



Event summary

# Vitae Connections: Supporting Open Researchers

1 December 2015

## Event overview

At the [Vitae Connections](#) event on supporting open researchers, participants considered the changing landscape of research, the importance of institutional and research climate in enabling researchers to be open, and the competences needed by researchers and researcher developers to address the ‘open research agenda’.

Guest presenters shared their perspectives on the open research environment and the changing nature of communication and engagement. The day concluded with a specific focus on the role of researcher developers within this landscape.

# 1. Welcome and introduction

Alison Mitchell, Director of Development, Vitae



What does it mean to be a researcher in a world of open data and open research?

Open research is an emerging area for researcher development because...



... today's researchers must change the way they think and act and foster skills not required by their predecessors

Advances in technology have resulted in

- an increasing quantity of data being produced and stored
- faster and wider reach of communications
- more opportunities for self-publication
- increasing complexity of available analyses
- opportunity for citizen science and crowd sourcing
- changing expectations of funders and policy makers
- new challenges for intellectual property and research integrity

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 #Vitae15



## 2. How does open access change behaviour

Helen Blanchett, Subject Specialist (Scholarly Communications), Jisc



**Jisc** **A researcher's view of OA**

**Researcher's view from the past . . .**

**Researcher's view . . .**

Bill Hubbard, "Getting the Rights right! Or when policies collide"  
<http://www.slideshare.net/UKSG/hubbard-uksg-may2015-public>

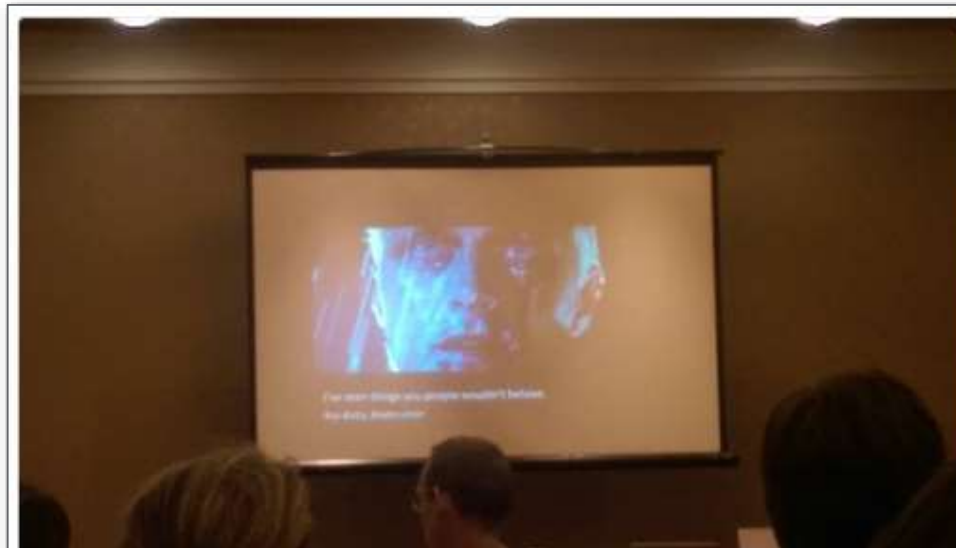
CC-BY

62/1624466 - How does Open Access change behaviour? Vitae Open Researcher event, 1 Dec 2015



### 3. Sciencing in an open world

Prof Stephen Curry, Imperial College London



**Kate Holmes**

@KateHolmes1



Enjoying Stephen Curry's references to citizen scientists, the Finch report & Sci-fi #vitae15

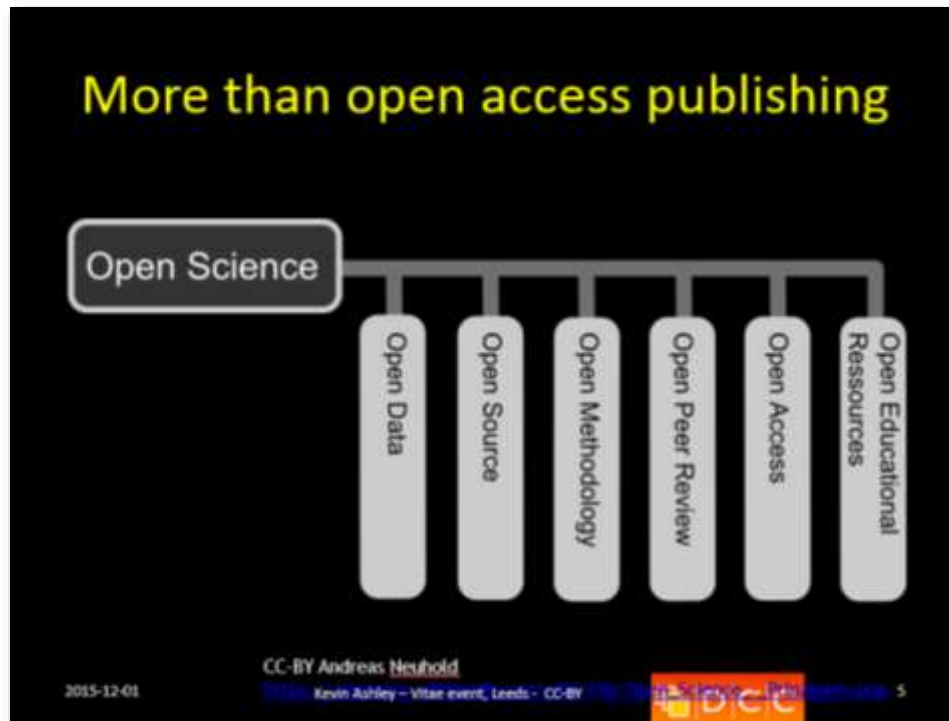
11:20 AM - 1 Dec 2015

“ What kind of scientist do you want to be? ”



## 4. Supporting open research – how to help your researchers

Dr Kevin Ashley, Director of the Digital Curation Centre

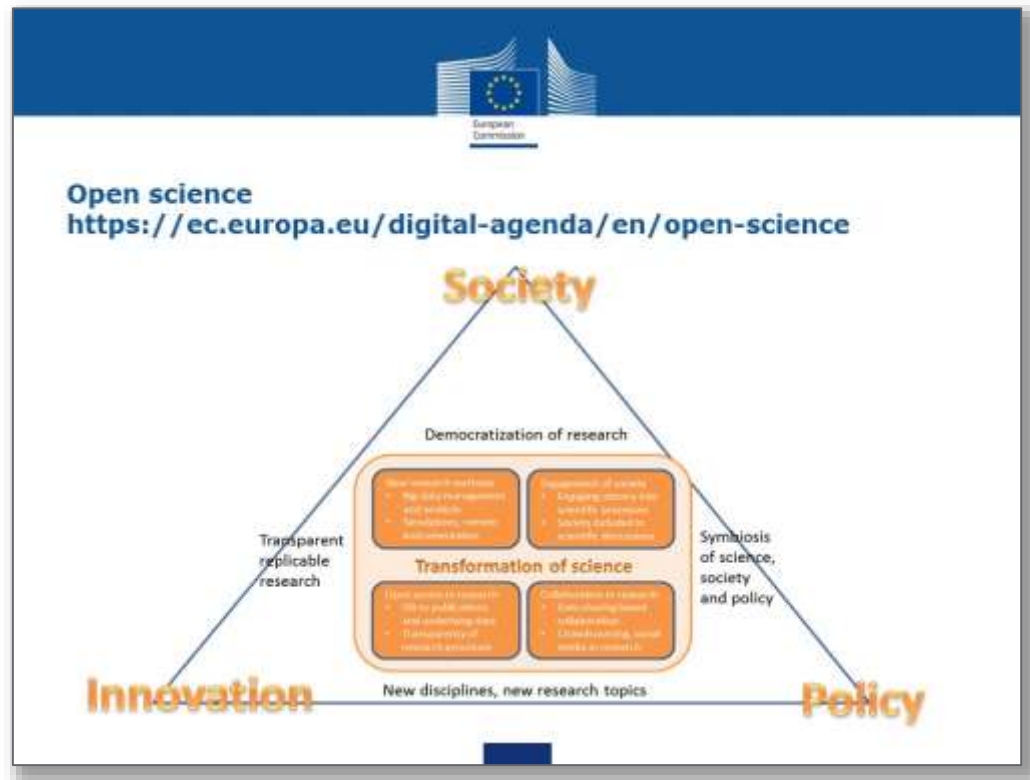


“ Persuade those who need persuading that open research is good for them and you. Support them with services and training

# 5. Research Integrity and a new research environment



Isidoros Karatzas, Head of the Ethics and Research Integrity Sector, European Commission




“ Open science is about the way research is carried out, disseminated, deployed and transformed by digital tools, networks and media




# 6. Exploring the competences of open researchers

Alison Mitchell and Dr Katie Wheat, Vitae


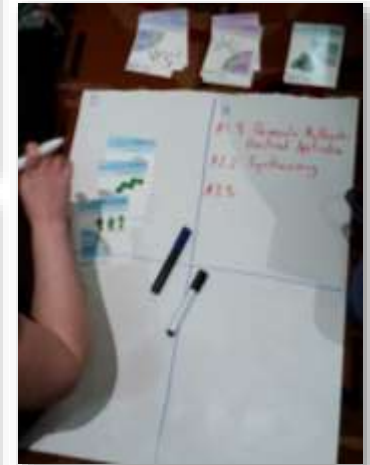
**Exploring the competences of open researchers**



1. In pairs take one domain each
2. Choose up to 4 descriptors relevant to being an open researcher
3. Pool the four domain selections on your table
4. Agree a final set of up to 12 descriptors



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 #vitae15



## 7. No hiding place

Derek Stewart OBE, Associate Director, National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)



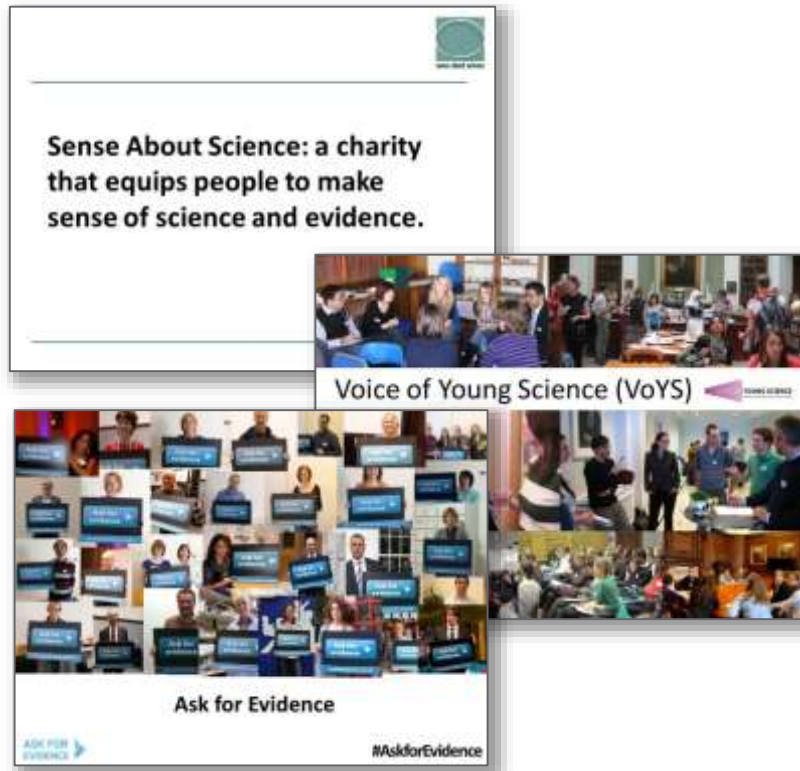
“ For years in research there was NO relationship with patients and the public. We were merely seen as trial subjects, to be done to, numbers for recruitment. Research was for researchers.

## 8. How researchers can help the public to be more critical of research



Max Goldman, Development Officer, Sense About Science

Donna Littlewood, Ask for Evidence Ambassador



The process of research can look completely opaque from the outside

# 9. Developing researchers: Challenges and considerations



Dr Rob Daley, Centre for Academic Leadership & Development, Heriot-Watt University

A screenshot of a tweet from the account Vitae (@Vitae\_news). The tweet text reads: "Final session looks the the considerations, challenges and practicalities for researcher development #vitae15". Below the text are two side-by-side photographs. The left photo shows a man in a light blue shirt and khaki trousers standing on a stage in a conference room, gesturing with his hands. The right photo shows a presentation slide on a screen. The slide title is "Developing Open Researchers: Challenges &amp; Considerations" and lists speakers: "Dr Rob Daley, Centre for Academic Leadership &amp; Development, Heriot-Watt University" and "Dr Sarah...". Below the photos, the tweet shows "RETWEET 1" and "LIKES 2" with three profile picture icons. A "Follow" button is visible in the top right corner of the tweet interface.

A presentation slide with a blue header and a Heriot-Watt University logo in the top right corner. The title is "Supervisors & Principal Investigators". The slide contains two bullet points:

- Need to ensure their PGRs and postdocs have appropriate knowledge and skills to follow data management plans etc.
- Need to have oversight of practice as they hold overall responsibility

## 10. Implications for researcher development

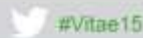
Alison Mitchell and Dr Katie Wheat, Vitae

### Implications for researcher development



1. Who has responsibility?
2. How does your provision map?
3. Will principal investigators and supervisors engage?
4. What are your institutional policies?
5. Do you have the competences needed?

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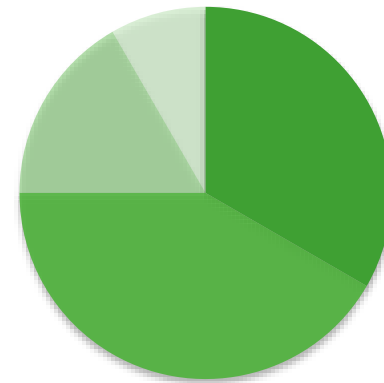


# What did participants take away?

The event successfully met participants' initial objectives of

- developing new provision to support open researchers
- inspiring new ideas
- understanding what is meant by the term 'Open Research'
- supporting researchers to be more open in their research

We asked participants "how far did the event meet your initial objectives?"



■ Very high ■ High ■ Low ■ Very low

# What did participants take away?



We asked participants “what will you do differently as a result of this event?”

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I plan to look up several of the references mentioned, follow-up with colleagues back at my institution and hope to join the RDF lens open researcher working group

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I have already thought of a day's training I could deliver on the topic and also how to use the RDF [\[www.vitae.ac.uk/rdf\]](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/rdf). The open researcher lens exercise was very helpful.

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Will definitely be trying to champion the use of Open Research and the development of policies for Open Research for doctoral candidates, particularly as a way to start developing a research profile.

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# What next for you?

## Opportunities for professional development, networking, practice-sharing and collaboration for researcher developers

### ■ Develop yourself as a leader of researcher development

e.g. [Contribute to our leadership Connections event](#), [Vitae Career Framework for Researcher Developers \(CFRD\)](#)

### ■ Collaborate on a new Open Research Lens on the RDF

e.g. join the open researcher discussion on the [Vitae Member Community](#) or email [Katie Wheat](#)

### ■ Follow up on this event

e.g. [view the Tweets](#), [Vitae News article](#), review the presenter slides (event attendees only)

### ■ Review our other open researcher resources

e.g. [Focus on open researchers within open research](#), share our [open researcher poll](#)

### ■ Join us at our future events

e.g. [Developing the Next Generation of Leaders](#), [Vitae Researcher Development International Conference 2016](#), view the [events schedule](#)

## What next for Vitae?

**Vitae will continue to lead, support and contribute to evidence-informed practice and innovation in researcher development, through**

- **Informing strategy and navigating policy**  
e.g. [HR Excellence in Research](#), [Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers](#)
- **Strengthening institutional provision to provide evidence-informed researcher development**  
e.g. [Vitae Library of Resources](#) for researcher developers
- **Supporting the professional development of researcher developers**  
e.g. [Vitae Career Framework for Researcher Developers](#) (CFRD), [Vitae Connections events](#)
- **Inspiring researchers to realise their potential**  
e.g. [Vitae Researcher Development Framework](#) (RDF)
- **Demonstrating the impact of researcher development**  
e.g. [The Impact Framework](#), [Researcher development evaluation toolkit](#), [What do researchers do?](#)



# Contact us

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