BARCELONA DECLARATION ON OPEN RESEARCH INFORMATION



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# Scholarly Communication & Responsible Research Assessment

## Exploring the role of Open Research Information

3 November 2026



Image adapted from Barcelona Cases Rocamora by Ludvig14, CC-BY-SA 3.0

# Discussion meeting

Barcelona Declaration
signatory organizations



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# Introduction

Open research information and research assessment

# Agenda

- Welcome & introduction
- DORA presentation - Practical Guide for Scholarly Communication
- Questions to the community
- Open discussion
- Next steps & timeframe



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# Who we are

**Ricardo Ceneviva**
DORA Steering Board member and Professor of Political Science & Public Policy, Universidade Federal do ABC

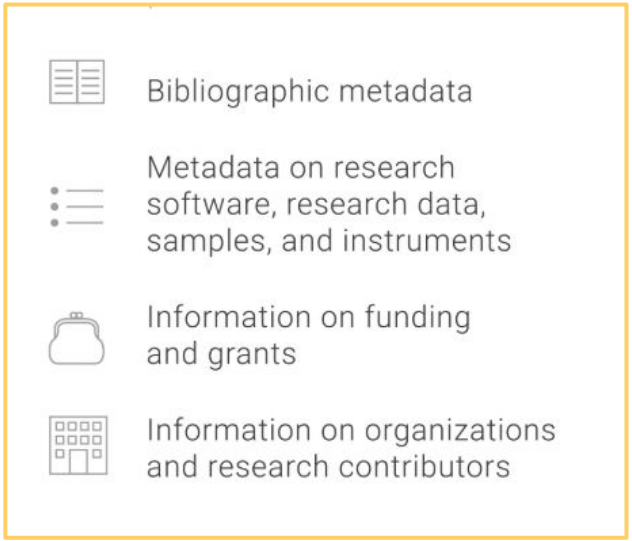
**Giovanna Lima**
DORA programme manager

**Bárbara Rivera López**
Barcelona Declaration Community manager

**Bianca Kramer**
Barcelona Declaration Executive director

# Research information

- Research information: (bibliographic) metadata - including funding information and information on use and impact




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# Research information

- Research information: (bibliographic) metadata - including funding information and information on use and impact

- Used in decision making around strategic priorities, distribution of resources, and evaluation of researchers and institutions

# What does it mean for research organizations?

- Where is information about your organization's research outputs and activities located?
- Who (around the world) can find and use information about your research outputs?
- What types of research output and impact are used in assessment / evaluation?
- How open and transparent is research assessment and the information on which is it based?
- Who owns and controls research information ?

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## Research assessment reform

- Align assessment to research mission
- Recognize diverse forms of quality and research contributions
- Balance qualitative and quantitative assessment
- Abandon inappropriate use of indicators

## Transition to open research information

- Support fair and transparent assessment
- Support availability and use of open, inclusive data on research activities, outputs and quality

**Responsible assessment depends on research information and infrastructure that make research activities and outputs visible and usable.**

# Commitments

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As organizations that carry out, fund, and evaluate research, we commit to the following:

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Commitment 1

We will make openness the default for the research information we use and produce

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Commitment 2

We will work with services and systems that support and enable open research information

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Commitment 3

We will support the sustainability of infrastructures for open research information

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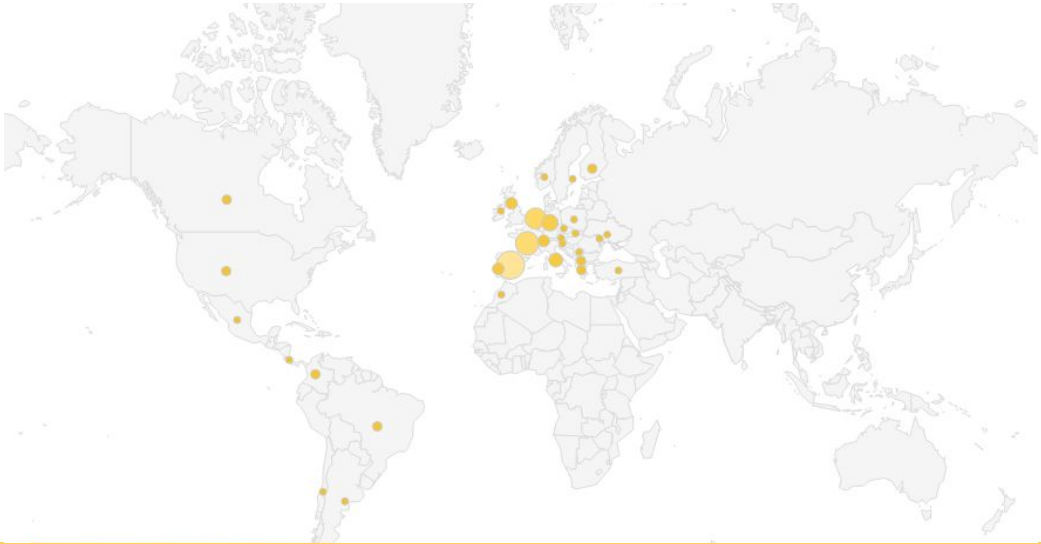


Commitment 4

We will support collective action to accelerate the transition to openness of research information

# Signatories and supporters

- As of today, the Barcelona Declaration has been **formally signed by 153 organizations in 37 countries**; among others, signatories include universities and other research institutions, research funders, and governments



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- As of today, the Barcelona Declaration has been **formally signed by 153 organizations in 37 countries**; among others, signatories include universities and other research institutions, research funders, and governments

- In addition, **59 organizations** providing data, services and infrastructure are **formal supporters** of the Declaration

# Supporters (selection)








































































What changes in publishers’ or database providers’ practices would most help your organization carry out responsible research assessment?

What would help your organization use open research information more widely, that is currently blocked by the way scholarly communication works?



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# DORA

Practical Guide for RRA for Scholarly Communication Organizations

# DORA Scholarly Communication Guide Co-creation Workshop

## Creating “A Practical Guide for RRA for Scholarly Communication Organizations”

**November 2026**

**Giovanna Lima & Ricardo Ceneviva**

**DORA & DORA/UFABC (Santo André, Brazil)**

**DORA & Center for Engineering, Modeling, and Applied Social Sciences**

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# DORA as a Declaration

Launched in 2013

Themes of the Declaration

- Do not use journal-based metrics as a surrogate measure of quality
- Consider the value and impact of a broad range of research outputs
- Be explicit about the criteria used in hiring, promotion, and tenure decisions
- Facilitate openness by encouraging reuse of reference lists, responsible referencing and authorship

Signatory snapshot: ~23,800 individuals & ~3,700 organizations across 170+ countries

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# Our task for today: your input

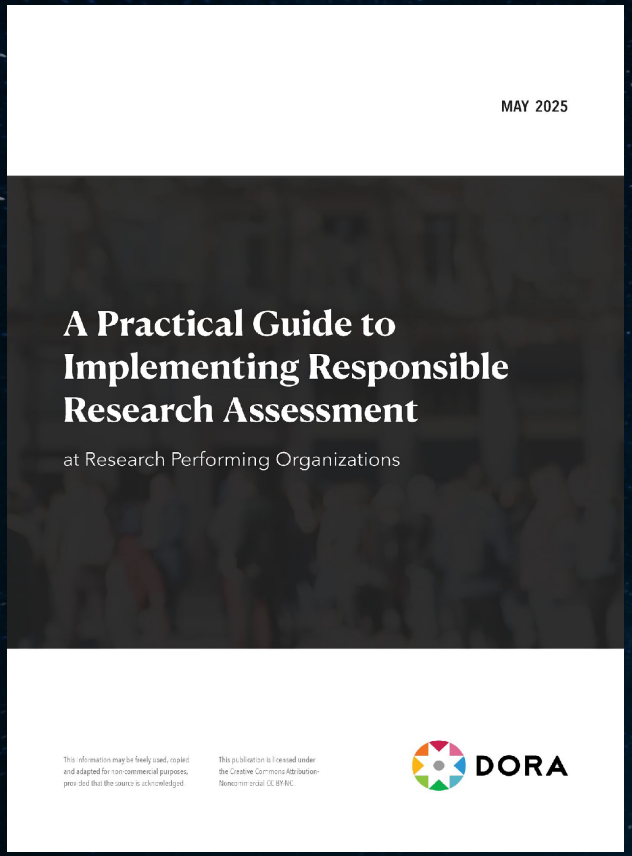
How do you experience the overlap between RRA and Scholarly Communication?

What changes would help you implement RRA, and what should the Guide prioritize?

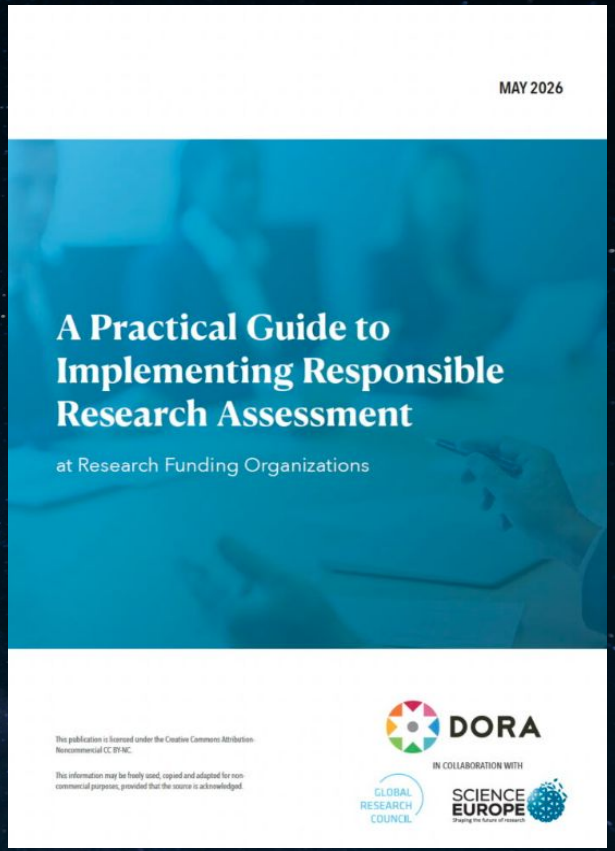
Do you have resources or case studies that might be useful for the Guide?

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# Two previous Practical Guides: RPOs & RFOs




https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15000682




https://zenodo.org/records/18402272

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# Complementary summary materials

## Briefing notes & Informational Briefs:

- **Informational Briefs** - concise, audience-specific insights and action points
- **Quick-Reference Sheets** - summaries, suggested interventions, and illustrative examples
- **Slide Decks -** one providing a structured overview of the Guide; second to foster discussions around the Guide




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# Aims of the Scholarly Communication (SC) Guide

**Helping individuals and scholarly communication organisations to develop responsible research assessment**

A “one-stop-shop” for **Scholarly Communications organizations** to guide steps from identifying the value of RRA to developing interventions and strategies that work for their organization.

- Practical tips
- Outline of activities & key intervention points (‘*moments*’)
- Real examples & case studies
- Links to resources & reference materials

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# Aimed at a diverse audience

1. Scholarly publishers
2. Open and alternative publishing platforms
3. Preprint platforms
4. Journal Editors, Editorial Boards and professional bodies representing them
5. Research communication and dissemination service organizations
6. Libraries and bodies that represent them
7. Discovery, indexing and aggregation service providers
8. Repositories
9. Infrastructure, PIDs and metadata providers
10. Research policy, integrity, standards organizations
11. Other roles to include?

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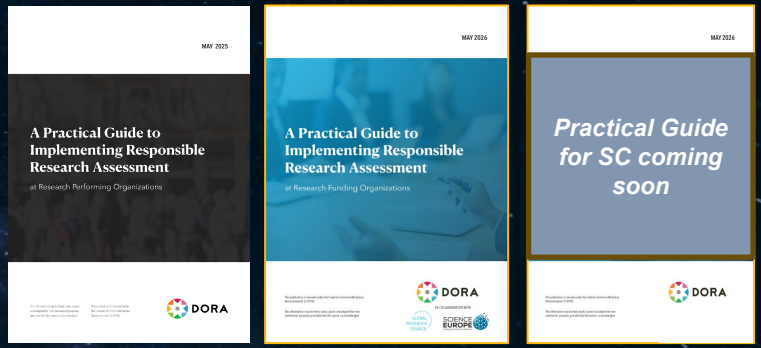
# 3 sources of evidence

1. **Landscape 'snapshot' (Q3 2026)** - 50 SCOs, mostly DORA signatories
2. Recent **evidence on researcher perspectives** on research assessment
3. **DORA signatory survey (July 2026):**
   - n=245; 129 Scholarly communication organizations ('SCOs'), 116 other DORA signatories ('non-SCOs')
   - Over ¾ of SCO responses from *Europe* (35%) and *Latin America & Caribbean*

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# Key findings

1. **Most SCOs are doing (some) RRA-aligned activities** – *but there is considerable variation in how they talk about it*
2. Many **SCOs find it hard to manage and respond to the (growing) set of declarations and frameworks** aimed at RRA
3. **Dissonance between priorities of SCOs and researchers**
4. **Demand for guidance on what SCOs can do in relation to RRA, specifically:**
   - Where to intervene/take action
   - How to talk about what they are doing
   - Examples, case studies and resources




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# Main RRA-aligned actions underway at SCOs

1. **Presenting a broad range of quality and usage metrics**
2. **Developing editorial policies and practices** – *ethics, training staff and reviewers, EDI, multi-lingualism etc*
3. **Implementing technical and infrastructures enhancements** – *through PIDs, AI checks*
4. **Collaboration** – *'joining'/following sector-wide initiatives (e.g. COPE, ICMJE) and wider research system initiatives (e.g. Leiden Manifesto, CoARA)*

***"Yes, we are publishing in several languages (Spanish, English, and Portuguese) to promote a wider communication of science."***
**SCO survey respondent**

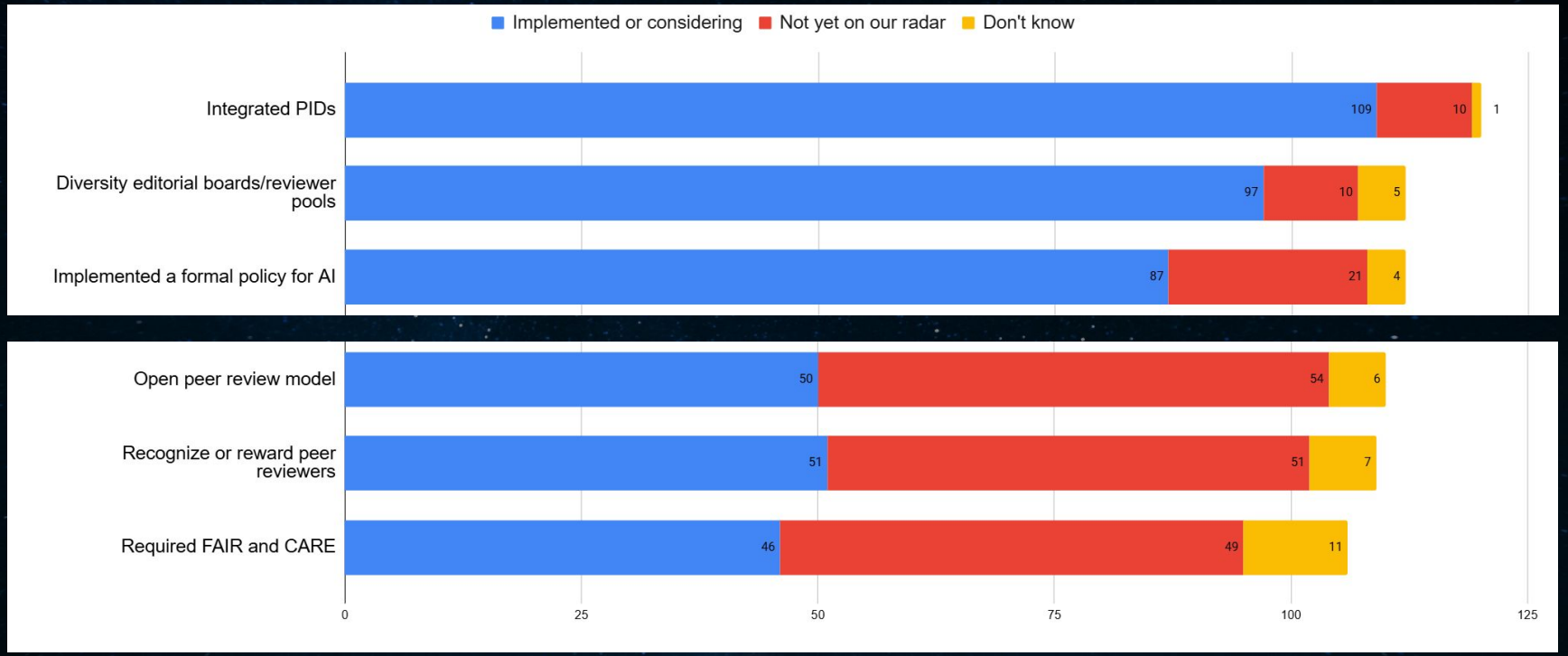
***"We have reviewed the profiles of researchers on the editorial boards."***
**SCO survey respondent**

***"We also engage with WAME and similar editorial associations to strengthen ethical publishing practices and align with DORA and COPE guidelines."***
**SCO survey respondent**

**Source**: Landscape snapshot & DORA Signatory survey 2026

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# What RRA-aligned things are SCOs doing & not doing?




Counts. Charted item totals, top to bottom: 120, 112, 112, 110, 109, 106.
"Implemented or considering" combines two stages; it is not an adoption rate.

**Source**: DORA Signatory survey 2026
**Base**: n=129 DORA-signatory SCOs

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# Persistent focus on ‘traditional’ *publications* & *quantity*: publishing community views on research evaluation

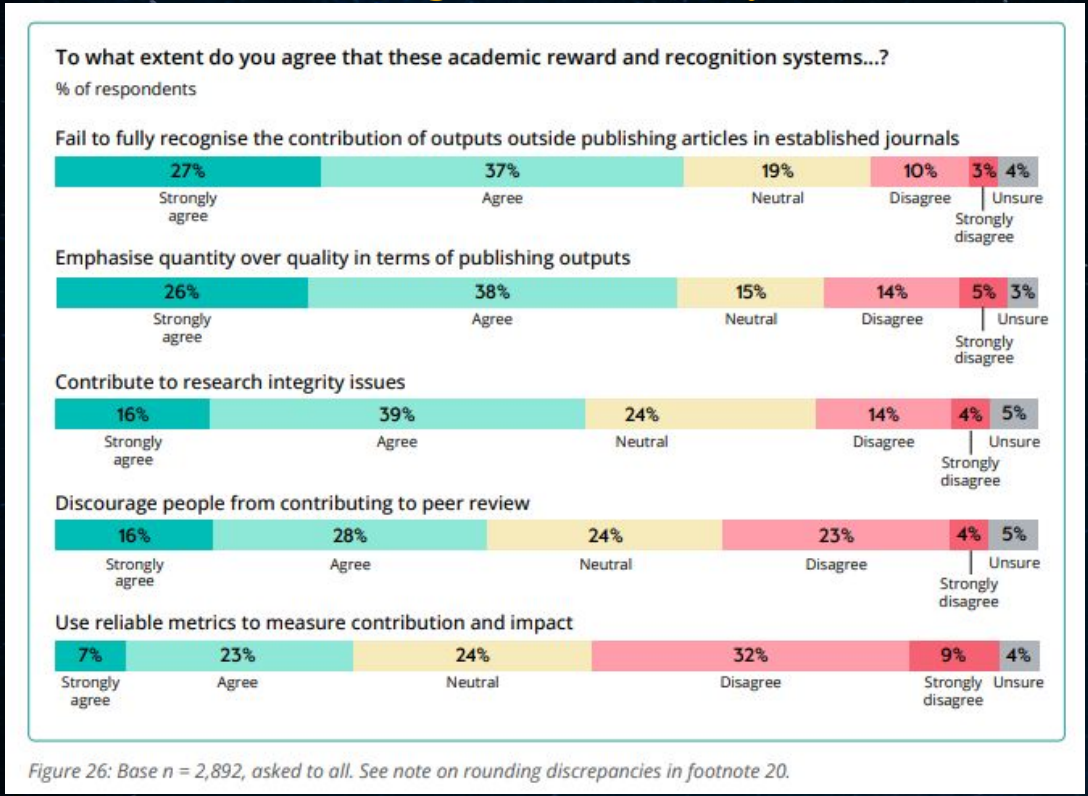



*Figure 26: Base n = 2,892, asked to all. See note on rounding discrepancies in footnote 20.*

Cambridge (2025)
Survey total: n=3,066

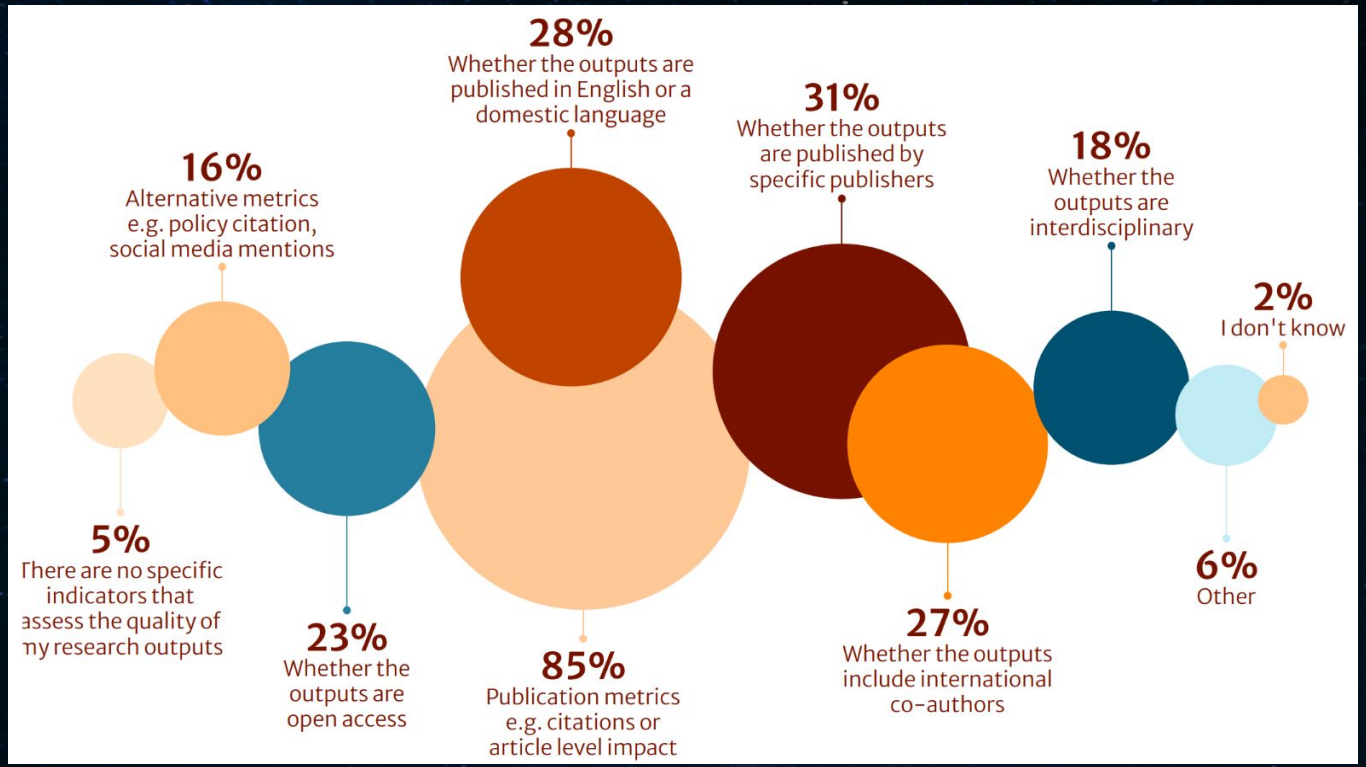
33% agreed reward and recognition systems work well
Item base: n=2,974

Figure 26 (left): n=2,892
Rounded percentages
Respondents’ perceptions

Source: Cambridge University Press (2025), Publishing futures, Figures 24 and 26

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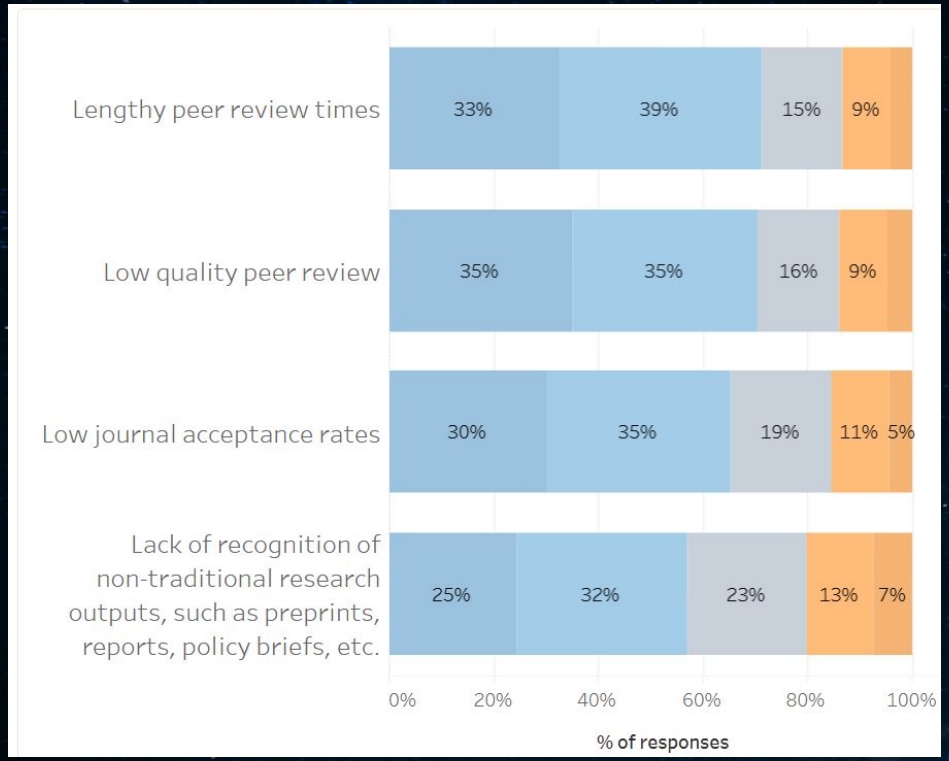
# Persistent focus on 'traditional' *publication metrics*: researcher perspectives on key indicators used in research evaluation




Source: Springer Nature (April 2025), The state of research assessment, Figure 4
Question base: n=4,369; multiple indicators could be selected

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# Impact of peer review & lack of recognition of diverse outputs: researcher perspectives on influences on career development




Perceived career effect

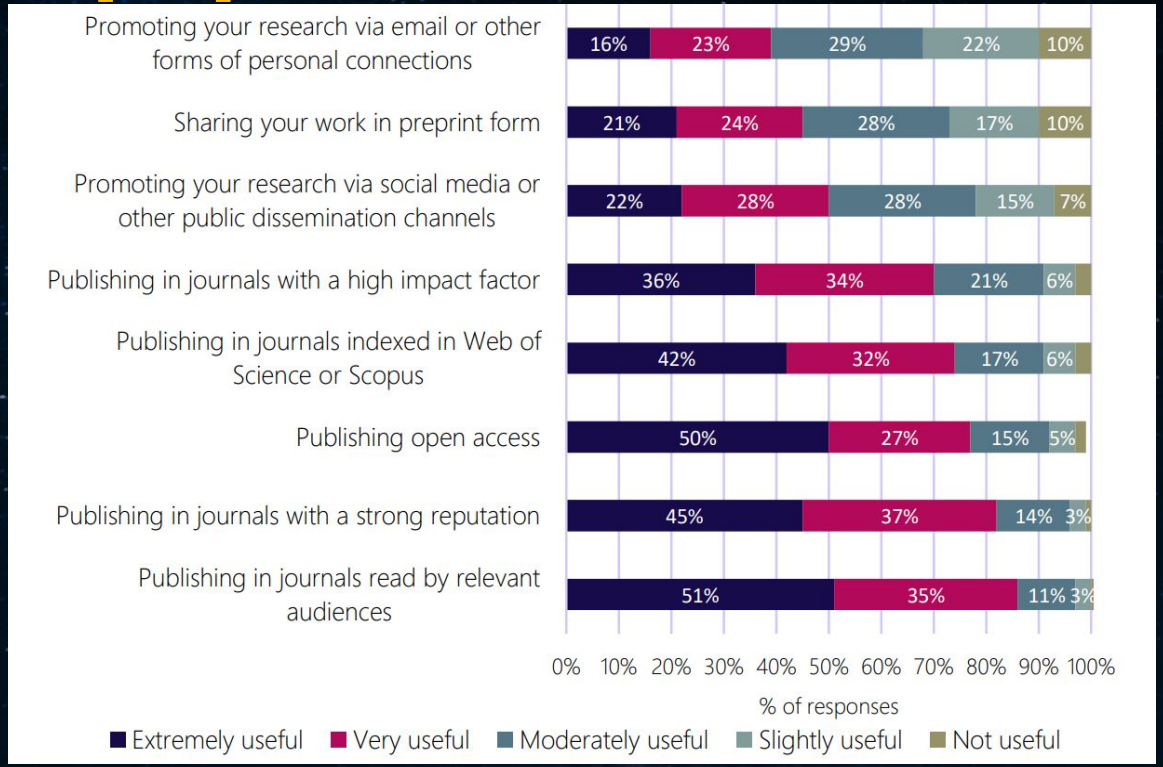
- Extremely likely
- Somewhat likely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Extremely unlikely

Targeted email sample
All continents selected
No normalization

Source: Chiarelli et al. (2024), Towards Responsible Publishing, doi:10.5281/zenodo.11243942
11,145 received overall; 9,991 targeted email responses. Valid item n not shown.

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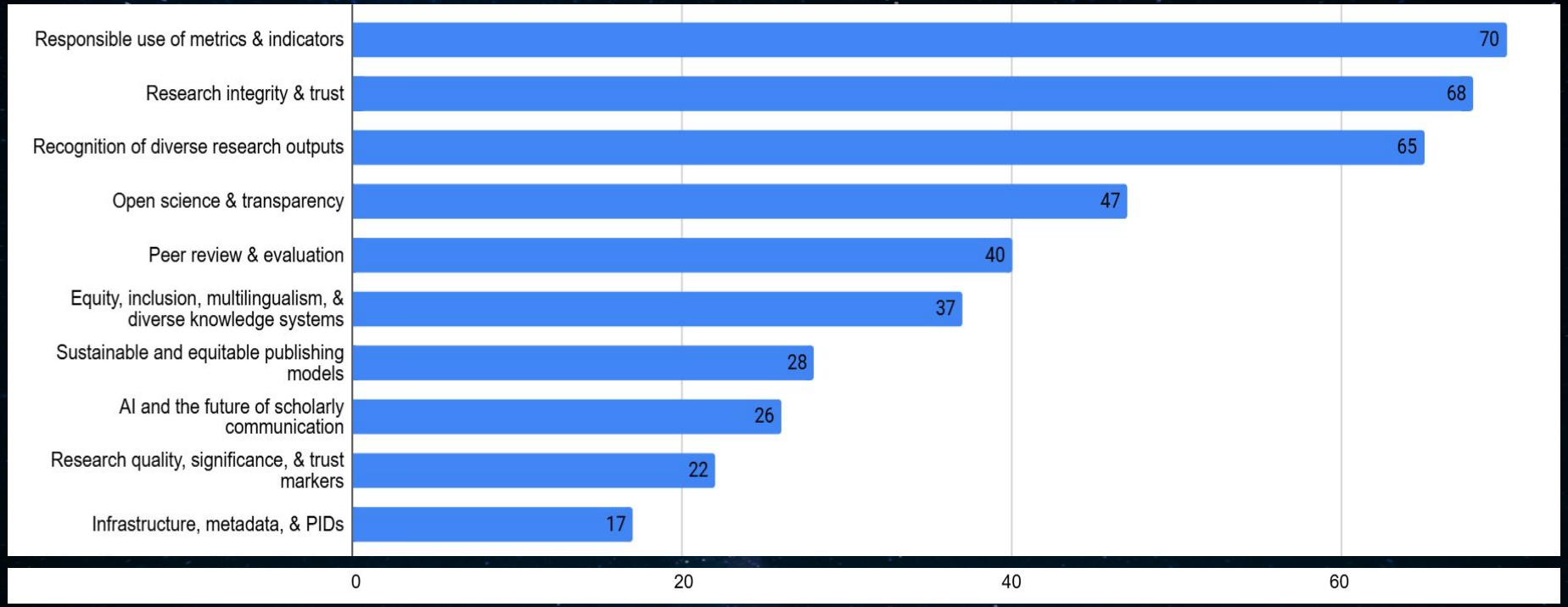
# Importance of journal community & reputation: researcher perspectives on methods to reach intended audiences




Source: Chiarelli et al. (2024), Towards Responsible Publishing, Figure 3
11,145 received overall; report analysis: 9,991 targeted responses. Valid item n not shown.

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# Most important topics to include in the Guide: non-SCOs

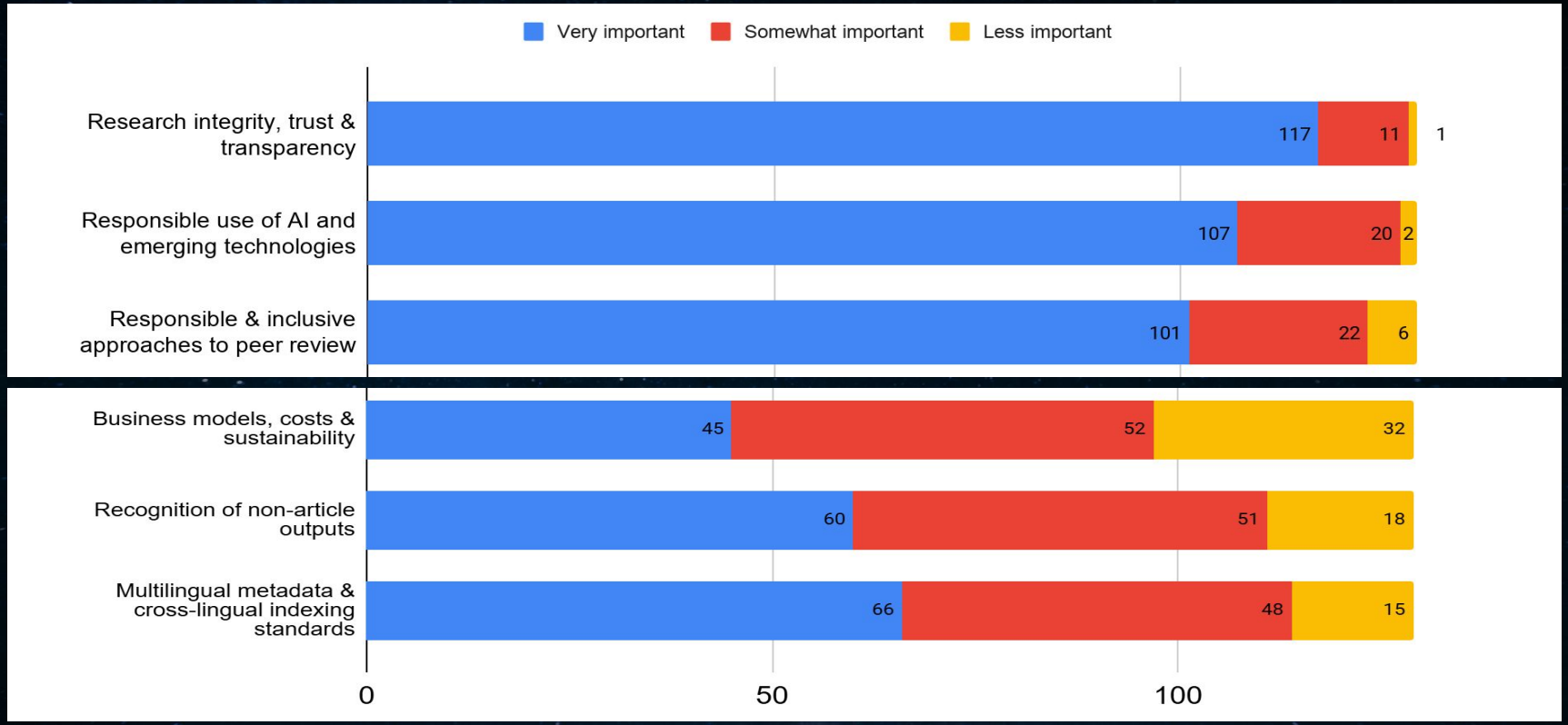



Counts within this group; valid item bases not documented. Different question from the SCO ratings.

**Source**: DORA Signatory survey 2026
**Base**: n=116 DORA-signatory non-SCOs

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# Most important topics to include in the Guide: SCOs




Source: DORA Signatory survey 2026. Base: n=129 DORA-signatory SCOs
Counts by importance rating; each displayed item totals 129. No direct comparison with non-SCO counts.

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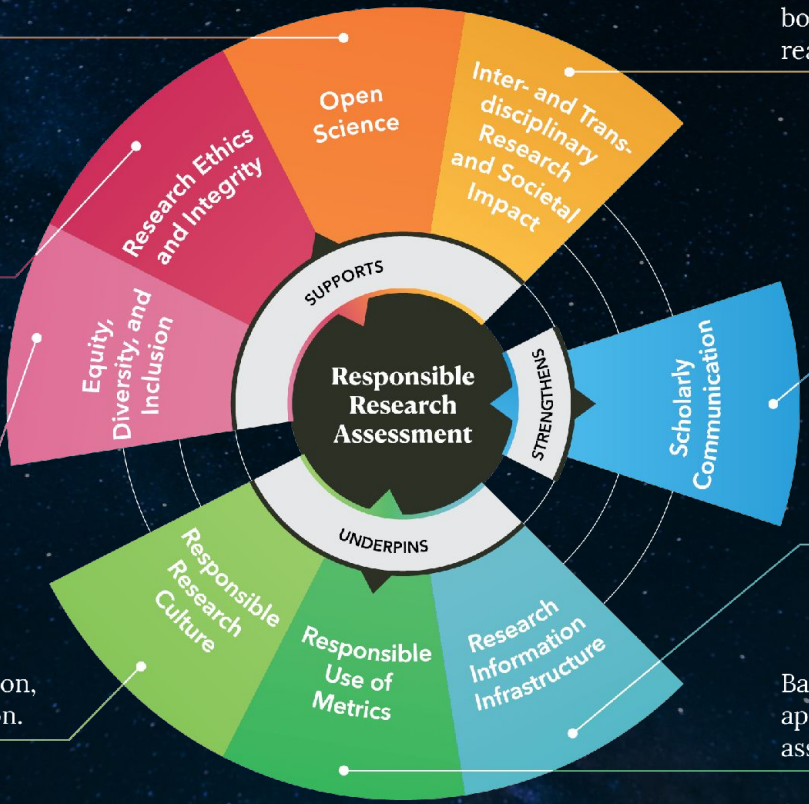
# Proposed structure of the Guide

**Principles, activities, key moments, resources, references, examples**

- **Chapter 1:** Introduction to Responsible Research Assessment & why it matters
- **Chapter 2:** Key activities to enable RRA-aligned action
- **Chapter 3:** Key moments to put RRA into practice
- **Chapter 4 (open): Looking to the future or System-wide connections**
- References & resources
- Case studies & Spotlights throughout the Guide

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# An interconnected research ecosystem




Rewards transparency and the sharing of data and research outputs.

Values work that crosses boundaries and delivers real-world benefits.

Reduces perverse incentives, focuses on practices that deliver robust research.

Facilitates the sharing of research findings, maximizing the potential for use and reuse.

Recognizes the diversity of contributions and career paths.

Makes contributions discoverable and usable.

Recognizes and incentivizes collaboration, integrity, and innovation.

Balances and broadens approach to research assessment.

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# Chapter 2: Key activities to enable RRA-aligned action

## Activities to help SCOs to develop RRA

1. Consulting and engaging with your communities
2. Securing the support of leadership
3. Reviewing policies and practices
4. Developing a vision and setting priorities
5. Securing resources to act
6. Explaining changes and inviting feedback
7. Learning, adapting and evolving

**Spotlight**: the growing use of AI in scholarly communication and implications for RA

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# Chapter 3: Key **moments** to put RRA into practice

## Points in time for RRA action at SCOs

1. Defining SCO scope: content, records & outputs
2. Developing policies
3. Selecting, supporting and recognizing experts and reviewers
4. Making selection and peer review fair and transparent
5. Describing SC processes and workflows
6. Using indicators with care
7. Making outputs discoverable and connected
8. Communicating and promoting research responsibly

**Spotlight**: The responsible use of metrics

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# Chapter 4: focus still open

1. Aligning across responsible-assessment initiatives
2. New entrants in the scholarly research system
3. Emerging priority topics
4. The future role of scholarly communication in knowledge creation

OASPA workshop input: basic infrastructure or connections across the system

Barcelona signatories: which focus, needs, and concrete examples would be most useful?

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# We would love your input

We would love to hear your thoughts:

- How do you experience the overlap between RRA and Scholarly Communication?
- What do you see as priority topics for inclusion?
- Do you have resources or case studies that might be useful for the guide?

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# Questions for the community

Barcelona Declaration signatory organizations

Think of one example from your organization where research information, publishing practices or infrastructure has helped or hindered responsible research assessment.

What happened?

# Audience examples

### Adoption of narrative CVs

We found that the option for researchers to have a full display of their research output within ORCID or in OpenAlex makes them understand they can have a full list of publications there, and at the same time have an interesting narrative CV.

### Open research practices

We want to collect information about open research practices, such as data availability statements, use of the credit taxonomy and acknowledgement of funding. The biggest problem is that we currently don't collect the information we need in a way that is either accessible or sufficiently structured.

### Publications beyond articles

We don't actually know what our researchers are publishing. We have a fairly good view on articles (and even that is not complete), but anything beyond that, we have very little information on. This includes books, chapters, case notes, project websites, scholarly blogs, reports, etc.  It is not well registered in our own organization, and also often not present in external databases. This leads to a massive streetlight effect in what is included in (self)assessment and evaluation.

What would help your organization use open research information more widely, that is currently blocked by the way scholarly communication works?

What barriers would need to be addressed?



# Poll results - responses

**Peer review**

- Wider adoption of pre-prints and open peer review
- Data on open peer review reports
- Some steps of the peer review process (delay, names) could be displayed

**Non-traditional research outputs**

- Databases should make datasets and software  more visible
- Databases that accept more non-traditional outputs
- Bibliodiversity
- Links to clinical data,

**Availability of research data**

- Enforcing requirements for Data Access Statements.
- Stop allowing "Data on Request" type statements in output

**Retractions**

- Retractions should be more transparent
- Agree with retractions being transparent. Helpful to know the reason

**Research quality**

- Publishers should agree to publish articles on negative results
- They should stop displaying the impact indicators

# Poll results - responses

**Improved research information / metadata**

- Improve affiliation coverage
- Better author and organisation disambiguation
- Publishers making metadata more complete, accurate
- Clear funder acknowledgements, and standardised acknowledgement of contributors by publishers and funders .
- Published policies that includes licences, FAIR policies

**Open and free metadata**

- Publishers making metadata free and reusable.
- Free use metadata

**Adoption of PIDs**

- Minimum standard set of universally adopted PIDs
- Support RAID PIDs
- Good and fuller PID acceptance (by databases)

# Poll results - voting




What changes in publishers' or database providers' practices would most help your organization carry out responsible research assessment? Are there any practices they should stop?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Retractions should be more transparent<br>7 Popular | Free use metadata<br>6 | Improve affilation coverage<br>6 |
| Minimum standard set of universally adopted PIDs<br>6 | Stop allowing "Data on Request" type statements in outputs<br>5 | Databases should make datasets and software more visible<br>4 |

# We would love your input

We would love to hear your thoughts:

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# Next steps and timeline

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- Feedback period on the Guide open until  end  of November 2026
- Send feedback to giovanna.lima@sfdora.org
- Guide will be published in May 2027



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# 2026 Conference of the Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information

## Aligning policy & practical implementation

24-25 November

Leibniz Association Headquarters, Berlin

In person / online

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Leibniz Association

HELMHOLTZ Open Science

Register for online attendance

https://barcelona-declaration.org/conference_2026_berlin/