

RESEARCHING OER IN THE OPEN: DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ROER4D PROJECT

Hodgkinson-Williams, C.;King, T.;

;

© 2018, HODGKINSON-WILLIAMS, C. & KING, T.



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction, provided the original work is properly credited.

Cette œuvre est mise à disposition selon les termes de la licence Creative Commons Attribution (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode>), qui permet l'utilisation, la distribution et la reproduction sans restriction, pourvu que le mérite de la création originale soit adéquatement reconnu.

IDRC Grant/ Subvention du CRDI: 107311-001-Research into Open Educational Resources for Development



Researching OER in the open: Developments in the ROER4D project

Cheryl Hodgkinson-Williams and Thomas King
Open Ed 2015, Vancouver, 18-20 Nov 2015

<http://www.slideshare.net/ROER4D/>



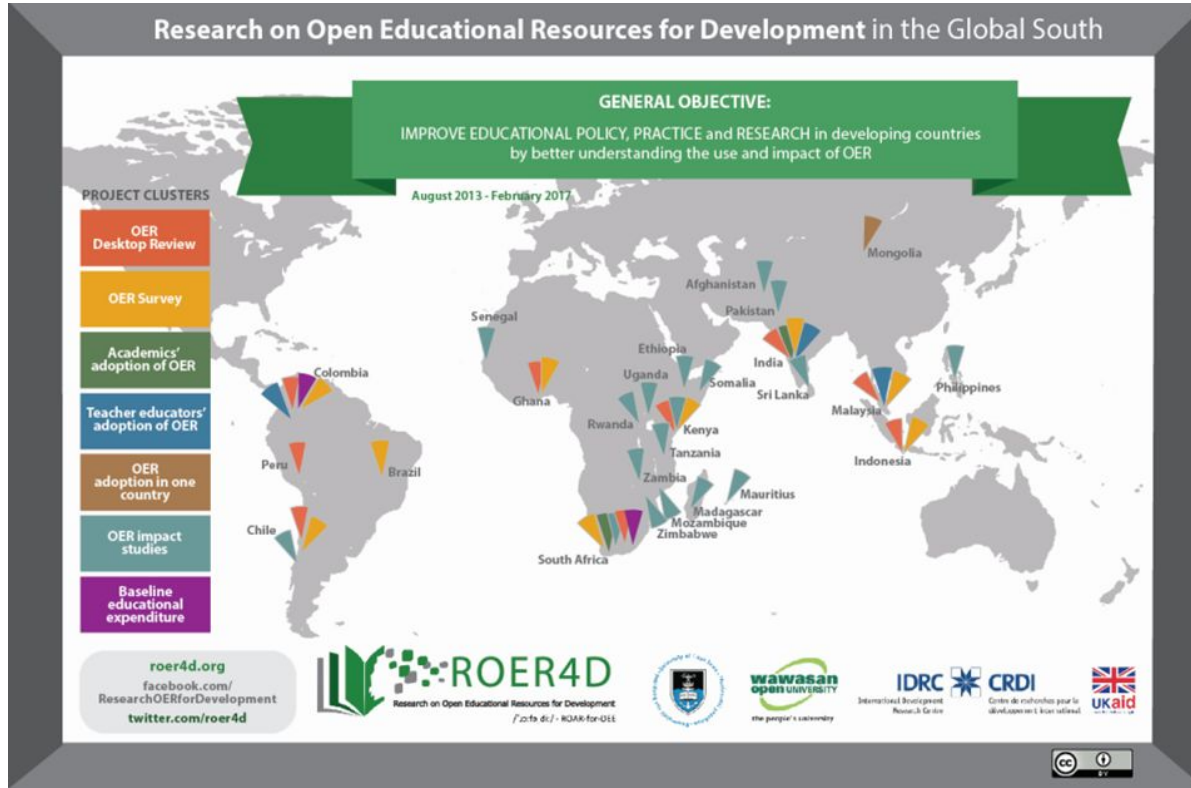
Challenges to which OER is a possible response

- Need for **accessible**, **affordable** & **relevant** higher education
- OER as part of a response to **lower costs** of and to **localise** teaching and learning materials
- Most research on OER adoption & impact in the Global North
- **Need for research on OER** adoption & impact in the **Global South**



ROER4D Research: OER Adoption & Impact

7 Research clusters
18 Sub-Projects



Defining 'Open Research'

ROER4D operational definition:

Open research is the process of conducting and sharing research in which a selection of research proposals, work-process documents, literature reviews, methodologies, research instruments, analytical frameworks, findings and/or data are intentionally shared on publicly accessible platforms in order for others to freely access, use, modify, and share them subject to measures that preserve ethical practice and legal provenance.

Benefits & challenges of open research in the ROER4D project

Four dimensions to 'open research' identified in the ROER4D Project:

1. Ideological
2. Legal
3. Technical
4. Practical

Defining 'Ideological openness'

ROER4D operational definition of 'ideological openness':

Ideological openness is the **belief that openness in research** can add value to the research process. This belief may be held for a range of reasons, including that open research can enhance the research process by **making the research processes more rigorous, transparent, accountable and verifiable** to a wide scholarly and/or public audience through **persistent, barrier- and charge-free access** to the research outputs in the long term.

Ideological openness: Examples

ROER4D Open Magna Carta



On public display in the West Rotunda Gallery of the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magna_Carta#mediaviewer/File:Magna_Carta_\(1297_version_with_seal,_owned_by_David_M_Rubenstein\).png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magna_Carta#mediaviewer/File:Magna_Carta_(1297_version_with_seal,_owned_by_David_M_Rubenstein).png)

Make open ...

... if it adds value

... if it is ethical

... if it is legal

... by default



ROER4D Research Concepts - DRAFT under construction

Created in March 2014 by Cheryl Hodgkinson-Williams

Updated by Cheryl Hodgkinson-Williams and/or Henry Trotter on 28 October 2015

To make sure we all have a shared understanding of the concepts that we use in the ROER4D study, herewith are the initial descriptions that have been compiled. Please feel free to comment and Henry and I will synthesize the comments! This page can be found at: <http://bit.ly/1FAB32d>

ROER4D Actual and Aspirational Ideological Openness

Ideological Openness



ROER4D Actual

ROER4D Aspirational

More modest aspirations for openness



ROER4D Ideological Openness - Recommendations

Key recommendations to encourage ideological openness in ‘open research’ projects include:

- Making the concept of openness in research **part of the grant proposal process**.
- Deliberating critically **what ‘openness’ means** to researchers in differing global research contexts and how they might enact it in their research activities.
- Agreeing to a **set of key ‘open’ principles** about research processes and documentation.

Defining ‘Legal openness’

ROER4D operational definition of ‘legal openness’:

Legal openness refers to the **use of appropriate alternative licensing mechanisms** such as Creative Commons, as well as the knowledge and resources required to apply and/or negotiate open licensing, copyright clearance, and the related intellectual property considerations that accompany the decision to make outputs and data legally open and reusable.



IDRC  CRDI



Legal openness: Example 1 - ROER4D Contract

1. CREATIVE COMMONS LICENCE

1.1. The Parties agree that clause 13.2 is deleted and replaced with the following new clause:

*“In addition to clause 13.1 [of the Main Agreement], the Parties acknowledge that the sharing of data and the dissemination of the research results to advance the state of knowledge in the field is in the common interest of both Parties. Accordingly, the Parties agree to **share data and co-operate** with each other and to publish jointly **when appropriate**. Authorship will be based on commonly accepted academic standards. **Where possible** to **publish in Open Access journals** and/or to make reports available under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International as the default licence (see <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode> for the detailed licence).”*

Legal openness: Example 2 - ROER4D Data Publications Guidelines



ROER4D Data Publication Guidelines

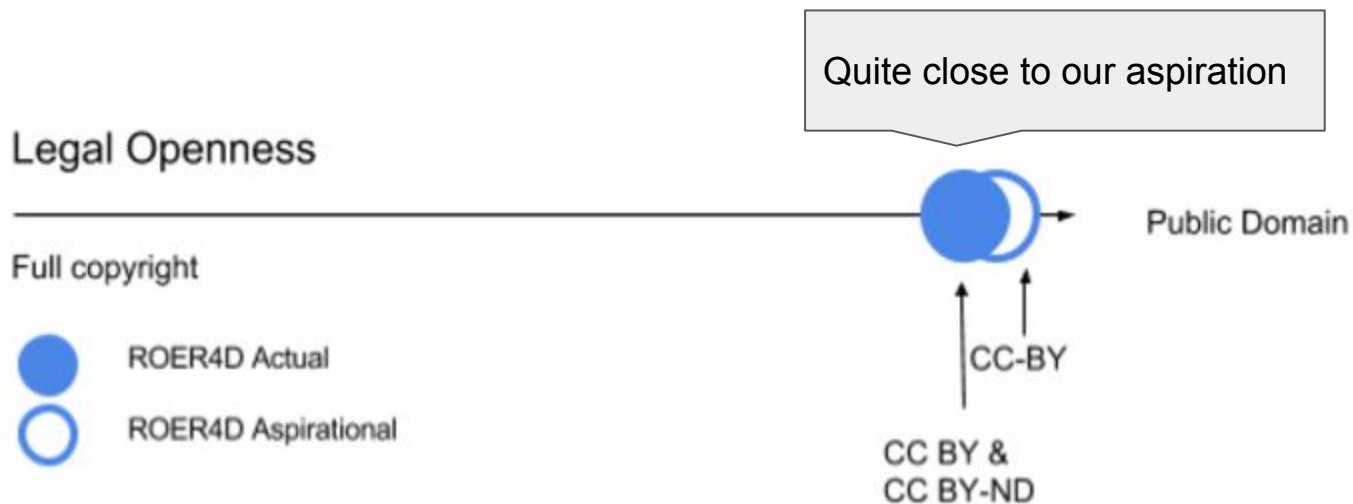
Prepared by Michelle Willmers (updated 13 November 2015)

Suggested citation: Willmers, M. (2015). ROER4D Data Publication Guidelines. Retrieved from: <http://tinyurl.com/ROER4DDataPublicationGuide>

Contents

- [1. Introduction: The ROER4D Open Data Initiative](#)
- [2. ROER4D contractual framework and data security mechanisms](#)
- [3. Articulating a data management plan \(DMP\)](#)
- [4. How to prepare your dataset for publication](#)
 - [Step 1: Conceptualise the dataset you wish to publish](#)
 - [Step 2: Identify points of sensitivity in the data](#)
 - [Step 3: Define an appropriate de-identification approach](#)
- [4. Conclusion](#)
- [5. Acknowledgements](#)
- [6. Useful resources](#)
- [Appendix A: Digital Curation Centre \(DCC\) DMP tool description category overview](#)

ROER4D Actual and Aspirational Legal Openness



ROER4D Legal Openness - Recommendations

Key recommendations for upholding legal openness in ‘open research’ projects include:

- **Consulting with a legal authority** conversant with open licensing mechanisms such as Creative Commons to craft the wording of research contracts.
- Ensuring that at least one member of the research team has a **working knowledge of copyright and Creative Commons licensing** and is able to advise researchers.
- Identifying and working with a **professional open data publishing partner** or service provider to ensure that appropriately de-identified data and described using globally-endorsed metadata protocols to provide optimal discoverability.
- **Adopting the OER practice of using openly licensed third-party resources**, especially images, in project documentation.

Defining ‘Technical openness’

ROER4D operational definition of ‘technical openness’:

Technical openness refers to the **use of open file formats and open software development standards to ensure equitable access**; publication **platforms that support open licensing and provide secure, long-term access** to resources with **adequate metadata** to ensure discoverability; and **openly published datasets** that allow for the data (and thus the analysis and conclusions) to be interrogated and elaborated upon.



IDRC  CRDI



Technical openness: Example 1 - Google Document for Collaboration

ROER4D Studies Research Planning Tools

<http://tinyurl.com/ROER4DResearchPlanningTool>


Planning Matrix

| What is the problem? | What is the claim made about OER as a response to this problem? (What is the hypothesis to be tested?) | What are the specific objectives? | What would count as evidence? Which evidence should be prioritised ("gold", "silver" and "bronze")? | From whom could you obtain this evidence? | What method/s would be most suitable to gain this evidence? | What are you predicting? What is your theory of change? |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| Expensive textbooks/educational materials | OER can reduce the cost of textbooks/educational materials | To establish whether (or not, to what extent) the adoption (creation/reuse, revision, remixing or redistribution) of OER reduces the cost of textbooks/educational materials | Calculation of savings based on number of OER users who would have spent funds on traditional textbooks/educational materials | Who will make the cost savings? Learners (if they purchase the textbooks) Teachers (if they develop the educational materials) Institution (if they | Survey of publishers' sites for textbooks Questionnaire for learners, teachers on textbook/educational materials Institutional data on library | OER reduces the cost of textbooks/educational materials making it more affordable to learn in formal or informal contexts |

Technical openness: Example 2 - SlideShare, the ‘Quiet Giant’ of Open Research

Be the first to clip this slide

Clip slide



**Research on Open Educational Resources
for Development (ROER4D) in the Global South:
*Learning to research OER openly***

Cheryl Hodgkinson-Williams with the ROER4D team
[OpenEd 2014](#), Washington, DC.
19-21 November 2014

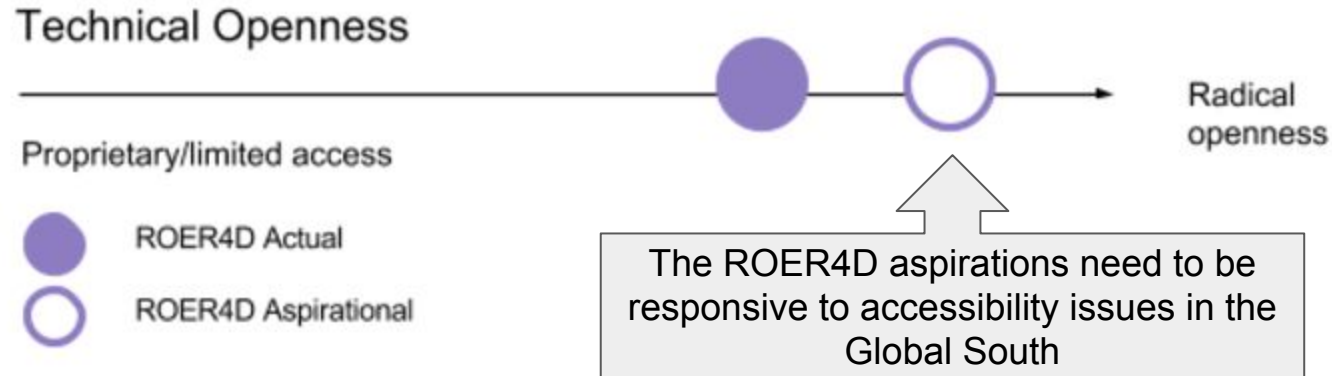
CC BY

1 of 37

5,045 views

Research on Open Educational Resources
for Development (ROER4D) in the Global
South: Learning to research OER openly

ROER4D Actual and Aspirational Technical Openness



ROER4D Technical Openness - Recommendations

Key recommendations to ensure technical openness in 'open research' projects include:

- **Use of collaborative software** to provide opportunities for ongoing group writing, editing and commenting
- **Host outputs on stable and secure platforms** with suitable metadata that can generate usage data and facilitate advanced search functionality.
- **Use formats that allow users to make changes**, extract text or images, or otherwise alter the content of the output without needing proprietary software.
- **Source specialist expertise** and make provision for the time required to find suitable platforms and prepare data.

Defining ‘practical openness’

ROER4D operational definition of ‘practical openness’:

Practical or operational openness is enacting these ideological, legal and technical principles while conducting research activity, by being **open in one’s research practices**.

These can take many forms from early and frequent communication about the aims, goals and methodologies of the project, to the sharing bibliographies, literature reviews, conceptual frameworks, interim or preliminary findings under open licenses, to actively developing networks of interested readers, colleagues or even potential collaborators long before the final publication of research outputs through open webinars and social media.

Practical openness: Example - ROER4D Outputs


DataFirst

[DataFirst Home](#) [Data Dissemination](#) [Data Portal](#) [Other African Data](#) [Citations](#) [Contact us](#)

[SHARE](#) [f](#) [t](#)

[Home](#) › [Data Portal](#) › ZAF-ROER4D-RSCAOERSA-2015-V1.1

South Africa - Research into Social and Cultural Acceptability of Open Educational Resources in South Africa, ROER4D Sub-project 4

| | | | | |
|---|--------------|---|---------------|--------------|
|  | Reference ID | zaf-roer4d-rscaoersa-2015-v1.1 | Created on | Oct 08, 2015 |
| | Year | 2015 | Last modified | Oct 13, 2015 |
| | Country | South Africa | Page views | 142 |
| | Producer(s) | Research on Open Educational Resources for Development (ROER4D) - University of Cape Town | Downloads | 16 |
| | Sponsor(s) | International Development Research Centre - IDRC - Funder | | |
| | Metadata | Documentation in PDF | | |
| | | | | |

[Documentation](#) [Study Description](#)

ROER4D Actual and Aspirational Practical Openness

Practical Openness



ROER4D Actual



ROER4D Aspirational

Not everyone in the broader ROER4D research group is as comfortable with “working in the open” and some work does need to be reviewed and checked before being released openly



IDRC  CRDI

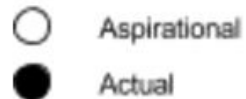
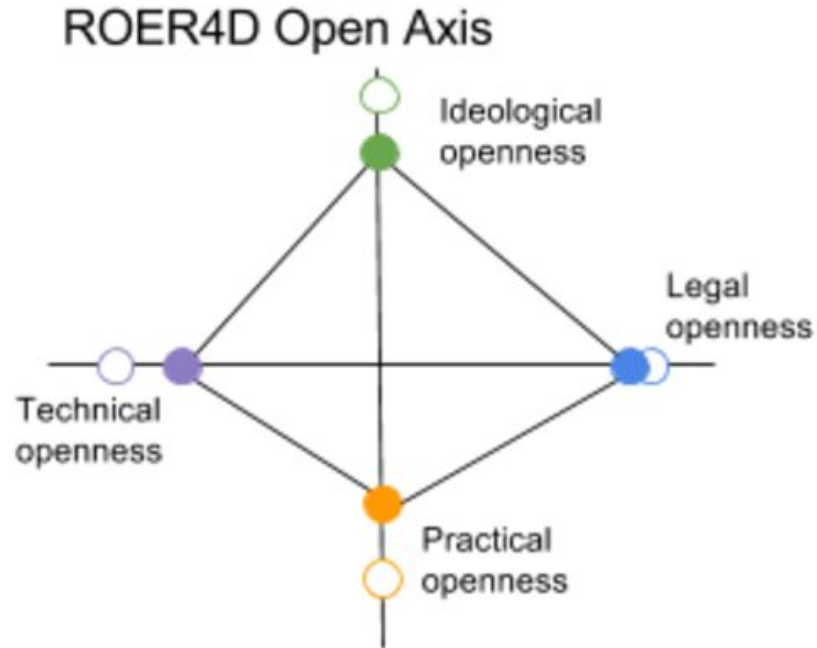


ROER4D Practical Openness - Recommendations

Key recommendations to ensure practical openness in ‘open research’ projects include:

- Deliberating what documents and activities, if shared, would be of most benefit to the immediate researcher community and then to a broader audience.
- Identifying the processes and platforms that would best support the intended open practices.
- Estimating the time and effort that it would take to maintain these open practices in order to make a plausible cost-benefit analysis.
- Always bearing in mind the question: ‘To whom, how and when might this add value and is it legal and ethical?’ and using this as a guiding operational principle

ROER4D 'Open research' axis



Critical openness - When should research be closed?

- **Conducting open research takes time and tenacity** and even if a research team is ideologically technically, legally and practically open in its activities, the cost of sustained implementation might be too high for open research to be fully realised.
- Working on a multi-cultural and multi-linguistic project has illustrated some of the affordances, difficulties and unexpected consequences of conducting open research, and has led to **more modest aspirations towards open research and the necessity to be more deliberate or critical about what and when research should be open.**
- It has prompted ROER4D to ask: **When and under what circumstances should research be closed?**

Walking our open talk ...

This **presentation** is available for reuse at:

<http://www.slideshare.net/ROER4D/>

The **draft paper** informing this presentation is available for commenting at:

<http://tinyurl.com/Researching-OER>

Citation and attribution

Hodgkinson-Williams, C.A. & King, T. (2015). Researching OER in the open: Developments in the ROER4D project. Presentation at OpenEd 2015, Vancouver, 18-20 November 2015. Retrieved from: <http://www.slideshare.net/ROER4D/>

