



Driving RDM at the University of Bristol

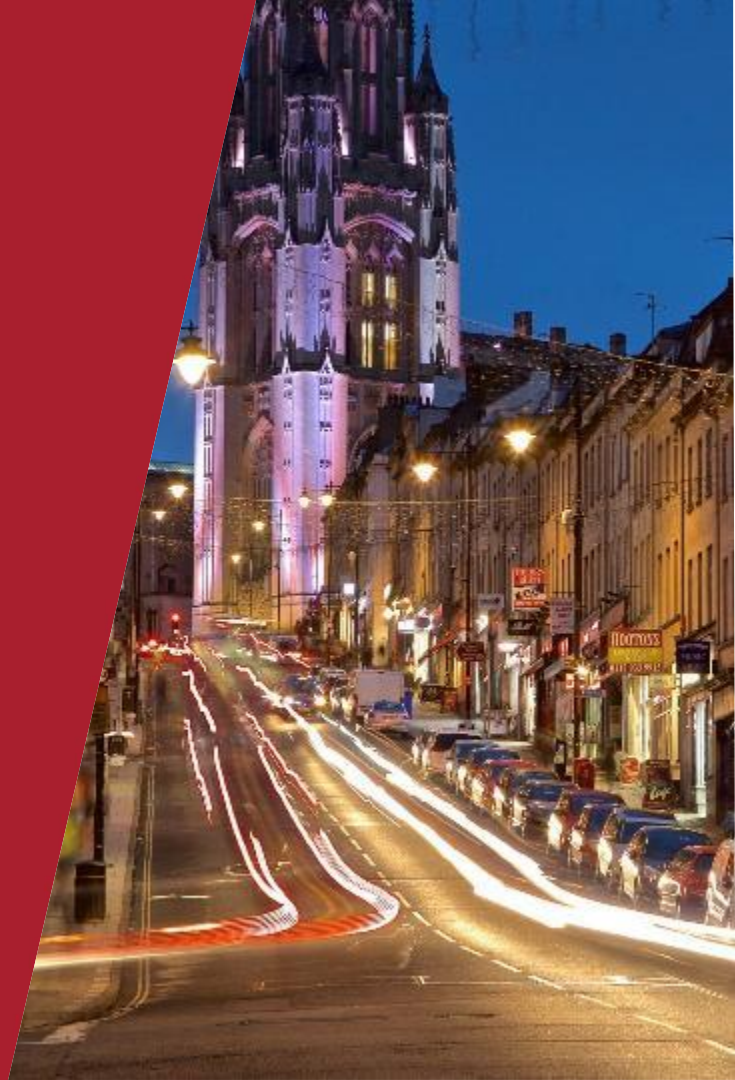
an institutional perspective for
CHORUS Forum, 20/05/2025

Dr. Kirsty Merrett

Research Support Librarian

University of Bristol Research Data Service

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Who we are, and a caveat...



- Public research university in South-West England
- Victorian 'Redbrick' with roots back to 1595
- UK top 10, world top 50, top 5 for research
- Russell Group, Coimbra Group, and World Universities Network member

- *'Not too shabby'*
- *Why relevant? – RESOURCES and BUY IN*

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... mileage may differ

Long established Research Data Service

- Training
 - live or on demand
 - bespoke or general
- Guidance and advice
 - Data management planning, now supported via DMPOnline
 - Data storage – short, medium, long term
 - Research design to maximise data sharing
- Disclosure Risk Assessment Service
- Consent and Participant information sheets
- Data sharing through repository (Open, Restricted, Controlled)
- First open dataset 2011, access restricted dataset 2015
 - 1306 open datasets
 - 193 datasets with access restrictions (123/70) – almost 13%



▪ ***Data Availability Statements provided for publications***

Our work – internal, and external

University of Bristol Open Research Policy

The University of Bristol recognises the moral and practical value of open research. It is committed to the advancement and wide dissemination of knowledge to the benefit of society by adopting practices that support open, reproducible and responsible research, consistent with our civic responsibility as a public university. Underpinning our Open Research Policy are sub-policies and guidance in established areas of open research practice: these policies will be revised and updated as the landscape evolves, to reflect our commitment to open research practices. These sub-policies are designed as practical 'how-to' guides for anyone engaged in research activity, with links to external policies, initiatives and bodies involved in supporting the transition to Open Research.

A glossary provides definitions for the main terms used in the policies - most of these definitions are taken from the [FORRT \(Framework for Open and Reproducible Research Training\) Glossary](#).

If you have any questions about the Open Research Policy or related sub-policies please contact pa-apvc-researchculture@bristol.ac.uk

Feedback on Open Research Policy

The Open Research Working Group would like to hear your feedback on the new Open Research Policy and sub-policies.

Please give us your feedback using the secure feedback form below. Responses submitted with this form will not be made public, and will only be seen by members of the Group.

Completed forms will be stored securely for 12 months, after which time they will be destroyed.

University of Bristol Open Research Policy

[Open Research Policy v1.0 \(PDF, 221kB\)](#)

[Open Research Policy - Data Sharing Sub-Policy v1.0 \(PDF, 198kB\)](#)

[Open Research Policy - OA Sub-Policy v1.0 \(PDF, 342kB\)](#)

[Open Research Policy - Open Code Sub-Policy v1.0 \(PDF, 162kB\)](#)

[Open Research Policy - Pre-Registration Sub-Policy v1.0 \(PDF, 170kB\)](#)

[Open Research Glossary v1.0 \(PDF, 189kB\)](#)

zenodo Search records... Communities My dashboard

UKRN UK Reproducibility Network

Published February 12, 2026 | Version v4

Other Open

UKRN Working Paper 9: UKRN Open Research Indicators: Final Report

Jacobs, Neil (Project leader)¹ ; Williamson, Laurian (Project member) ; Vines, Timothy (Project member)² ; Vignola-Gagné, Etienne (Project member)³ ; Tibbs, Christopher T. (Project member) ; Taggart, Angus (Project member) ; Sheppard, Nick (Project member)⁴ ; Roesch, Etienne (Project member)⁵ ; Pispiringas, Leonidas (Project member)⁶ ; Pajor, Radoslaw (Project member) ; O'Connor, Daryl (Project member)⁷ ; Newton, Jonathon Timothy (Project member)⁸ ; Miller, Kerry (Project member)⁹ ; Merrett, Kirsty (Project member) ; McCutcheon, Valerie (Project member)⁹ ; Hrynaszekiewicz, Iain (Project member) ; Howarth, Alice (Project member)¹⁰ ; Hall, Phillip (Project member) ; Groothuizen, Johanna (Project member) ; Godsall, Jade (Project member) ; Gambelli, Lavinia (Project member) ; Eadie, Mick (Project member)⁹ ; Donaldson, Mary⁹ ; Dimitropoulos, Harry (Project member)¹¹ ; de Waard, Anita (Project member) ; Dalton, Sally (Project member)⁴ ; Currie, Gillian (Project member)⁹ ; Boll, Amanda (Project member) ; Barnett, Nicola (Project member)^{12, 4} ; Arthur, Alastair (Project member)⁹ ; Campbell, Ann (Project member)¹² ; Gowie, Evangeline (Project member) ; Adams, Jenni (Project member) ; Mitchell, Serena (Project member)¹⁴ ; Kelson, Mark (Project member)¹⁵

Show affiliations

This working paper reports on six pilot projects conducted as part of the UK Reproducibility Network's Open Research Programme (ORP) to explore the feasibility of developing automated indicators for monitoring open research practices across UK universities. The pilots examined data quality, metadata standards, and automated extraction methods across six areas: FAIR data, open data, data availability statements, downstream effects of data sharing, pre-registration, and the use of the CRediT taxonomy. The findings highlight areas of promise, particularly pre-registration and elements of FAIRness, while also identifying major challenges related to inconsistent metadata, terminology, and workflows. The report outlines key recommendations for improving interoperability, enhancing data standards, and supporting the responsible development of future monitoring infrastructure.

The Pilots



Data Availability Statements

FAIR Data

Open Data



Effects of Sharing Data



Pre-registration



CRedit

Pilot 2: Openness of Data

- **Institutions:** Bristol (lead), Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Leicester, Liverpool, Reading, Sheffield, Surrey
- **Solution providers:** Digital Science, Elsevier, PLoS-DataSeer, OpenAIRE
- Aim to co-create transparent, ethical, & accurate indicator to:
 - Define the degrees of openness of cited data with standardised terminology
 - Measure and identify the degree of openness of cited data
- Key considerations across participating institutions
 - Openness and compliance, proprietary systems and permissions
 - Identify patterns and barriers
 - Promote, embed and align best practices

Pilot 2: Methodology

- To measure Openness, we had to find the datasets
 - Data Access Statement (DAS) as central point of analysis – only access point/link available for providers & institutions
- Overlap with Pilot 1 (FAIR) & Pilot 4 (DAS)
 - All used Open Access research articles published in 2023
- Machine learning tools used by providers to extract and refine data to specification
- Checked solution provider data against 500 records - by eye

HELP! I NEED A DATA ACCESS STATEMENT

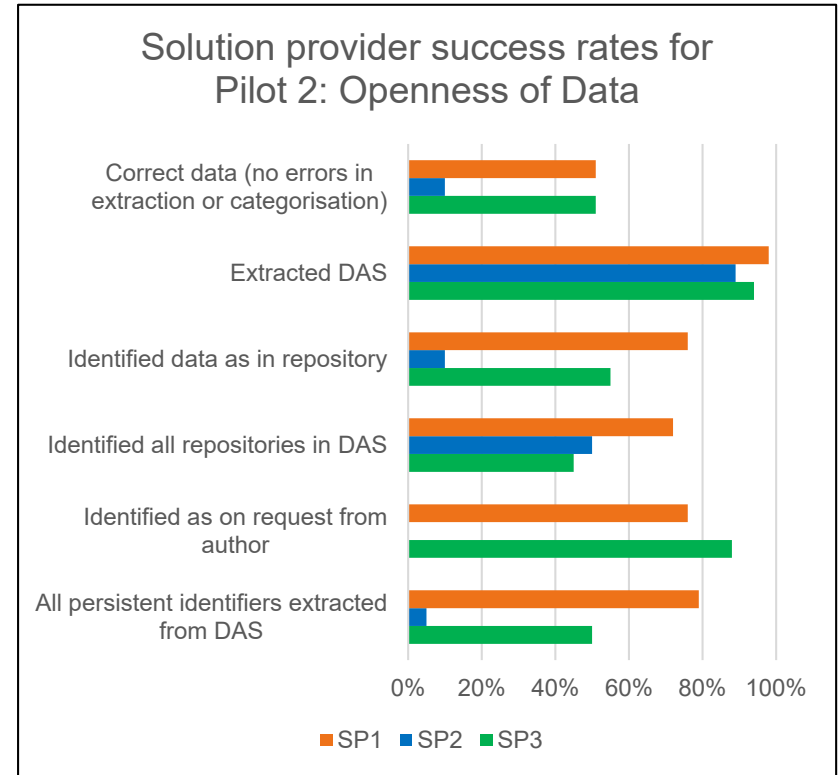
Any paper acknowledging UKRI (formerly RCUK) funding needs a statement explaining where readers can find the data that support your findings.

- ▶ **But I don't have any data!**
You still need a statement. Use **This study did not involve any data.**
- ▶ **I have an external research partner**
You might not be able to share anything – contact the **RED Contracts Team** to check the terms of your collaboration agreement. If you can't share data, use the statement: **Data cannot be shared due to contractual restrictions.**
- ▶ **I used someone else's data**
Cite the dataset as suggested by the data owner, or explain where the data can be accessed: **This study used (name of dataset) which is available from (link/contact).**
- ▶ **My data can't be shared openly**
You can still publish it under embargo with access restrictions. Explain the restrictions in your statement: **Supporting data cannot be shared openly due to (reasons). Details of how to request access are available from (repository) under the DOI (DOI).**
- ▶ **There's enough information in my paper for readers to check my findings**
Use the statement: **Supporting data are provided within this paper.**
- ▶ **There's enough information in the supplementary information for readers to check my findings**
Use the statement: **Supporting data are provided as supplementary information.**
- ▶ **I've published my data in a data repository**
If the repository has a preferred citation style, use that. If not, use: **Supporting data are available from (repository) under the DOI (DOI).**

Still confused?
The **Research Data Service** can help! Contact us for advice on data statements, publishing data, and more.

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- High DAS extraction rates, mid-low interpretation accuracy
- Machine readability of access conditions – algorithm couldn't differentiate 'on request' from author/repository
- Issues with analysing data statements – especially with multiple datasets in a DAS/complex access level datasets
- Disparity across disciplines – weak on understanding how complex cohort data studies, archives, or museums etc. store/cite data
- ***Maximum accuracy where the researcher used the DAS we provided***



What we believe, and how we can change things

- Currently unable to produce accurate, transparent and ethical indicator
- Cannot use quantitative tools to measure something that acts as qualitative data without *controlled language*
- Underlying issues are more complex than improving algorithms – it's *language and terminology, research culture, disciplines, infrastructure, training...*
- *Funders, publishers, initiatives and institutions* need to speak the 'same *controlled language*' – need *templates and metadata standards* for data citation and curation

So, how do we effect these changes?

- Be involved with the wider conversation
- Collaborate with initiatives, innovations and projects
- Engage with solution providers and stakeholders, locally, globally
- Keep on pushing the envelope



- J.K.Merrett@bristol.ac.uk