COAR: Further information

Here are a few pointers about COAR that you might like to forward to your UKCoRR members. 2012 will be a very active year, with COAR working even harder to engage its members on interesting topics such as interoperability and repository content. You might have seen the open letter in response to Elsevier's recent activities – COAR provides the perfect international channel to provide such a high-level response.

You asked about the difference in membership benefits for individual organisations and membership organisations? One approach might be that UKCoRR could act as an umbrella organisation to harness and manage membership. This system works really well for the German partners. With regard to fees, perhaps highlight to your members that there is a reduced Group Membership rate, I attach this information sheet. For example for 8 members (max 10), you can bring the fee for one institution down to ca. 625 EUR. Nottingham might also be interested in joining this, they are members of COAR too.

Background

- COAR comprises repository communities from 24 countries.

- Set up in 2009, it grew out of the DRIVER project which had successfully established a community of practice.

- COAR continued to build on this collaborative momentum and now supports active players who lobby for repositories, and streamline efforts to allow greater visibility of research outputs via OA IR's.

Reasons to join

- Bring your IR into the international OA IR data infrastructure. IR's will be essential contributors in this infrastructure and COAR will provide new perspectives to local IR's and national repository networks.

- In order to create a global system of OA repositories, technical standards etc, issues such as interoperability need to be tackled at a global level.

- Let your voice make a difference: actively participate in discussions, activities and partnerships relevant to worldwide OA repositories, and raise visibility of your own IR.

- COAR collaborates closely with relevant initiatives like OpenAIRE/OpenAIREplus (the latter linking publications to data), G8+O5 data infrastructure WG or GRDI2010, as well as non-European projects.

- Act as a collective voice for the international IR community: contribute and react to lobbying activities.

Benefit of joining

- Members can collaboratively approach researchers, administrators, funders.

- COAR can facilitate the exchange of technical experiences with leaders in the field, especially as it is not project-based or technologically-bound.

- Working closely and exchanging practice with global players, for example with Latin America and their federation of IR's, COLABORA.

- Contributing to and developing issues such as interoperability, professional training and IR deposit.

- Be aware of the latest that is happening around the world in relation to repositories: first access to international projects reports, articles, initiatives…

Activities for 2012

- Repository interoperability: the existing activities will be bolstered by a Roadmap for interoperability which will offer guidance to the repository community

- Repository content: first steps have been taken to set up a Taskforce on OA clauses in licenses, involving both COAR members and external organisations.

- Training: planning is underway for a range of training activities aimed at supporting repository managers

Here are a couple of quotes from the 2011 GA that reflect members' enthusiasm:

"..we found new friends working for the same goals. We also found support from COAR on our legislation initiative."

"The sense of a committed group of OA-specialists/experts that should make the difference!"

And last but not least, COAR will also be holding its annual GA and conference in May in Uppsala, Sweden, so watch out for a really interesting programme! Details announced soon.