Research Outputs: Their Access & Preservation

A perspective from the UK Research Councils

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Overview

- The UK's research councils

- Principles on access

- Access to research outputs

- Data management policies

UK Research Councils

- Arts & Humanities   £97M
- Biotechnology & Biological   £382M
- Engineering & Physical   £721M
- Economic and Social   £150M
- Medical   £546M
- Natural Environment   £367M
- Particle Physics & Astronomy   £315M
- Central Laboratory   £213M

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Estimate:2007/08. Source: Science and innovation investment framework 2004 – 2014: next steps. HM Treasury, March 2006.
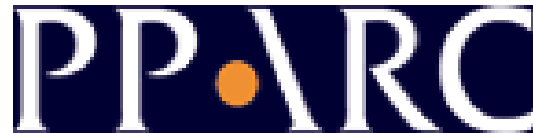
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£2.8B

bbsrc
biotechnology and biological
sciences research council

E·S·R·C
ECONOMIC
& SOCIAL
RESEARCH
COUNCIL

Arts & Humanities
Research Council

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MRC | Medical
Research
Council

EPSRC Engineering and Physical Sciences
Research Council

PPARC

CCLRC

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RCUK four key principles

1. Accessibility to publicly-funded research.

   Ideas and knowledge derived from publicly-funded research must be made available and accessible for public use, interrogation and scrutiny, as widely, rapidly and effectively as practicable.

RCUK four key principles

1. Accessibility to publicly-funded research.

2. Rigorous quality assurance.

   Published research outputs must be subject to rigorous quality assurance, through effective peer review mechanisms.

RCUK four key principles

1. Accessibility to publicly-funded research.

2. Rigorous quality assurance.

3. Efficient and cost-effective access.

    The models and mechanisms for publication and access to research results must be both efficient and cost-effective in the use of public funds.

RCUK four key principles

1. Accessibility to publicly-funded research.

2. Rigorous quality assurance.

3. Efficient and cost-effective access.

4. Long-term preservation and accessibility of outputs.

   The outputs from current and future research must be preserved and remain accessible for future generations.

Access to research outputs

- Generic RCUK position on deposit in repositories applies to:
  - Published, peer-reviewed outputs only (eg. journal articles, conference proceedings);
  - New grants awarded after October 2006 (but encouraged for existing grants).
- RCUK 'impacts' study to report in 2008.

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Access to research outputs

Council	Requirement to deposit
AHRC	(Mandate?) To confirm by end 2006
BBSRC	Mandate (If repository available)
EPSRC	Strongly committed to RCUK principles (Will review position after RCUK study)
ESRC	Mandate
MRC	Mandate
NERC	Mandate
PPARC	Mandate (If repository available)
CCLRC	Strongly encourages deposit

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Access to research outputs

Council	Requirement	Repository
AHRC	(Mandate?)	To confirm by end 2006
BBSRC	Mandate (If repository available)	Use most appropriate repository
EPSRC	Strongly committed to RCUK principles	
ESRC	Mandate	Must deposit in ESRC repository
MRC	Mandate	Must deposit in UK Pub-med Central
NERC	Mandate	Use most appropriate repository. If non-available, use NERC repository
PPARC	Mandate (If repository available)	Use most appropriate repository
CCLRC	Strongly encourages deposit	Use CCLRC's own repository

Data management policies

- Policies and data management infrastructures have developed over time.
- Reflection of approaches to data management within differing scientific communities.

Data management policies

AHRC	*De facto* policy - detailed in funding guidance.
BBSRC	Data sharing policy and implementation guidelines. Endorsed by Council July 2006.
EPSRC	No formal policy, does not overly intervene in the research dissemination process.
ESRC	Formal data policy. Current version dates from 2000, to be updated soon.
MRC	Data sharing and preservation policy – applies to new grants awarded from January 2006.
NERC	Data policy handbook – policy and guidance. New version due end 2006.
PPARC	Data curation policy agreed in principle. April 2005.
CCLRC	A number of policies for the curation of CCLRC data on a per-project basis.

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Obligations on researchers

AHRC	For grants awarded where a significant product is the creation of an electronic resource, data and documentation must be offered to AHDS within 3 months.
BBSRC	Research data to be made available with as few restrictions as possible in a timely and responsible manner. Data should be retained for 10 years.
EPSRC	Encourages PIs to manage primary data as the basis for publications securely and for an appropriate time in a durable form under the control of the institution of their origin.
ESRC	Applicants must carry out a data review to ensure funds not requested for data that are already available. Data must be offered to the Data Archive within 3 months of end of award.
MRC	From January 2006 applicants must produce a plan for data sharing and preservation and include costings in grant applications.
NERC	All data must be offered to a NERC data centre to enable long-term management and re-use. PIs offered reasonable time for first use.
PPARC	PIs have to consider data curation and sharing activities.

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Curation

AHRC	Joint JISC & AHRC supported Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS)
BBSRC	No curation facilities supported as yet – however, recognise need for resources to support long-term, sustainable management.
EPSRC	Data managed in a durable form under control of the institution of origin.
ESRC	Joint JISC & ESRC supported UK Date Archive, including the Economic and Social Data Service.
MRC	Encourages curation and long-term management and MRC will fund. Onus is on the PI and their institution. Considering data curation facilities.
NERC	Long-term commitment to managing and making available environmental data. Eight NERC Data Centres.
PPARC	Supports long-term curation of selected data sets. Driven by the science, data centres supported as projects. Not appropriate to maintain all data.
CCLRC	*A number of curation activities – including the Atlas Data Store*

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Generic issues

- Research outputs must be accessible to enable verification & exploitation.

- Research funders have a responsibility to ensure:

  – Accessibility of outputs;

  – Availability of long-term infrastructure.

- Dissemination is part of the research process and has to be paid for.

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Further information

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