

15
years



**Together Building Open Access,
Unlocking Global Knowledge.**

April 2025

<https://core.ac.uk/governance>

**BOARD OF SUPPORTERS
NEWSLETTER**



To all members,

As we step into 2025, we proudly mark CORE's 15th anniversary — fifteen years of championing open access and transforming research accessibility for and with open repositories. Our slogan this year, "CORE at 15: Together Building Open Access, Unlocking Global Knowledge", encapsulates our enduring mission and the collaborative spirit that drives our work.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our members, funders, and sponsors. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in shaping CORE. Together, with relatively modest resources, we have built a global repository infrastructure that delivers researchers, institutions, and the public access to more open access content than what publishers have done to date. In fact, at CORE, we observe that the number of unique open papers available via repositories (the green OA route) is more than double the amount that the publishers have delivered with extortionate resources via gold OA to date. We are living in a transformational period where AI is now able to process, understand and find answers in large unstructured databases and this makes our repositories to see more traffic than ever before. This is a tremendous success of the open repositories movement and let no one to tell you otherwise.

Throughout 2024 and in to 2025, we continued to make significant strides, increasing the comprehensiveness of data indexed by CORE, improving our API and data services, successfully completing community projects such as the USRN Discovery Pilot Project which has substantially enhanced repository discoverability in the United States and the SDG Classify project, which develops a new tool for institutions helping them to understand their contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. These initiatives and our partnership with the repositories community reinforce our commitment to global research equity and the advancement of open science.

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission to improve repository discoverability, strengthen interoperability, and support open scholarship. We invite you to join us in celebrating this milestone year and in shaping the future of open knowledge.

We look forward to welcoming many of you to the upcoming Board of Supporters meeting on Wednesday, April 30 at 2 PM (UK time). Your insights and engagement are invaluable as we continue to develop CORE's services to meet the evolving needs of the scholarly community.

Professor Petr Knoth
Head of CORE



With a huge thank you to all **CORE members**

Tools and developments

Research and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Released

CORE has launched a new UN SDG Classification Module within the Dashboard—designed to help institutions automatically map their research outputs to the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Built for speed and accuracy, the module delivers instant insights with minimal effort, offering a more effective way to show you how aligned your research is with global sustainability priorities.

Institutions interested in exploring this module are encouraged to contact our team to get started.

[Read more in the blog post](#)



Data Availability Statement module

Released

CORE has introduced a new Data Availability Statement (DAS) module in the Dashboard, designed to automatically detect DAS in research papers using a rule-based model powered by regular expressions.

Data Availability Statements outline where research data is stored, how it can be accessed, and any conditions for reuse—ensuring transparency and alignment with open science best practices.

This module enables institutions to significantly reduce the time and effort required to capture DAS in metadata, streamlining workflows and improving the discoverability and value of their research outputs.

[Learn more about the DAS module](#)

Outputs with DA statements within your repository collection: 2,345

DA statements to review action recommended: 323

Data Availability Statement demo checker

Outputs with Data Availability Statement found in your repository

OAI	Title	Author	Publication date	Dataset link	Status
32263	Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consec...	Lorem ipsum dolor sit am...	12.07.2021	🔗	Review DAS ✓
32263	Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consec...	Lorem ipsum dolor sit am...	12.07.2021	🔗	Review DAS ✓
32263	Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consec...	Lorem ipsum dolor sit am...	12.07.2021	🔗	Review DAS ✓
32263	Lorem ipsum dolor		.07.2021	🔗	Review DAS ✗
32263	Lorem ipsum dolor		.07.2021	🔗	Review DAS ✗
32263	Lorem ipsum dolor		.07.2021	🔗	Review DAS ?
32263	Lorem ipsum dolor		.07.2021	🔗	Review DAS ?

Data availability statement: "The data that support the findings of this study are available in Figshare at https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.28122461.v1, reference number [reference number]. These data were derived from the following resources available in the public domain: [list resources and URLs]."

Open full text in the CORE reader

Wrong ✗ Correct ✓

OAI-PMH URL in the Dashboard

Released

Institutions can now view the OAI-PMH address currently used for indexing directly within the CORE Dashboard. This enhancement adds transparency and ease of access to key repository settings.

To view your existing OAI-PMH URL, navigate to: **Dashboard > Settings > Repository > Your Repository > OAI-based URL.**

Users also have the option to suggest updates to this field. Any changes submitted will be reviewed and verified by the CORE team. Once validated, the update will be implemented and the repository manager will be notified accordingly.

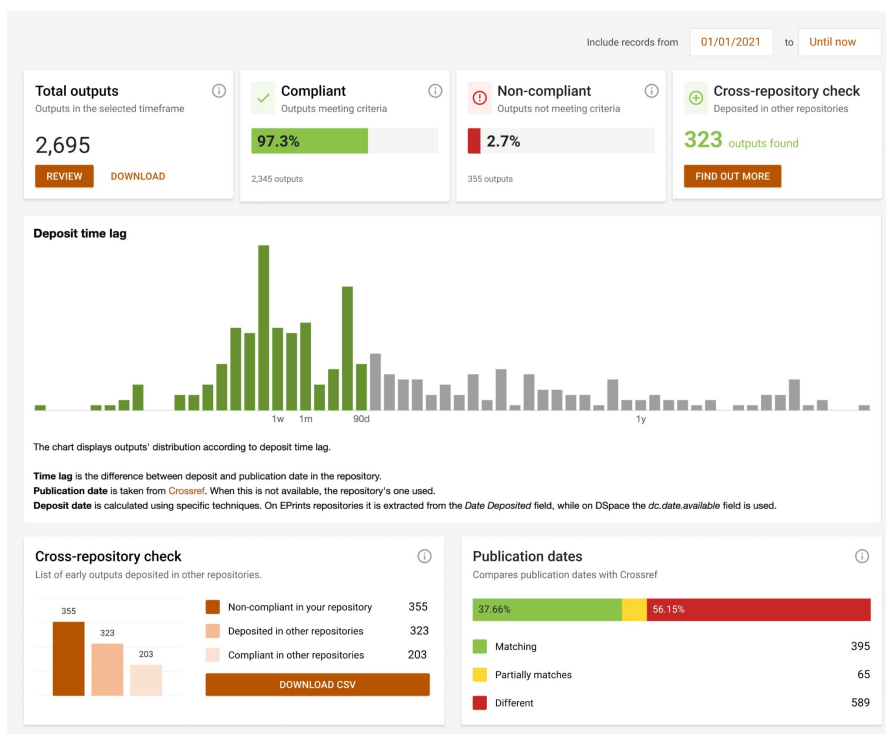
OA Compliance

Released

Following feedback gathered during the last Board of Supporters meeting, improvements to the Open Access (OA) Compliance module were identified as a top priority by institutions—and we're pleased to deliver on that request.

The module has been upgraded to support more efficient assessment of compliance with the REF Open Access policy, including:

- A new infographic visualising key metrics
- Custom timeframe selection
- Improved coverage with enhanced cross-repository checks
- More accurate compliance calculation



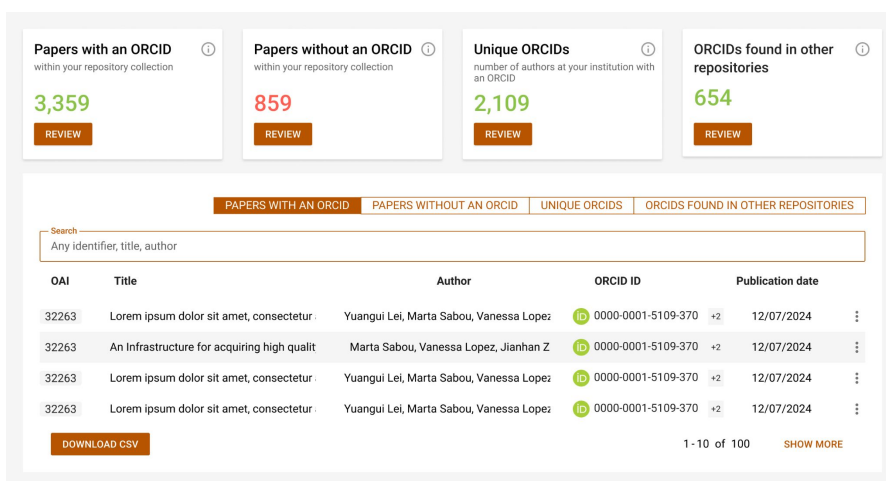
These enhancements make it easier for institutions to monitor compliance, optimise repository workflows, and further their Open Access commitments.

[Learn more about the updated OA Compliance module](#)

ORCID

In progress

New functionality developed in the CORE Dashboard helps repository managers to monitor the usage of ORCID within their institution and help them to create targeted campaigns to increase the uptake of ORCID. Users will be able to immediately see ORCID coverage for papers within their repository.



Improving API documentation

In progress

As part of enhancing the overall user experience with the CORE API, we are in the process of significantly improving the CORE API documentation. One of the key areas already improved is the Search section, which now includes comprehensive explanations of how to perform entity-specific searches, details on query language and aggregation, practical examples and sample source code to ensure ease of use for both new and experienced developers. Additional updates covering the remaining sections of the documentation will be released soon.

At CORE, we are continuously improving the quality of our indexing system to enhance the discoverability and accessibility of research outputs. Since September, we have identified and added 938 new repositories, expanding our coverage of open access content. Additionally, we have worked on fixing 821 repositories that had issues, successfully restoring their functionality. These efforts ensure a more comprehensive and reliable indexing system, benefiting researchers, institutions, and the wider open science community.

New repositories

938

Restored repositories

821

CORE AI bots

The rapid rise of generative AI and its reliance on extensive training data has led to heightened interest in open access repositories, which house legally and freely available as well as trustworthy open knowledge. While training Large Language Models (LLMs) on OA content aligns with OA principles and while it provides a promising avenue to mitigate AI's well-documented shortcomings — such as the potential for spreading of misinformation — it also exposes repositories to surging web crawler traffic. This phenomenon poses significant challenges, including potential system overload and resource strain leading to a debate within the community on how best to manage machine access.



CORE has discussed this issue with the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR) and with key stakeholders and we are organising two panels on this topic at Open Repositories 2025 and COAR 2025. We actively contribute to finding a solution to this pertinent problem and we consider taking the following actions:

- Creating a manifesto of good bot behaviours
- Outlining a set of principles describing what it means to be a well-behaving repositories bot
- Developing, maintaining and curating a whitelist of well-behaving repositories bots to protect repositories from overload.
- Building a behaviour-based bot filtering service to provide extra protections for repositories against malicious AI bots.

[Contact us](#) if you would like to learn more about this initiative or contribute to it.

PROJECTS AND COOPERATIONS

CORE Successfully Completes the USRN Discovery Pilot Project, Enhancing Repository Discoverability

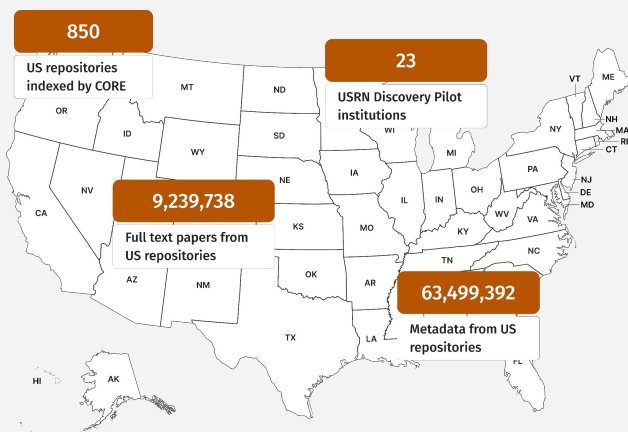
April 2025 marked the successful conclusion of CORE's pilot project with the United States Repository Network (USRN), an initiative in collaboration with SPARC, the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR), and AntLeaf. The project aimed to enhance the discoverability of U.S. repositories, aligning with the OSTP memorandum call for free, immediate, and equitable access to federally funded research.

Engaging 23 diverse repositories, the pilot provided targeted support, including technical evaluations, one-on-one consultations, and automated compliance checks via the CORE Dashboard. The results were transformative:

- 50% increase in indexed content, adding 728,770 new publicly accessible records.
- Significant improvements in repository metadata quality and OAI-PMH compliance.
- Development of essential resources, including the CORE US Desirable Characteristics Validator, CORE Data Provider's Guide, and the USRN Desirable Characteristics Toolkit.

With over 1,000 repositories in the U.S. alone, this initiative underscores the importance of strategic collaboration. CORE remains committed to supporting repository networks worldwide, ensuring a more connected and accessible research landscape.

[See blog post](#)



CORE presents SoFAIR project at UNESCO (Paris, France)

CORE was recently invited to present at the Software Heritage Annual Symposium, where we shared our role in the SoFAIR project—a new initiative designed to enhance and semi-automate the identification, description, registration, and archiving of research software.

The project, developed in collaboration with Software Heritage and HAL, aims to ensure research software receives a Software Heritage persistent identifier (SWHID), improving transparency and reproducibility in scholarly communication. CORE's contribution focuses on AI-assisted detection of software assets within the research papers it indexes, extending the capabilities of open scholarly infrastructures to better support software preservation.

This collaboration reflects CORE's ongoing commitment to building robust, open, and interoperable systems that underpin reproducible and FAIR research practices.

[See blog post](#)

EVENTS

OR2025

CORE will be contributing seven accepted submissions to the 20th International Conference on Open Repositories (OR2025), taking place in Chicago, Illinois, USA, from 15–18 June 2025. These presentations offer valuable insights for repository managers and the open science community.

While these submissions have been accepted for OR2025, they have not yet been published. Keep an eye out for their official release from OR2025 to access full details, findings, and insights.

[See blog post](#)

7
submissions



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Introducing CORE Labs

We have recently created CORE Labs, a digital space for prototype services and demos that utilise CORE content. CORE Labs currently offer three services: 1) SDG Classification, 2) RRS identification and 3) DAS identification. We encourage you to test these if you are interested or let us know and we can provide a demo for you. In the future, we will aim to expand CORE Labs with more innovative services as they are being developed and tested.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



CORE receives funding from Microsoft's Open Data Initiative

"Microsoft is committed to increasing open access to scientific knowledge to help further research and fuel breakthroughs to address society's greatest challenges, such as improving healthcare and the sustainability of our planet. We are proud to support CORE's important work of making more scientific scholarly content openly available, helping foster innovation, including the responsible development of AI."

Burton Davis, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, at Microsoft

For details about what this funding will support [read blog post](#).

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