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# Drivers for Open Access and Data - A Funder's Perspective

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## Open Access is one part of Open Knowledge

**Open knowledge is any kind of information – sonnets to statistics, genes to geodata – that can be freely used, reused, and redistributed.**
(Open Knowledge Foundation)

- Open data (e.g. human genome)

- Open Science

- Open Innovation

- Open educational resources (e.g. OpenLearn at OU)

**JISC Strategy recognises 'open' as a key generic theme**

http://thand.wordpress.com/

- **Policies**

  - All seven Research Councils mandate OA, as does Wellcome Trust

  - As do several UK Government departments (e.g., Health)

  - A small but growing number of UK universities mandate OA (6)

  - UK Open Access Implementation Group

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**Repositories**

– JISC investment since 2002, direct support since 2006 for ~100 repositories

– UK has 169 repositories; 121 of which are 'institutional'

– Funder repositories (UK PubMedCentral, several Research Councils)

– JISC Repositories Support Project, UK Council of Research Repositories

– Increasingly seen as core research information management tools (REF, etc)

**OA Journals**

– Seed funding for several OA journals

– Investigating the role for JISC Collections in managing payments
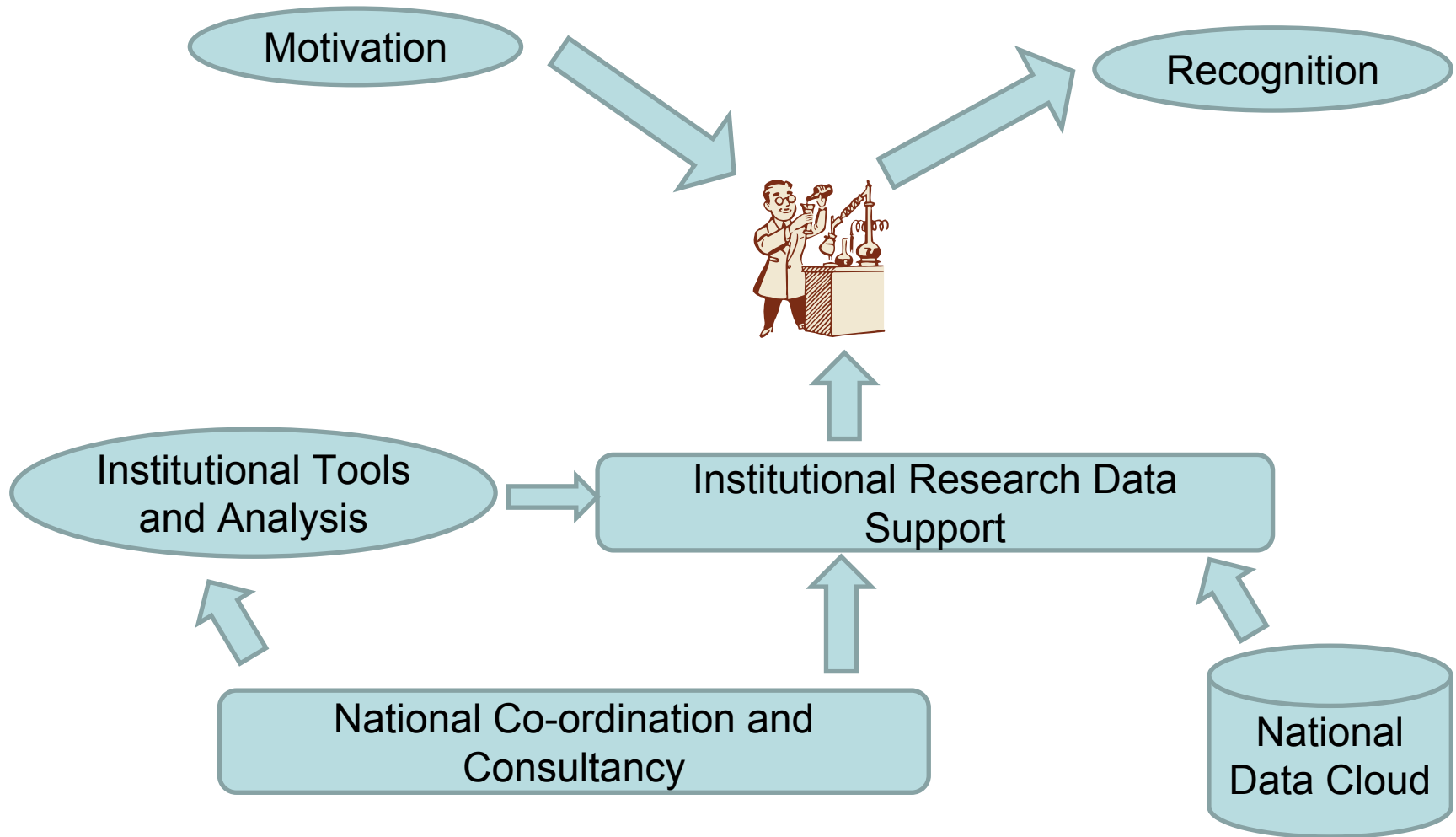
**Open Access Implementation Group**

– Chair Professor Martin Hall, VC University of Salford

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- "Open and accessible data up and down the information chain"

  (Open Data Foundation)

- Short-term archival ("I can get her thesis data"),

- Re-use ("I can mash his data with mine")

- Exposure ("they cited my paper because the robot found my data")

- Communities ("I found these other people in this field")

- Semantics ("I never thought of looking at the data in that way).

- Human value ("we can tackle this global problem with this data")

  (Peter Murray-Rust)

- Some subject-based data repositories collating data for reuse

    – Social sciences, natural and environmental sciences, some biosciences

- Few institutional repositories accepting data yet, though emerging as an issue

- Data innovation programme

- Digital Curation Centre

    – International centre of expertise

    – Advice and guidance to UK sector

- UK Research Data Service

# Relevant university drivers

- Legal compliance

- Funder policies

- Visibility and impact

- Research-led teaching

# Research Data Management

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## Benefits of open data

2008 JISC study* outlined the following potentially measurable benefits of more open data:

- Cross sector collaboration

- Data-led education

- Data re-use, avoiding costs of duplication, avoiding survey fatigue, data mining

- Fuller record of science, better detection of fraud and plagiarism

- Better alignment of research evaluation with actual research practice and outputs

- Improved visibility of researchers, funders and research institutions

- Underpinning new industries, eg in geo-spatial

- Emergence of new opportunities for service companies, adding value for data storage and access

\* Fry, J and Lockyer, S and Oppenheim, C and Houghton, J and Rasmussen, B (2009) Identifying benefits arising for the curation and open sharing of research date produced by UK Higher Education and research institutes http://ie-repository.jisc.ac.uk/279/

# Researchers: motivations and constraints (1)

JISC-RIN study* with the National Environment Research Council in the UK

Motivations:

- altruism,

- encouragement from peers

- hope of opening up opportunities for collaboration

But major disincentive:

- lack of explicit career rewards, and in particular the perceived failure of research evaluation and funding regimes explicitly to recognise and reward the creating and sharing of datasets

* Swan, A and Brown, S (2008) To share or not to share: Publication and Quality Assurance of Research Data Outputs http://eprints.ecs.soton.ac.uk/16742/

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Many researchers wish to retain exclusive use of the data they have created until they have extracted all the publication value they can

Also:

- Lack of time and resources

- Lack of experience

- Legal and ethical constraints

- Lack of an appropriate archive service

- Fear of exploitation or inappropriate use of the data

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Further work

- Clear guidance on what data should be curated, and which data should be open

- Integration of discipline and institutional repositories

- Improved links to OA resources and other "finding" tools

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Further work

- Promote strategic debate among funders, researchers and institutional management with aim to:

  – Determine appropriate policies

  – Provide infrastructure

  – Manage resources and identify sustainability

- Significant potential for FP8 initiatives and joint projects with N America (eg NSF), SE Asia, Australia etc