

NZ RSE Conference, 23-24 September 2025

Institutional Policy Pathways for Supporting Research Software:

Global Trends, Local Actions



[Michelle Barker, Research Software Alliance](#)

[Richard Littauer, SustainOSS, CURI OSS](#)



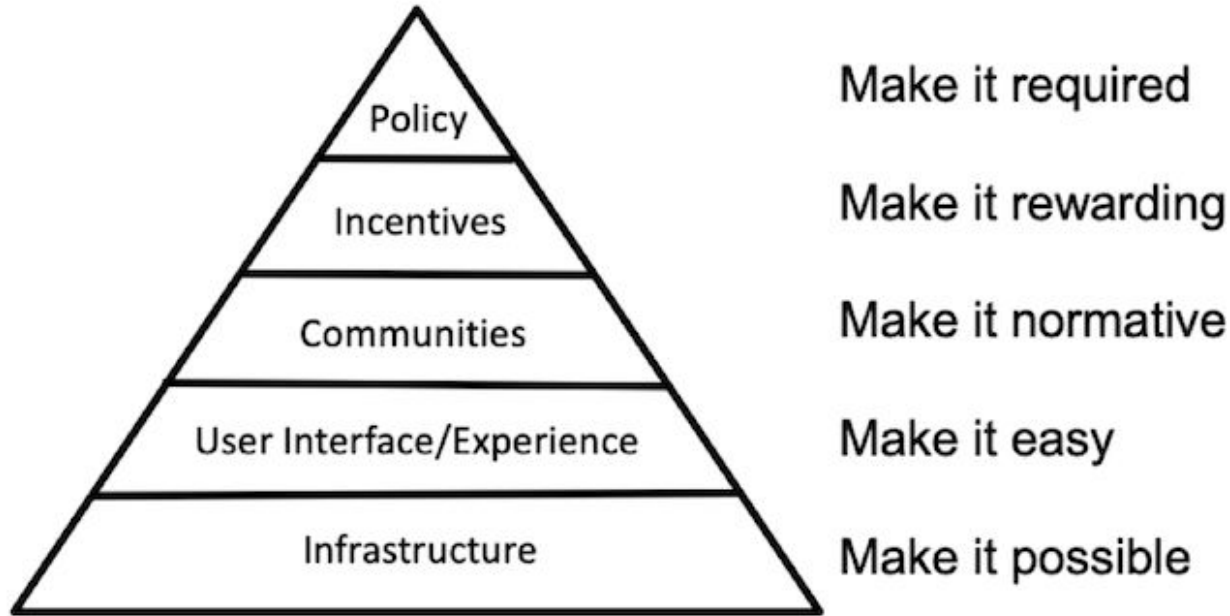
 CURI OSS

Agenda

1. Global policy initiatives that support research software: ReSA/RDA Policies in Research Organisations for Research Software (PRO4RS) Working Group - Michelle Barker
2. Complementary pathways to policy: Academic Open Source Program Offices (OSPOs), through the Community for University and Research Institution Open Source Program Offices (OSPOs) (CURIOSS) - Richard Littauer
3. Discussion: How does your institution currently support research software?

Collaborative notes document and slides: tinyurl.com/nzrse-policy

Why is policy important?



Brian Nosek, [Strategy for Culture Change](#)

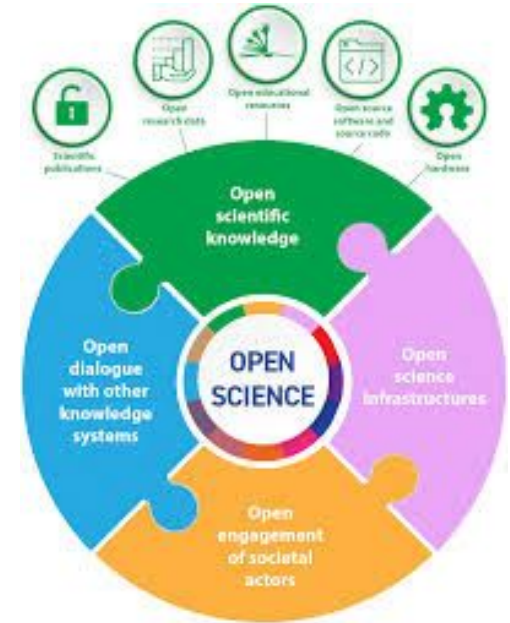
The broader policy landscape

International policy:

- UNESCO [Recommendation on Open Science](#)
- OECD [Access to Research Data from Public Funding](#)
- UN [Open Source Principles](#)


National policies [database](#)

Amsterdam Declaration on Funding Research Software Sustainability
(ADORE.software) [toolkit](#)




Policies in Research Organisations for Research Software ([PRO4RS WG](#))



 What exists that we can learn from?




[List of institutional software policies](#)

 How does policy change happen?



[Resources for supporting policy change in research institutions in practice](#)

 Who's implemented this already?



[Case studies of implementation of research software policies](#)

 Categorisation of policies



[Identifying gaps in research software policy](#)

What policies might include research software?

1. Open source software
2. Intellectual property
3. **Copyright and software licensing**
4. Open science
5. FAIR research outputs
6. Research skills and training
7. **Recruitment and promotion**
8. Research infrastructure
9. Open access and access to research
10. Research ethics and integrity
11. Research outcomes/output
12. Research data
13. Diversity, equity and inclusion
14. Privacy and protecting human subjects
15. Research software impacting education

An example of an overarching policy: TU Delft [Research Software Policy](#)

Community for University & Research Institute OSPOs



We aim to facilitate the networking and collaboration between OSPO representatives from universities and research institutions worldwide.

CURIOSS was set up in 2023 with the support of a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

CURIOSS Members

60+ members from 26 institutions

Carnegie
Mellon
University
Libraries

ETH zürich
transfer

THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

Trinity
College
Dublin
The University of Dublin

UGA

uni.lu | SNT

GT
Georgia
Tech.

JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
Open Source
Programs Office

LERO
Software for
a better world

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

UC DAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

UCLA

MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY

Oregon State
University

RIT

UC San Diego

UC SANTA BARBARA

OSPO
ospo.ucsc.edu

SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY

Stanford
University

S
Syracuse
University

UCL

M
INNOVATION
PARTNERSHIPS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



The University of Vermont

WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Academic OSPO Locations

No two OSPOs are the same...

Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CMU• JHU
Research Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lero• Syracuse
Centre Of Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UCSC• Stanford
Central IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UT Austin (jointly with Office of Research)
Comp Sci Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SLU• OSU
Technology Transfer Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trinity College Dublin• ETH Zurich
Research Software Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UCL• UGA

Academic OSPO Activities



CURIOSS Patterns



100+ Patterns

bit.ly/curioss-patterns

Advocacy, Governance & Policy

- [Embedding the OSPO as Research Infrastructure](#)
- [Framework for Managing University OSS](#)
- [Host an Open Source Conference](#)
- [Lunch and Learn](#)
- [Open Source Grant Commitment Letter](#)
- [OSPO as Co-Principal Investigator](#)
- [OSPO as Lead Principal Investigator](#)
- [Senior Leadership Keynote](#)
- [Student Showcase Sessions at OSPO Events](#)
- [Supporting grant proposals with an open source component](#)

Awareness

- [Framework for Managing University OSS](#)
- [Host an Open Source Conference](#)
- [Lunch and Learn](#)
- [Open Source Survey](#)
- [Piggyback onto a larger conference](#)
- [Senior Leadership Keynote](#)
- [Student Showcase Sessions at OSPO Events](#)

Community Building

- [Co-hosting Student Events](#)
- [Create a Donor/Sponsorship Prospectus](#)
- [Create template documents for GitHub Repositories](#)
- [Facilitate connections at Open Source Conferences](#)
- [Host an Open Source Conference](#)
- [Individual consultations / Office Hours](#)
- [Informal OSPO focus group sessions at Open Source Events](#)
- [Open Source Catalog](#)
- [Open Source Software Prize](#)
- [Open Source Survey](#)
- [OSPO Advisory Board](#)

Demonstrating value as an Academic OSPO

- [Create a Donor/Sponsorship Prospectus](#)
- [Embedding the OSPO as Research Infrastructure](#)
- [Host an Open Source Conference](#)
- [Informal OSPO focus group sessions at Open Source Events](#)
- [Lunch and Learn](#)
- [Open Source AI Pilot](#)
- [Open Source Grant Commitment Letter](#)
- [OSPO Advisory Board](#)
- [OSPO as Co-Principal Investigator](#)
- [OSPO as Lead Principal Investigator](#)
- [Source Industry Mentors for the I-Corps program](#)
- [Senior Leadership Keynote](#)
- [Student Showcase Sessions at OSPO Events](#)
- [Supporting grant proposals with an open source component](#)

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

- [Open Source Software Prize](#)

Education & Skills

- [Co-hosting Student Events](#)
- [Embedding the OSPO as Research Infrastructure](#)
- [Host an Open Source Conference](#)
- [Open Research Community Accelerator](#)
- [Open Source AI Pilot](#)
- [Organize one-off workshops](#)
- [OSS Tutorials Using Authoring Tools](#)
- [Piggyback onto a larger conference](#)
- [Source Industry Mentors for the I-Corps program](#)
- [Student Showcase Sessions at OSPO Events](#)
- [Summer Internship Program](#)

Funding & Financial Support

- [Create a Donor/Sponsorship Prospectus](#)
- [Embedding the OSPO as Research Infrastructure](#)
- [Host an Open Source Conference](#)
- [Individual consultations / Office Hours](#)
- [Open Source Grant Commitment Letter](#)
- [OSPO as Co-Principal Investigator](#)
- [OSPO as Lead Principal Investigator](#)
- [Secure Sponsorship for an Open Source Conference](#)
- [Set up an OSPO Giving Page](#)
- [Source Industry Mentors for the I-Corps program](#)
- [Supporting grant proposals with an open source component](#)
- [Template for 1:1 Campus Consultations](#)

Open Source Development

- [Embedding the OSPO as Research Infrastructure](#)
- [Host an Open Source Conference](#)
- [Individual consultations / Office Hours](#)
- [Informal OSPO focus group sessions at Open Source Events](#)
- [Open Research Community Accelerator](#)
- [Open Source AI Pilot](#)
- [OSPO as Co-Principal Investigator](#)
- [OSPO as Lead Principal Investigator](#)
- [Piggyback onto a larger conference](#)
- [Source Industry Mentors for the I-Corps program](#)
- [Student Showcase Sessions at OSPO Events](#)
- [Template for 1:1 Campus Consultations](#)

Open Source Discovery

- [Open Source Catalog](#)
- [Open Source Software Prize](#)
- [Open Source Survey](#)

Discussion

Collaborative notes document and slides: tinyurl.com/nzrse-policy

Q1. What's happening in your research institution (or ones you engage with) with regard to policy that supports research software and its personnel?

Q2. How else is your institution developing supportive environments for research software and its developers?