



UKCORR

UKCoRR Annual Review 2011-12

Gareth J Johnson, Chair 2011-date

April 2012

Overview

As the repository scene in Britain and the scholarly communication globally continues to evolve, so too does the UK Council of Research Repositories (UKCoRR). This brief report highlights the activities and changes that the organisation has undergone during the Committee Cycle **Apr 2011-March 2012**.

For a more detailed overview please see information on the [UKCoRR Blog](#) and [Website](#).

Membership

Current membership of UKCoRR as of 31/3/2012 stood at **261 individuals**, and while growth is slow the membership levels do continue to rise. Membership continues to be guided by the [broad standards](#) established from UKCoRR's charter; with exceptions to the norm discussed in private by the Committee.

Committee

Following the departure in March 2011 of past Chair **Graham Stone** (Huddersfield) **Gareth J Johnson** was nominated unopposed as the new UKCoRR Chair. Secretary **Nicky Cashman** (Aberystwyth) stood down from the Committee in July 2011 and there was an open call for nominations. In a first for UKCoRR five candidates were nominated, and an informal online election poll was held. Following this the winner of the poll **Jackie Wickham** (Nottingham) took over the role of secretary.

The five-person UKCoRR Committee met formally twice times during this Committee cycle and a number of times as hour long a telephone conferences. Minutes from these meetings are, once approved are [made openly available](#).

- **Physical meetings:** 18th October 2011, Nottingham, 19th March 2012 Leicester
- **Telcons:** 19th April 2011, 7th June 2011, 14th July 2011, 19th September 2011, 20th Dec 2011, 10th Jan 2012, 6th Feb 2012

As of the end of the 2011-12 cycle and going forward into the rest of 2012 the Committee is as follows.

- **Chair:** Gareth J Johnson (Leicester)
- **Secretary:** Jackie Wickham (Nottingham)
- **External Liaison Officer:** Dominic Tate (Royal Holloway)
- **Web & Publicity Officer:** Paul Stainthorp (Lincoln)
- **Technical Officer:** Nick Sheppard (Leeds Metropolitan)

Events and Activities

As an unfunded organisation UKCoRR relies on the generosity of institutions to provide and cater for members meetings. As such these are usually spaced a year apart, although the uncertain future of the RSP as a major source of professional development events for repository staff may mean this regularity will need to be revisited. January 27th 2012 saw the annual UKCoRR members meeting held at the University of Portsmouth, [materials and slides from which are available online](#).

During June 2011 a membership survey was held online, seeking guidance from the membership on the future development of the organisation. 30% of the then current membership responded and the [results of this work](#) were made openly accessible, as well as discussed at length by the Committee. Prime amongst them were a need for wider advocacy of UKCoRR itself to comparator or collaborator bodies, continued communication facilitation and to repeat a version of the survey in summer 2012.

Beyond this the members of the UKCoRR Committee, in particular the Chair, acted as a conduit of the memberships wishes, concerns and desires in a range of formal consultations with external bodies; including the JISC and the RCUK. In addition Committee members serve on a [number of boards and bodies](#) as representatives of UKCoRR to the wider repository and scholarly communication stakeholder community.

Awards and Recognition

During the Committee cycle there were two notable occurrences in this category. The first was the awarding of the [2011 Jason Farradane award](#) in November 2011 by CILIP UKeIG, for “outstanding contribution to the information profession”. The second was the signing of a memorandum of understanding between UKCoRR [and the RSP with the DRF \(Digital Repository Federation\)](#) in Japan, with the hope of facilitating mutual support and exchange of experience in the future.

Blog and Discussion List

The UKCoRR-discussion private email list remains the heart of member-member and Committee-member communications, and continues to be as lively today as it has always been. The UKCoRR blog is a place where both information and broader questions are asked of the membership, and any within the global community. Interaction on the blog is much lower than on the list, but it continues to provide a valuable outlet for news and views to the wider community. Readership of the blog peaked in January 2012 with 2,591 views of the site; with 32 posts during the year.

There has been a recent flurry of member guest blog posts, which has seen the creation of guidelines for the Committee on the acceptance and criteria for acceptance for these. The blog is currently hosted on blogspot and streamed to the Website; although plans are afoot to merge the two in the coming months.

Governance

One of the concerns that discussed during the Committee meetings, over the email list, through the survey, as well as with individual members informally were revisions to the governance structure, and organisation function of UKCoRR. Principally these changes will introduce greater stability, flexibility and resilience to the UKCoRR Committee. The proposed changes are:

- That the Committee Cycle will start from Jan rather than Early April, starting in Jan 2013.
- That the Committee Cycle will become a two year rather than annual one, with members serving in 2 year stints¹.
- That the Committee be expanded by 1 or 2 additional roles to provide additional diversity and insight.
- That the process for Committee elections begin in the November of the last year of biannual cycle, starting in Nov 2012².

The membership was consulted at the close of the Committee cycle covered by this report, and since no objections have been raised the Committee has agreed to press forward with making these revisions public. All current Committee members have expressed their willingness to continue to the end of 2012 in order to facilitate this changeover, and further steps to this end will be taken in the coming months of 2012.

Future

The remainder of 2012 will comprise a short Committee cycle, but will include at least one more UKCoRR membership meeting, representation at the OR12 Conference and preparations for the instigation of the new Committee Cycle. It will also be shaped by the changes in environment brought about by what happens with the RSP, and a continuing engagement with both the membership and the broader stakeholder community.

Whatever the future, it seems that UKCoRR continues to serve a number of valuable functions to the membership, and to whom the Committee express their thanks for all contributions and engagement today and in the years to come.

¹ Barring normal changes in circumstances that make it impractical for a Committee member to see out the duration of their term

² There are no term limits, and Committee members as of in the past are able if willing to re-nominate themselves to stand for a further two years.