Benefits of Joining COAR

▶ Be part of the largest network of major institutions and organizations worldwide working in the area of open access repositories.
▶ Enhance your institutional profile, and promote your events through COAR dissemination activities.
▶ Benefit from the COAR network to make your achievements, platforms, or services widely known to the global community.
▶ Get access to practical advice both in technical and policy related issues.
▶ Make significant time and cost savings due to reduced staff efforts at the institutional, national and regional level.
▶ Stay up-to-date with future developments through the COAR Repository Observatory, briefing papers, studies on best practice and roadmaps.
▶ Contribute to strategic developments in the repository community by participating in international groups with specific objectives.
▶ Promote the role of repositories within the broader scholarly ecosystem and work with other actors to ensure the global alignment of services and infrastructure.

About COAR

The World Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR) is a dynamic, fast growing association of repository initiatives.

Launched in October 2009, COAR now has a membership of about 100 institutions worldwide from 35 countries in Australia, Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and North America.

The association acts as forum to learn about new trends; engage with international colleagues in the repository community; and ensure repositories adhere to global best practices and interoperability standards.

Vision

A global knowledge infrastructure, based on worldwide networked open access digital repositories.

Mission

COAR’s mission is to enhance the visibility and application of research outputs through a global network of open access digital repositories and to build a global knowledge infrastructure, based on worldwide networked open access digital repositories.
Working and Interest Groups

The COAR Working Group “Repository Content” supports members in populating their repositories through best practices for the inception, operation and growth of OA repositories.

The related Interest Group “Repository Impact and Visibility” explores and documents existing approaches for maximizing repository visibility.

The Task Force on Open Access Agreements and Licenses monitors, evaluates and promotes the implementation of effective open access agreements and licenses.

The COAR Interoperability Project established the COAR Roadmap for Repository Interoperability to maximize the use and reuse of existing guidelines and best practices.

The Interest Group “Controlled Vocabularies for Repository Assets” will be the new maintainer of the controlled vocabulary (info:eu-repo) that was developed by the DRIVER and OpenAIRE initiatives for European repositories.

The Interest Group “Usage Data and Beyond” reviews existing and emerging article level metrics to identify a common set of metrics that can be adopted across repositories.

To provide support for the Open Access repository community through international cooperation and information sharing is the main goal of COAR Working Group “Support and Training”.

The Joint Task Force on Librarians’ Competencies in support of e-Research and Scholarly Communication (together with ARL, CARL and LIBER) outlines competencies needed by librarians in this evolving environment.

The COAR Repository Observatory identifies trends and future scenarios to help open access repositories to anticipate and respond to the constant state of rapid evolution.

Advocacy and Leadership

The “Aligning Repository Networks Committee” represents several major regional repository networks. The committee develops strategies to better align their activities.

Why align repository networks?

▶ To develop a seamless scientific infrastructure that supports the needs of researchers at the global level.
▶ To provide evidence to national funding bodies and governments that local and regional service are being developed in parallel with international activities.
▶ To provide uniform information to governments and funding agencies about the impact of open access policies.
▶ To avoid duplication of work across networks and enable cost synergies in areas of common interest.

How can repository networks be aligned?

▶ Political Level: high-level coordination that raises the visibility and strengthens the legitimacy of regional networks.
▶ Technical Level: adopting common set of interoperability standards to ensure that content can be aggregated across networks, facilitating discovery, re-use and the development of value added services.
▶ Service Level: common approaches to service adoption that would be of interest at the global level (e.g. common usage statistics across regions).

One activity of the representatives of the “Aligning Repository Networks Committee” was to foster a petition to underscore their support for immediate access to research articles.