**Introduction**

Changes in research communication mean new grant requirements for institutions. Many research support offices are being asked to assist academics in complying with Open Access (OA)1 grant conditions. These conditions require academics to make research outputs online and freely available to access. Some institutions have OA mandates for staff and all of the RCUK2 and many major biomedical funders3 now have grant requirements that work is made OA – and yet many institutions are failing to comply. Wellcome Trust reported only 50% compliance with their OA mandate in early 2010.4

OA is at the forefront of discussions about change to the current system of research dissemination because of concerns about access, impact, copyright, peer-review, preservation, assessment, and journal subscription costs.

- Are academics aware of existing institutional and funder mandates?
- What is deterring academics from making their work OA?
- What would encourage academics to make their work OA in the future?

**Methods**

We created a web survey that asked about opinions and behaviours related to OA. This was sent to 374 Chemists and 366 Economists, and responses were received from 82 and 48 respectively. This was a total response rate of 17.7%. Eleven institutions, drawn from Russell Group, 1994 Group and Post-1992 Universities, were surveyed.

**Results**

**When I DO NOT make my work open access (OA) it is because:**

- Need to publish in high impact journals
- It is too expensive
- I am concerned about peer review
- I am concerned about publishers’ legal rights
- I have concerns about copyright
- I am concerned about plagiarism
- I do not know much about OA
- It takes too much time and effort (I’m too busy)
- It is just not a concern of mine
- I do not know how to make my work OA

Most of these concerns could be resolved quickly if academics had accurate information – can they get this from their research support office?

**What if anything, would encourage you to make your work openly accessible in the future?**

**What you can do**

Research Managers and Administrators play an essential role in this area, supporting researchers in complying with grant conditions and ensuring research outputs are made OA.

- **Learn** about institutional and funder policies and think about how they might affect your work
- **Find out** how your research grant workflow fits with your institutional repository
- **Inform** academics about IP and copyright issues
- **Tell** your colleagues about Open Access and the requirements that your institution needs to meet
- **Manage** research outputs in accordance with institutional policies while considering OA opportunities
- **Link** your research management system with your OA repository
- **Support** “gold” OA with an institutional OA publishing fund

**Conclusions**

Many academics do not yet make their work OA even though they may be required to do so by their institution or funder. Our results show that a large percentage simply do not know about these requirements. Efforts to inform academics about these requirements must be made, while concerns about prestige and cost should also be addressed. Improved communication between departments may aid in these efforts.

**References**

2 Research Councils UK. Open Access. [http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/Pages/outputs.aspx](http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/Pages/outputs.aspx)
3 See JULIET for a list of funder OA policies [http://www.openarchives.org/ij/oajuliet/](http://www.openarchives.org/ij/oajuliet/)

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