James Hutton Institute

Position Statement on Open Science

1. Introduction

The James Hutton Institute aspires to have a research culture that embeds open science principles and practices. We believe this will enhance the research quality, visibility and impact of our work and ensure that our research is of maximum benefit to society. This statement sets out the Institute's commitments and expectations of our colleagues in support of this aspiration.

The statement is informed by external frameworks including the Concordat on Open Research Data and is supported by more detailed Institute policies on Open Access Publishing and Research Data Management. It is owned by the Science Strategy Group and will be reviewed and refreshed at least every two years or after major policy changes.

2. The Institute's commitment:

The Institute recognises that adopting Open Science principles across all areas of our work will require, for some, a major shift from current research practices. It also recognises that embedding open science practices requires effort and commitment from colleagues.

The Institute therefore commits to support researchers through:

- Promoting a positive research culture which prioritises rigor and transparency in research and empowers researchers to enact these principles.
- Providing infrastructure to support sharing of the research process and outputs in line with the FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship, whilst respecting circumstances that limit data sharing (for example, due to issues of privacy, non-consent, contractual agreements, legislation or practicality).
- Supporting the long-term sustainability of open materials and their continued open accessibility. This includes non-traditional outputs (e.g. scholarly software, standards, datasets and tools).
- Delivering a programme of engagement and training to ensure all researchers are meeting the requirements of our quality assurance systems and which enables them to take advantage of the opportunities open science presents. This will

include training in the use of new/existing software to allow colleagues to easily share their work and findings and demonstrate transparency in reporting.
- Monitoring progress in the adoption of open science practices and adapting support and training accordingly.
- Providing support at Science Department level which reflects local priorities and circumstances.

3. Expectations of our researchers:

- Open access for outputs: Strive to make all scholarly outputs freely available at the time point of publication, if not before, in accordance with our open access publishing policy.
- Open data: Data underlying publications to be made openly available and FAIR where legally, ethically, and technically possible, as well as referenced via a data access statement in the publication.
- Open research methods: Share processes and methods used in obtaining and evaluating research results, as appropriate to particular projects and disciplines (e.g. by engaging with stakeholders and end users as part of the research process, publishing experimental protocols, research software, etc; by using best practice techniques for reproducibility; by preregistering experiments and analyses in advance of data collection when appropriate, etc).
- Open code: Strive to make all the code for data processing, data cleaning, data analysis, statistical modelling and simulations that underly scholarly outputs freely and openly available at the time point of publication, if not before, in accordance with our open access publishing policy, as well as referencing them via a data access statement in any publications.
- Licensing: Adopt copyright licenses for all research outputs including data, code and publications, which support sharing and reuse as widely as possible and feasible.
- Good practice: Contribute to the development of best practice within their research area, by complying with funder and journal open research policies as a minimum, and advancing them where possible.

4. Support

For further information or support in relation to Open Science please contact Deb Roberts (deb.roberts@hutton.ac.uk)

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