



Declaration On Research Assessment

Improving how research is assessed



sfdora.org
 @DORAssessment



DORA and Open Data

Declaration On Research Assessment

improving the ways in which the outputs of research are evaluated by moving away from the use of journal impact factors

Open Data

making available data that is gathered during the research process

Why a Declaration?

- Addresses misuse of journal-based metrics in hiring, promotion and funding decisions
- Draws attention to the problem and fosters progressive solutions
- Demonstrates community support for change

July 2020: Signed by >1975 organisations and >16,000 individuals



2020 University of Aberdeen became a signatory



Meaningful Assessment Improves Research

- Promotes value of all scholarly outputs
 - Journal articles
 - Preprints
 - Datasets
 - Software
 - Protocols
 - Research materials
 - Well-trained researchers
 - Societal outcomes and policy changes
- Focuses on the merits of the work
 - Reduces JIF-chasing
 - Facilitates Open Science practices
 - Improves rigor and reliability
 - Enhances collaboration

DORA's vision

Advance practical and robust approaches to improve how research is assessed globally and across all scholarly disciplines

The declaration provides recommendations to stimulate positive action by:

- Funders
- Research institutions
- Publishers
- Metrics providers
- Researchers

DORA's Objectives

Raise awareness

Call attention to new tools and processes in research assessment and the responsible use of metrics that align with core academic values and promote consistency and transparency in decision making.

Facilitate implementation

Aid development of new policies and practices for hiring, promotion, and funding decisions.

Catalyse change

Spread research assessment reform broadly by working across scholarly disciplines and globally.

Improve equity

Call for broader representation of researchers in the design of research assessment practices that directly address the structural inequalities in academia.

DORA's Approaches

Community engagement

Publish blogs, organise community interviews, and give presentations on research assessment.

Resource development

Curate collections of good practices, create slide presentation to help individuals initiate local conversations about change, and publish commentaries to provide additional guidance for stakeholders.

Partnership

Work with other organisations that share our desire to reform research assessment.

Advising

Advise academic institutions and funders seeking to review and revise their research assessment policies and practices.

Convening

Gather diverse stakeholders at conference sessions, workshops, and meetings to work towards system change.

Key themes of DORA

- The need to eliminate the use of journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors, in funding, appointment and promotion considerations
- The need to assess research on its own merits rather than on the basis of the journal in which the research is published
- The need to capitalise on the opportunities provided by online publication

Recommendations for institutions

- Be explicit about the criteria used to hire and promote
- Consider the value and impact of all research output

Recommendations for researchers

- If involved in committees making decision on funding, recruitment or promotion, make assessment based on content
- Where appropriate, cite primary literature in which observations are first reported rather than review – to give credit where credit is due
- Use a range of article metrics and indicators on personal/supporting statements as evidence
- Challenge research assessment practices that rely inappropriately on Journal Impact Factors and promote best practice

Change is happening: Funders

How we judge research outputs when making funding decisions



© Published: 8 August 2018

Open access

Robert Kiley, Head of Open Research, and Jim Smith, Director of Science, discuss the steps Wellcome is taking to fulfil the principles of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA).

When we published our [open access policy](#) over a decade ago, we made it clear that what counts when we make funding decisions is the intrinsic merit of the work and not the journal or publisher.

Wellcome
London, United Kingdom

Application includes:

- List of research outputs
- Contributions to mentorship
- Output sharing plan to advance potential health benefits
- Plans for public engagement

Guidance provided to advisory panel members



Credit: Science Photo Library

A researcher's skills, qualities and attitudes can never be expressed in a single metric.



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Home > Funding for researchers > Research features > Improving how we evaluate research: how we're implementing DORA

Improving how we evaluate research: how we're implementing DORA

Category: [Research Feature](#) 20 February 2018 Cancer Research UK

Cancer Research UK
London, UK

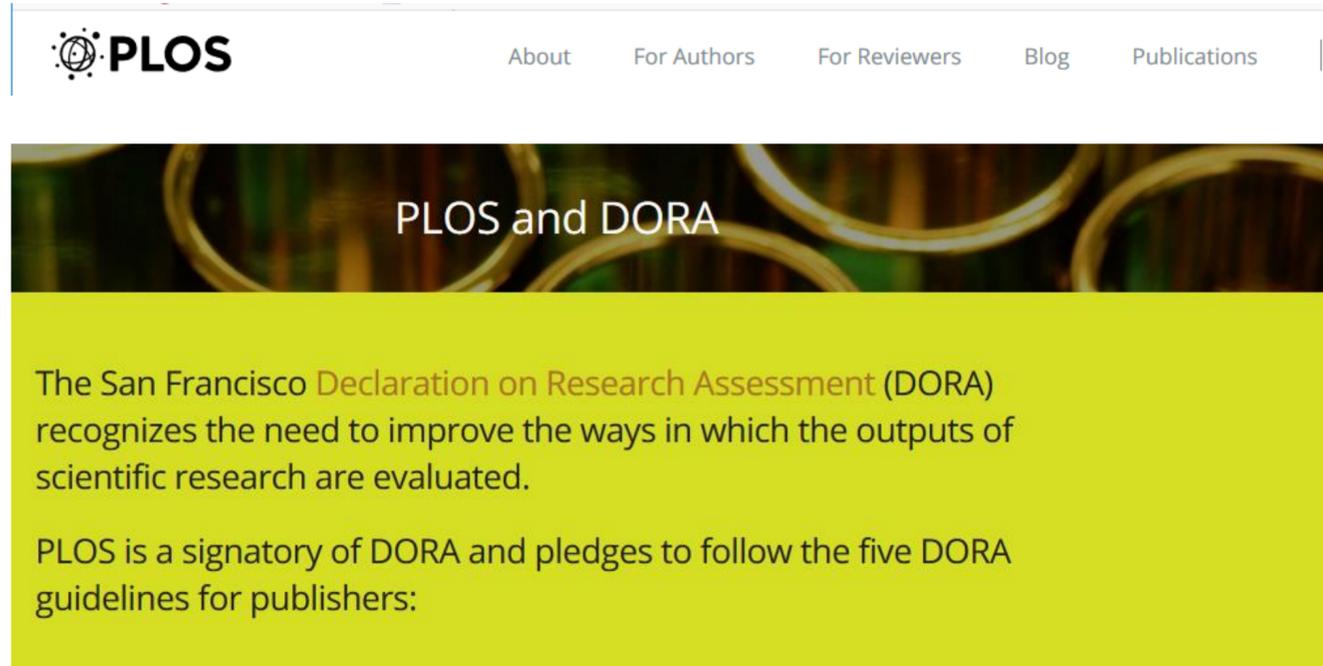
Application includes:

- List of research outputs
- Summary of 3-5 achievements
- Space to describe other measures of impact

Reminds peer reviewers and committee members of DORA principles throughout funding process



Change is happening: Publishers



PLOS About For Authors For Reviewers Blog Publications

PLOS and DORA

The San Francisco [Declaration on Research Assessment \(DORA\)](#) recognizes the need to improve the ways in which the outputs of scientific research are evaluated.

PLOS is a signatory of DORA and pledges to follow the five DORA guidelines for publishers:

PLOS
San Francisco, California

Dedicated page on website describing how its journals comply with DORA recommendations



Development
For advances in developmental biology and stem cells

Journal metrics

Signatory of



DORA

The Company of Biologists
Cambridge, UK

“Development uses a number of metrics that together provide a rich view of the journal’s performance”



Impact Factor (2017): 10.6 (Thomson Reuters)
5-year Impact Factor (2016): 9.9 (Thomson Reuters)
Immediacy Index (2016): 2.9 (Thomson Reuters)
Eigenfactor (2017): 0.08 (eigenfactor.org)
Article Influence (2016): 5.2 (eigenfactor.org)
SJR (2016): 6.6 (JournalM3trics)
SNIP (2016): 1.5 (JournalM3trics)
h5 (2012-2016): 95 (Google Scholar)

EMBO Press
Heidelberg, Germany

- Acknowledges DORA signature
- Shows citation distributions for its journals
- Presents all available metrics side-by-side and rounded to single digits



Member organisations, Steering Committee and Staff



Stephen Curry, Chair
Imperial College London



David Carr
Wellcome



Michael Hill
Swiss National Science Foundation



Stuart King
eLife



Anna Hatch
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Community Coordinator



Claire Moulton
Company of Biologists



Bernd Pulverer
EMBO



Fiona Reddington
Cancer Research UK



Erika Shugart
American Society for Cell Biology



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What is happening here?

- University became a signatory in 2020
- In the process of embedding DORA principles into recruitment and promotions guidance and procedures
- Creating a policy and guidance on the Responsible Use of Metrics which will be debated at Senate
- Considering the way in which we do Research Assessment in contexts, but particularly for REF preparations

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Looking Forward

- Underpinning the assessment of outputs and impact for REF
- Helping to enhance the Research Culture of UoA
- Being part of a wider community, where best practice is shared
- Ensuring a fair, open and transparent work environment

Any questions?

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