



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH  
Library

# Library Investment in Citizen Science

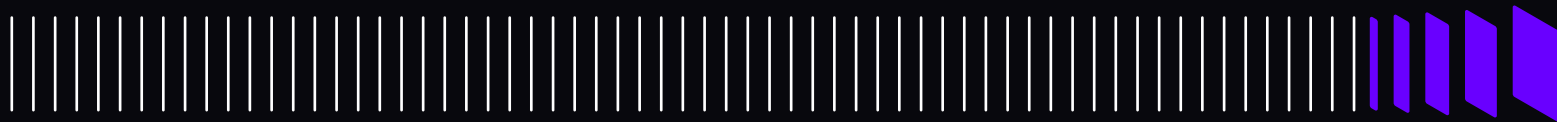
23 April 2024

**Dominic Tate**  
Deputy Director  
Library & University Collections  
University of Edinburgh



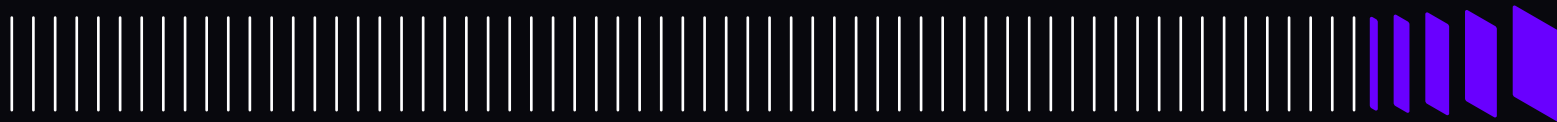


The Library helps people to grow their knowledge and create new connections through open services, collections and environments, sparking ideas that change the world.





The Library's Research Support Team enables the University's  
transition to Open Research.



# Open Research Roadmap



## Roadmap for Open Science – University of Edinburgh Self-Assessment January 2022

The following table contains a self-assessment on the University of Edinburgh’s readiness for Open Research, based on the 37 criteria set out in the LERU Open Science Roadmap. This self-assessment has been carried out by staff in the Library Research Support (LRS) Team. This is a working document and we would welcome the views on the accuracy of the self-assessment and the recommendations made.

	Topic	Question	Assessment of progress	Proposed next steps	RAG Status
Cultural change					
1.	<b>Leadership</b>	Has your university appointed a senior manager to lead Open Science approaches across all eight pillars of the Open Science debate identified by the European Commission?	<p>Dominic Tate (Head of Library Research Support) has been acting in the role of LERU Open Science Ambassador (OSA) but Dr. William Cawthorn (Lecturer, Centre for Cardiovascular Science, CMVM) has now taken on this role. Dominic Tate will continue to lead on Open Research for the Library.</p> <p>A number of other senior researchers have taken very active roles in areas of Open Science, including Andrew Millar, Malcolm McLeod (via the UK Reproducibility Network) and Emily Sena. In addition, as part of the recent REF submission, various School and Centres have identified a senior academic with a remit for open science.</p> <p>Grassroots networks of Open Research champions have emerged, such as the Edinburgh Open Research Initiative (EORI: <a href="https://edinburgh_open">@edinburgh_open</a>, <a href="https://edopenresearch.com/">https://edopenresearch.com/</a>) and ReproducibiliTea sessions, organised by interested postgraduate groups.</p>	<p>Schools and Colleges should consider engaging Open Research Champions at a local level</p> <p>The Open Research Co-Ordinator will create a network of Open Research champions from across the University. These will primarily be senior academics who have a responsibility for Open Research in their School, and school or college Research Support Staff who have a direct role in promoting and supporting Open Research. This network will work together to ensure coordinated action in designing and implementing strategies for advancing the University’s progress on the eight pillars. Dr. Cawthorn will Chair this network as part of his LERU Open Science Ambassador role.</p> <p>The Open Research Co-Ordinator will also identify any other researcher led Open Research work going on within the University. Once identified the Library will offer support to these groups as well as encouraging them to work</p>	





# The Nine Pillars of Open Research

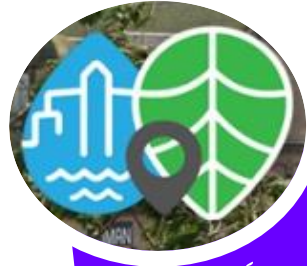
	Culture Change	Future of Scholarly Publishing	FAIR Data	EOSC	Education & Skills	Recognition & Rewards	Next-generation Metrics	Research Integrity	Citizen Science & Participatory Research
RAG Status	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green



# Participatory Research

An umbrella term encompassing research approaches with the same value: sharing control.

- Participation at *any* stage of the research cycle
- Can have low- or high-levels of participation



**CITIZEN SCIENCE  
Our Outdoors**



**Public & Patient  
Involvement (PPI)  
VIKING GENES**



**Crowdsourcing  
The Lyell  
Digitisation  
Project**



**Collaborative  
Research  
Everyday Heroes**



**Co-Production  
Sensing in the  
Community**

# WHY is Citizen Science Important?

- Academic libraries are behind the curve - public libraries, galleries and museums have been leading with this for years.
- Universities need to get out of their ivory towers: public distrust in academia is high, as demonstrated during the pandemic.
- Libraries have so much to offer: collections, spaces and services. We may also have existing relationships with community groups.
- Support for Citizen Science is an obvious missing piece in our portfolio for services.
- Supporting Citizen Science plays well to librarians skills in supporting research and teaching, customer service, sharing knowledge and engaging communities.



# University of Edinburgh's Approach

- Appointment of one Library Citizen Science Engagement Officer on a full-time, open-ended contract.
- Role is to understand how the library can support Citizen Science across the University, with a particular regard to collections, spaces and services.
- Make recommendations to Senior Management Team.
- Promote Citizen Science and Participatory Research to academics across the University.
- Develop a work plan and service catalogue.
- Support the strategic theme of *Social & Civic Responsibility* in the [University's Strategy 2030](#).





# Service Objectives

1. | Identify creative ways to use pre-existing resources to address the challenges of participatory research
2. | Develop new services to address the challenges of participatory research
3. | Raise awareness and support the adoption of PR in engagement and research (when appropriate!)

Resource Hub

Participatory  
Research Networking

Grey-Literature

Direct Service  
Support for Specific  
Projects

And many more I can't mention here...

# Links

- Open Research Roadmap <https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/research-support/open-research/about>
- Open Research Conference <https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/research-support/open-research/edinburgh-open-research-conference>
- Citizen Science Services <https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/research-support/open-research/participatory-research>
- LIBER Citizen Science Resources <https://libereurope.eu/working-group/liber-citizen-science-working-group/>





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