

Embedding Open Research Training in an Institutional Context

An exploration of implementation of the UK Reproducibility Network Open Research Programme Train-the-Trainer project at King's College London

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Background

The widespread adoption of open research practices is critically dependent upon the provision of training and appropriate support of these practices. A particular challenge for adoption is the existing institutional context. This poster explores the process of embedding the UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN) Open Research Programme (ORP) Train-the-Trainer project at King's and how it supported acceleration of work in both open research and research integrity at the institution.

King's College London and UKRN's Open Research Programme

King's is a research-intensive UK university committed to research integrity and as such became a member of the UKRN in 2020. The UKRN is a peer-led consortium working to ensure that the UK remains a centre for world-leading research. We contribute to the UKRN's ORP, a five-year programme in its third year, that seeks to accelerate uptake of high-quality open research practices with aims of improving research integrity, quality and public trust in research. It is a collaborative programme between twenty-four institutions and project partners, funded by Research England, that develops and delivers high quality training in open research; a framework for evaluation of institutional practice in open research; and shares effective practice of open research and its support across the sector with a particular focus on reward and recognition.



Planning

A key strand of the ORP is focussed on training a community of trainers in open research practices through the Train-the-Trainer project. This workstream commenced by surveying participating institutions to identify current training provisions and understand which areas of open research should be prioritised for training to produce a schema. To supplement this programme view with the local context, King's also conducted internal assessments of the current breadth of training around research integrity, governance and ethics, as well as an initial reflection on wider training that related to open research. We found that provision of OR training was being delivered on an ad-hoc basis; with no central co-ordination; notable gaps in topics; and uneven engagement from researchers across disciplines.

We then developed an institutional strategy to ensure successful delivery, alongside developing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and Checklist for Trainers. These outlined how we would enable coordination between King's and the ORP Train-the-trainer project and at King's how we would coordinate between central and faculty-based teams working in the open research space; establish processes of impact assessment; and build clear communication channels within the local research community.

Recruitment

Recruitment for trainers will be on-going at King's as the ORP release further details of upcoming Train-the-Trainer courses throughout the programme's lifetime. With regards to the initial recruitment process, this sought trainers across professional services and research staff - whilst balancing expectations for these different groups - seeking to recruit a mix of researchers across disciplines, especially those underrepresented in the OR space, such as Arts & Humanities. Recruitment was directed through existing networks built and managed by the Research Integrity Office and proactive engagement throughout the first years of the ORP, through Libraries & Collections, UKRN Local Network Leads and Research Integrity Champions.

Onboarding & Support

To onboard and support new trainers, a kick-off meeting was organised, and communications shared as King's staff began to undertake the training. New trainers were added to a Teams site that could be used to network with each other; access important documents (like the SOP and Trainer's Checklist); and for communications to be streamlined and directed towards the trainers. We also have begun to provide opportunities to discuss and feedback and will make this a standard part of our process, ensuring trainer development and continuous improvement of trainings are prioritised as King's staff more widely are upskilled in high quality open research practices. These initial onboarding and support processes will be replicated following future rounds of recruitment of trainers.

Outcomes



High Trainer Recruitment

High number of trainers at King's for first round of Train-the-trainer courses.



Expanded Training on OR

Expanded training around high quality open research practices at King's.



Development Focus

Continuous improvement and staff development at core of training strategy.



Clarity for Trainers

Trainers set up with clear expectations and responsibilities.



Faculty-wide Engagement

Wider range of faculties engaged in Open Research training.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to colleagues in the Research Integrity Office, Research Integrity Advisers, Research Integrity Champions, UKRN colleagues, Open Research Coordinators and Administrators and King's Dean of Research Culture. The UKRN Open Research Programme is funded by the Research England Development Fund.