1.2 Become a key stakeholder in relevant international e-infrastructure	Engage with other e-infrastructure organizations (e.g. RDA, ICRI, etc.) to ensure repositories are well represented and COAR's role is understood and acknowledged
	Highlight the role of repositories in managing research data and position COAR as a major player in this domain
1.3 Raise awareness of the issues around sustainability and inclusiveness of the current system and help define appropriate alternatives	Advance the actions outlined in the Bibliodiversity paper, with an emphasis on support for multilingualism in repositories, adoption of good governance models in open infrastructures/ services, adoption of bibliodiversity as an underlying principle in policies, and interoperability across infrastructures
	Work with SPARC NA, SPARC Europe, and Invest in Open Infrastructure Initiative to increase awareness and funding of the need for sustainable, community-based, open infrastructures
	Engage as a UNESCO partner to advance open science recommendations at the national level
1.4 Provide up-to-date information about the repository landscape at the international level	Work with Jisc to implement the IRD recommendations in OpenDOAR
	Host a scan of repository technologies, platforms, and related services, based on the SCOMCat platform that was developed through Next Generation Library Publishing project

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

Objectives	Activities
2.1 Undertake training and capacity building activities for repositories	Plan events, workshops and seminars in conjunction with the General Assembly
	Produce webinars about specific topics of interest for COAR members.
	Maintain the repository toolkit that provides access to up-to-date resources for repository managers, with a focus on discoverability, interoperability, and next generation repositories.
	Undertake an annual review of the COAR Community Framework for Best Practices in Repositories
	Organize and participate in national and regional training activities with local groups and open source platform providers
2.2 Support and strengthen regional repository networks	Participate in the LIBSENSE project to build capacity and support adoption of good practices in African repositories and repository networks
	Organize topical webinars via the Asia OA community and organize the Asia OA meeting in the fall of 2021
	Through the aggregators' working group, develop profiles of aggregators and support ongoing information sharing through topical meetings
2.3 Increase and formalize the COAR activities related to research data management	Participate in activities of the Research Data Alliance and other fora related to open science and research data management

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

Objectives	Activities
3.1 Increase interoperability across literature repositories	Develop strategies that increase the adoption of good quality metadata in repositories
	Maintain the COAR vocabularies and support their adoption in repository platforms
	Promote interoperability standards within the context of training resources, events and other COAR presentations
	See Strategic Objective 4 Promote the Next Generation Repositories' behaviours and technologies
3.2 Increase alignment across regional and national repository networks	Facilitate communication across repository networks through the strategic and technical meetings at COAR and at other possible venues
	Identify priority areas for interoperability across networks and develop a strategy to advance those priorities
	Seek and facilitate opportunities for collaborations between regional networks
3.3 Increase interoperability between research data and articles	Establish the conditions for IRs to be considered appropriate venues for deposit and preservation of research data
	Promote the NGR recommendations in the data community
3.4 Advance and pilot the protocols and standards for overlay publishing functions on the distributed repository network	See Objective 4.3 for integration with NGR overlay publishing services

4. Advance the adoption of new behaviours, technologies and roles for repositories

Objectives	Activities
4.1 Advance the implementation of NGR technologies and protocols in open source repository platforms	Monitor the environment for new technologies
4.2 Support the advancement of NGR Use Cases	Encourage and promote projects that demonstrate NGR functionalities
4.3 Advance the use case for overlay publishing functions on distributed repository content	Seek funding to pilot and refine a standard, interoperable approach that will link peer reviews from different review services with the research outputs housed in the distributed network of preprint servers, archives, and repositories.

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

Objectives	Activities
5.1 Provide more activities that engage COAR members and offer benefits individual institutions	See under Objective 2.1 Produce webinars about specific topics of interest for COAR members
5.2 Enhance the COAR brand	Actively seek opportunities to contribute to research infrastructure and scholarly communication events and discussions such as RDA, Force 11, et. al.
5.3 Increase COAR membership by 5%	Promote the work of COAR widely
5.4 Consolidate and strengthen the COAR operations	Revise COAR Statutes Develop a plan for a permanent location for the COAR office Develop an operational model that will enable greater in-person contributions by members to COAR's work