Oxford response to the survey on the culture of research metrics in UK research organisations

The Forum for Responsible Research Metrics are surveying research organisations to understand how they are implementing policies on the use of responsible research metrics.

We would like to understand the extent to which research organisations are implementing the principles/frameworks outlined in the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA http://www.ascb.org/dora/), the Leiden Manifesto (http://www.leidenmanifesto.org/) and The Metric Tide (http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/rereports/year/2015/metrictide/).

Responses to this survey will be used in order to develop advice to the sector on practical ways to implement the culture of responsible research metrics using the principles/frameworks outlined above. It will also inform any recommendations the Forum makes to UKRI.

Based on the responses received the Forum will consider whether to develop an agreement with similar ambitions to DORA, utilising The Metric Tide report, which aligns with the UK research base. Responses to the survey will be analysed by an observer to the Forum and the outcomes will be reported on at aggregate level ensuring anonymity for research organisations.

Universities UK are hosting this survey on behalf of the Forum. The deadline for responses is Monday 11 December 2017.

We seek only one response per research organisation. Please contact Claire Fraser for any questions regarding this survey.

1. Does your research organisation have a research metrics policy?
   Response: No

2. Has your research organisation signed DORA, the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment?
   Response: Yes

3. Please select the date of signature from the drop-down menu below.
   Response: March 2015

4. Has your research organisation signed DORA as:
   Response: A collective with other research organisations

5. Please provide reasons for signing/* not signing DORA.
   Response: The University's Research Committee approved the LERU proposal to sign the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment in support of the issues raised around the misuse of journal impact factors, the growing importance of alternative forms of research output, career advancement and progression for researchers, and research evaluation

6. Does your research organisation agree with the principles on research evaluation contained in the Leiden Manifesto?
   Response: Yes
7. Does your research organisation agree with the framework for responsible metrics as outlined in The Metric Tide (defined by five dimensions: robustness, humility, transparency, diversity and reflexivity. See pp.134-5 of The Metric Tide report)
Response: Yes, though the Reflexivity dimension is somewhat unclear and could open the potential for future problems

8. What actions, if any, has your research organisation taken to promote the principles of the Leiden Manifesto and/or DORA, and/or the Metric Tide report?
Response: Oxford's Bodleian Libraries include these in bibliometrics and research impact training sessions and web guides aimed at researchers and research students. See for example, http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/workshops/research-impact, and http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bibliometrics. Furthermore, the University's Research Information Management and Technology Subcommittee has proposed a set of eight principles to promote and embed the responsible use of research metrics at Oxford, and an informal consultation around this set of principles will be undertaken at the start of 2018

9. Do you see value in the UK developing an agreement with similar ambitions to DORA, utilising The Metric Tide report, which aligns with the UK research context?
Response: No, DORA, the Leiden Manifesto and the Metric Tide capture the key points surrounding research metrics and a UK agreement may not be able to add value proportionate to the effort involved in drafting and getting consensus around such an agreement.