

Helping you to influence the research information environment

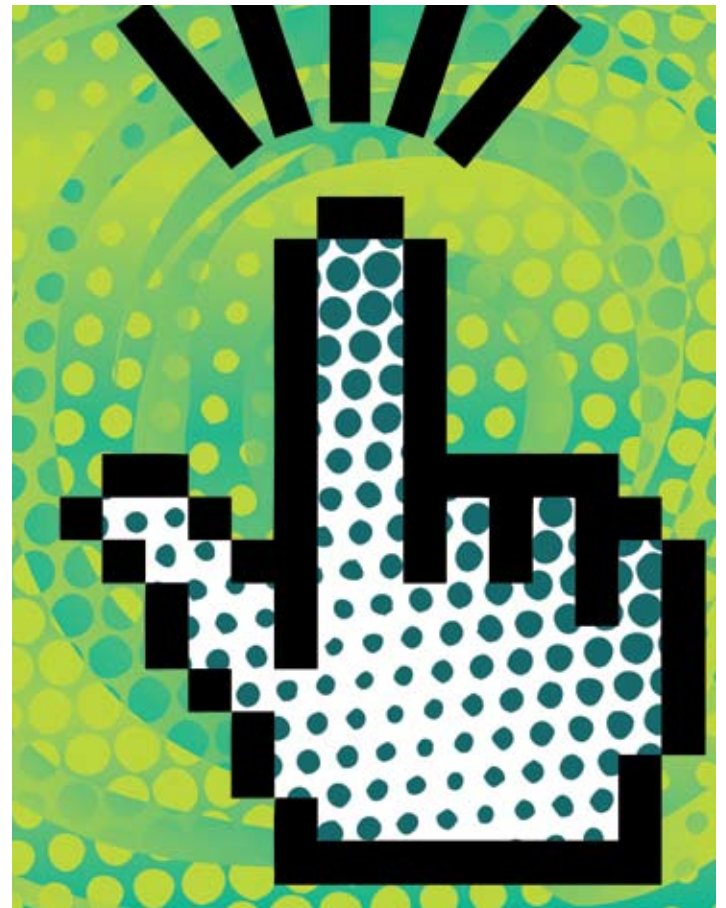
Get involved with the Research Information Network

September 2010

Understanding and promoting the information needs of researchers

www.rin.ac.uk

The Research Information Network (RIN) is a small policy unit funded by the UK higher education councils, the seven research councils and the three national libraries. The RIN aims to enhance and broaden the understanding of how researchers in the UK create and use information resources and services. The RIN also aims to raise awareness and knowledge of key issues and debates related to the higher education and research landscape. By conducting research, providing guidance, writing briefing documents and promoting innovation, the RIN is able to support the development of effective policies and practices for researchers, higher education institutions, funders, information professionals and all others involved in the research and scholarly communications landscape.



Sustaining a successful research community

The research community in the UK is one of the most successful in the world. To sustain this position, it is essential that researchers keep up with and exploit new opportunities and technologies relating to research information. The RIN can help researchers and the wider research community rise to this challenge by making sure they have a clear understanding of the environment they are operating in, and are kept up-to-date with key discussions and debates. The RIN also makes sure that developing policies and practices (developed and encouraged by Government, research funders, higher education institutions, charities, etc) reflect not only the current and future technological changes, but also the behaviours, needs and expectation of researchers.

Who we work with

- researchers
- universities and their representative bodies
- UK research councils and research funders
- research libraries and library organisations
- research training organisations such as Vitae

The RIN and researchers

To ensure we meet our goals, the RIN needs a clear understanding of the views and needs of researchers and those who support them; and of how researchers are responding to the rapidly changing information environment. This will enable us to ensure that researchers are actively involved in developing our programme of work.

In return, we highlight new developments in information resources and services and how researchers in different disciplines are using them. We are aware of how difficult it can be to keep up-to-date with all the changes in the research information landscape, and what these imply for policy and research practise. The RIN is able to help researchers take advantage of the latest policy and technological developments, and also influence policy developments in their area.

Some research information developments relevant to researchers

- *Career and professional development*: ensuring researchers have up-to-date skills in information handling and management; roles of experts and training providers.
- *Peer review and bibliometrics*: their role in research assessment and impact on career development.
- *Quality assurance of research outputs, research ethics and codes of practise*: the roles of researchers, publishers, funders, institutions and learned societies.
- *Data sharing and data management*: data management plans; infrastructure developments; funding implications; intellectual property issues.
- *Open access publishing*: payment of open access publishing fees, ethical constraints, intellectual property.
- *Social media*: such as blogs, wikis, and social tagging and the implications for traditional publishing models.
- *E-research and open research practises*: use of web based technology to find information, undertake research, to disseminate research outputs and promote innovation.
- *Access to information*: access to licensed content, including patents, corporate confidentiality and privacy laws; differential levels of access according to affiliations; impact of reductions in library budgets.
- *Freedom of Information*: the implications for researchers and the relationship to open research practices.



Selected RIN publications

Government and research policy in the UK: an introduction

www.rin.ac.uk/government-research-policy

Making sense of research funding in UK higher education

www.rin.ac.uk/making-sense-funding

An introduction to Open Access

www.rin.ac.uk/open-access-guide2010

Paying for open access publication charges

www.rin.ac.uk/openaccess-payment-fees

Peer review: a guide for researchers

www.rin.ac.uk/peer-review-guide

Quality assurance and assessment of scholarly research

www.rin.ac.uk/quality-assurance

Managing research data: a guide to biocuration

www.rin.ac.uk/biocuration

Get in touch

If you have any questions or would like to be involved in our work, or to sign up to our e-newsletter please contact: Stéphane Goldstein, Head of Programmes, via email stephane.goldstein@rin.ac.uk or telephone 020 7412 7303.

We can also be found on Twitter (@research_inform) and on Facebook.

How to become involved with the RIN

- attend RIN-led/sponsored events
- read and respond to our reports and briefings
- subscribe to our e-newsletter, blog and twitter accounts
- visit our website and team blog
- speak to any of our members of staff
- join one of our consultative groups
- take part in RIN-led research