

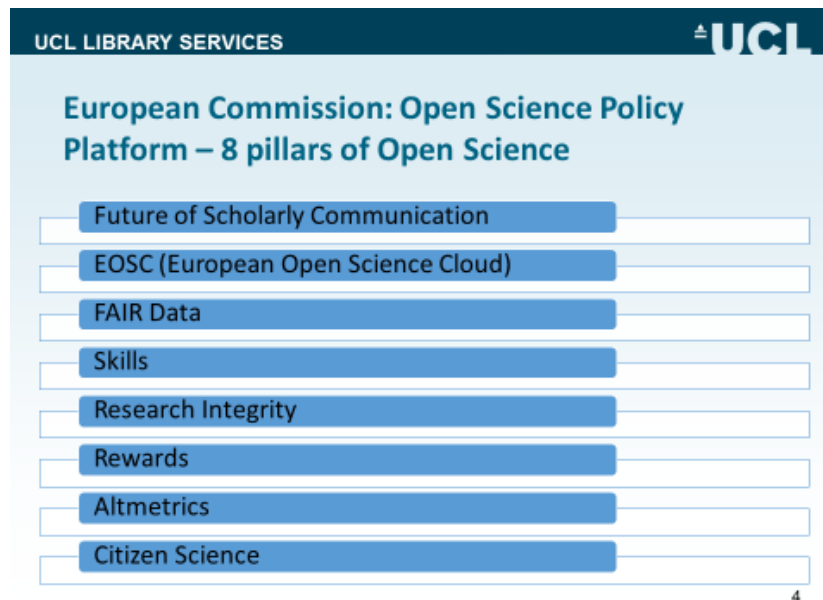
## A Brief History of OAI Workshops in Geneva

The Workshops on *Current Developments in Scholarly Communication* were jointly the initiative of Professor Raf Dekeyser of LIBER (Association of European Research Libraries) and Dr Herbert Van De Sompel (then of the Los Alamos National Laboratory). OAI1 was first held in 2001. Attendance was small (less than 50 people), but now attendance at the Workshops is between 150-200 – a good result for a European meeting.

The intention in starting the Workshops was to look at the interface between technical developments, academic support activities in libraries and IT departments, researcher needs and publisher initiatives. No other Workshop/Conference did this in 2001 and the ability to attract papers in all these areas has been one of the characteristics of the meetings.

The Workshops are called Workshops, because they are meant to act as the catalyst for interaction between speakers, audience and participants. The feedback forms after each Workshop show strong results in this area, although of course we can always do better. The feedback results from OAI10 will be circulated to the Organising Committee for general information. We will be introducing Slido into the plenary sessions for OAI11. Slido is a real-time polling tool, which enables attendees to interact with speakers by posing questions during the talk, which the chair can use during questions and answers in each session.

OAI11 marks a turning point in the evolution of the OAI Workshops. The membership of the Organising Committee for the Programme is completely new and this brings fresh talents and insights into the Programme and the organisation of the events. Numbers of attendees at OAI10 were down on previous years. In part, this is due to there being many more Conferences in Europe on the theme of Scholarly Communication. In part, however, it underlines a need for the OAI Workshops to be refreshed and to strike out on new innovative paths, leading from the front. Hence the selection of the overarching theme for OAI11 – *Open Science*, a theme selected after discussion with members of the Organising Committee.



The theme *Open Science – its impact and potential as a driver for radical change* is a new one for the Workshops. It is wider than Open Access, and has been defined by the European Commission as encompassing 8 pillars listed above.

We have had many papers on Open Access in the past, but not all OAI Workshops have been wedded to the Open Access theme. It has **never** been a condition that a paper or Workshop has to be aligned with the Open Access movement.

All stakeholders in the Scholarly Communication landscape have insights to offer and can be considered as potential speakers. We do allow publishers to be speakers at the Workshop, but we do **not** allow commercial pitches for their own products and services. That would be outside the scope of their invitation.

Members of the Organising Committee have a really important role to play as they are the leads for each of the sessions. They select their theme and speakers, chair the Workshop session and undertake all the speaker management to ensure that speakers turn up at their sessions. One of the traditions of the OAI Workshops is to have one technical session, devoted to more technical IT developments and innovations in the IT space. It is hoped to continue the tradition in OAI11, although Herbert Van De Sompel, who organised all 10 previous technical sessions, has stood down from the Organising Committee.

There is a social side to the OAI Workshops too. The ‘drinks sharing’ is a traditional part of OAI events, where each attendee is invited to bring a bottle of beer/wine which is traditional in their own country. These are then placed on the drinks table, available for sharing. At least one marriage can be attributed to the networking of the drinks sharing event, so be careful what you wish for... 😊 Monies in the budget allowing, there is also a networking buffet with drinks and canapés on another evening – with a short speech by the Chair of the Organising Committee. But the main purpose of the buffet is to allow attendees to continue to meet each other and to network.

There is a sponsorship activity, which the chair of the Organising Committee leads, to raise money to support the Workshop so that we can keep the registration fee as low as possible. **If you have suggestions for sponsors to be approached, please send details to [p.ayris@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:p.ayris@ucl.ac.uk).**

As a reminder, the Mission Statement for OAI11 is:

The series of meetings *Current Developments in Scholarly Communication*, held by the University of Geneva and CERN, are designed to engage with all communities in the scholarly communications landscape, to explore new developments and the challenges of their implementation, with the aim of building a soundly-based, equitable scholarly communications system across the globe.

OAI meetings are designed to:

- Investigate current developments in scholarly communication across the globe
- Build collaborations and partnerships between different stakeholders in the scholarly communications landscape
- Investigate questions around equity of access to research
- Look at platforms, workflows, software, economic and administrative challenges
- Consider innovations in infrastructure, policy development and research cultures which underpin scholarly communication activity

- Consider and demonstrate the wider picture of arguments for open research and reproducibility

The OAI Workshops fully embrace OpenCon's Recommendations on *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion* in organising and holding our Workshops, available at <https://sparcopen.github.io/opencon-dei-report/>.

## Appendix

3 Articles describing the first seven OAI Workshops can be found in *LIBER Quarterly*

Dekeyser, R., 'The LIBER Workshops on the "Open Archives Initiative" at CERN, Geneva, in *LIBER Quarterly* 16(1) (2006), available at <https://www.liberquarterly.eu/articles/10.18352/lq.7836/>

Ayris, P., 'Embedding Open Access into the European Landscape – the Contribution of LIBER' in *LIBER Quarterly*, 17(2) (2007), available at <https://www.liberquarterly.eu/articles/10.18352/lq.7876/>

Ayris, P., 'Conference report: OAI7 — Raising the Bar for Current Developments in Scholarly Communication, A Personal View', in *LIBER Quarterly* 21(1) (2011), available at <https://www.liberquarterly.eu/articles/10.18352/lq.8013/>

Websites and Programmes for all OAI meetings can be found at <https://indico.cern.ch/event/405949/page/4544-previous-oai-workshops>. There are also videos of the plenary sessions available via the link in the Programme.

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20.1.19