



3 ways librarians can support open research

A quick guide to helping researchers respond to the shift to open

The role of librarians in the open research landscape is changing, partly because of the increasing number of policies encouraging open research practices.

Open research prioritizes openness, transparency, and collaboration throughout the research cycle. As researchers navigate policies and funder requirements to make their research open, they often need more support.

This is where their institutions and librarians can make a real difference – but how? Here are 3 ways to get you started:

1 Seek out resources to build knowledge at your institution

Librarians have the opportunity to build their faculty's knowledge around open research practices and processes. A useful place to start is by finding concise resources and sharing these with researchers. F1000 has a wide range of free resources with practical advice on making research open.

Resources to share with your faculty

- An [Open Data Toolkit](#), covering everything researchers need to know about FAIR data, Data Availability Statements, repositories, and more.
- A concise summary of [open data in the humanities](#).
- Guidance on [open peer review](#) and how it works in practice.
- We host monthly webinars on different open research topics tailored to the needs of researchers. All [previous webinars](#) are available to watch on demand.

Resources to grow your own knowledge

- Download our [Librarian Open Research Toolkit](#). This includes 3 informative resources, featuring a whitepaper on research integrity, a case study on empowering researchers with the Bill & Melinda Gates foundation, and an institutional guidebook on open research solutions.

2 Advocate the benefits of open research, and the need for practical support for researchers

As a librarian you should be prepared to advocate for your institution's demand for open research and highlight its many benefits. Librarians have an important role in encouraging their institution to make open research a priority and deliver practical support to their researchers.

Some benefits to highlight at your institution:

- Open research supports research transparency and reproducibility.
- Research that is shared openly can be built upon quickly by other researchers; this has been important in accelerating the pace of COVID-19 research. This means that open research allows institutions to maximize their investment into data collection and research.
- Enabling research to be published so that it is accessible to anyone, anywhere, democratizes information, and boosts public understanding of institutional research. This also increases trust in research findings.

To help make these benefits a reality, you will need to help your institution recognize that researchers require support to make their work widely accessible, whilst protecting the integrity of their research. Researchers need access to institutional infrastructure to share their work safely, and they may need increased funding to pay open access publishing fees.

3 Find innovative solutions to help your institution embrace open research publishing practices

To help researchers publish openly and share data more easily, librarians should look to understand their specific barriers and collaborate with other faculties to find the right solutions to expand their institution's open research publishing options. This may include creating institutional platforms capable of hosting data sets and making them open.

Open research solutions:

You could also find open research publications and make them discoverable to your researchers. This includes highlighting venues to researchers where they may already be eligible to publish openly. F1000 powers many open research [publishing Platforms](#) supported by funders and organizations, so researchers affiliated with them can publish there for free.

Librarians could also work with publishing companies on affordable open research solutions tailored to their institution's goals. For example, this could be a publishing venue that is either discounted or free to an institution's researchers. F1000 partners with organizations all over the world to help them meet their open research goals and support their researchers. Institutions work with us to create:

- **Platforms:** Bespoke publishing venues for research communities, powered by F1000.
- **Gateways:** Branded research hubs for an organization's content, on an F1000 Platform.
- **Collections:** Groups of Research Articles on a topic or area of interest, on an F1000 Platform.
- Content bundles, or institutional agreements: Where organizations pre-pay for their researchers' future publications on an [F1000 Platform](#).



Want to learn more? [Book a meeting](#) with F1000 today to discuss the open research publishing solutions available.