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Diamond in the Rough

Interoperability of CRIS and Open Access Workflows

Christian BUCHMAYER & Michael GREIL

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Topics of this talk

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1. Context of CRIS & Open Access Workflows at the University of Vienna

u:cris-Team (Research Information Management)

- Manages institutional editorial tasks and assures high research metadata quality in the CRIS
- Provides comprehensive system support and regular training for users
- Delivers reports for university management

Open Access Office (OAO)

- Administers Open Access funds (University of Vienna & FWF)
- Operates the Institutional Repository (u:scholar) as a self-archiving service
- Supports Open Access publishing infrastructures, specifically Diamond OA via OJS

Since February 2025, both units operate within the department Research and Publication Services of the University Library

2.1 OA-Monitoring – Past, present,...

- **Initial implementation (since 2013):** Heavily relied on journal-level indicators ("Journal indexed in DOAJ")
- **Key advantages:** Highly traceable, transparent, and fully automated within Pure
- **Shifting landscape:** Driven by national library consortia (KEMÖ), transformative agreements now dominate, leading to a massive expansion of Hybrid Open Access
- **Disadvantage:** DOAJ-centric logic primarily captures Gold OA, failing to track hybrid publications systematically
- **Result:** Significant underreporting and incomplete categorisation of the university's actual OA performance in the CRIS

2.1 OA-Monitoring – ... future: Shifting to API-driven enrichment

- **Strategic goal:** Utilise the Pure API to dynamically enrich records with granular Open Access status information
- **Data sources under evaluation:**
 - National Austrian Open Access Datahub (oamonitor.obvsg.at)
 - OpenAlex
 - Unpaywall
- **Technical integration paths:**
 - Deploying native Pure plugins (e.g., Unpaywall integration)
 - Developing custom community-driven tools built upon the Pure API

2.2 CRIS-IR Interoperability: Metadata-Led Archiving Workflow

- **Separation of concerns:** The CRIS collects metadata only; the IR handles full-text distribution.
- **Tagging ingest candidates:** Based on automated journal reference lists, relevant records in u:cris are flagged as "IR - Pending".
- **API retrieval:** The IR (u:scholar) queries the Pure API to pull metadata and DOI information for tagged records.
- **Verification and fetching:** The Open Access Office checks archiving rights and fetches the full-text PDF using the DOI via Crossref or publisher sites.
- **Closing the loop:** Once the upload in u:scholar is finalised, the Pure API automatically pushes the permanent IR handle and license data back to u:cris, updating the status tag to "IR - Done".

2.2 CRIS-IR Interoperability: Facilitating Metadata-Led Archiving – Optimising the Synchronisation

- **Ingest upgrades:** Enhance the repository's ingestion features to more effectively utilise Pure API payloads.
- **Cross-system auditing:**
 - Identify standalone full-texts in the IR that lack corresponding metadata records within the CRIS.
 - Automate the enrichment of CRIS entries with missing IR permalinks.
- **Retrospective gap-closing:** Improve historic IR coverage of the university's OA output via targeted, selective historical data imports.

2.3 Administrative OA-Funding Data – A Highly Curated Reference Source

- **Funding environment:** Managing funds for university-sponsored papers, FWF grants, and 28 separate transformative publisher agreements.
- **Rigid verification procedures:** The Open Access Office carries out meticulous compliance checks on every transaction.
- **Key criteria:** The corresponding author must hold an exact, verifiable affiliation with the University of Vienna at the date of paper submission or acceptance.
- **Strategic advantage:** This strict operational workflow produces an exceptionally clean, reliable master list of peer-reviewed institutional OA output.

2.3 ... as a CRIS Reference Source – Pilot Run Insights

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- **Conflict of Scope:** Intellectual Capital Report (Wissensbilanz) requires at least one affiliated author in a formal employment contract within a 7-year window.
- **Method:** Using DOIs to cross-reference the OAO funding master list with existing u:cris data during the annual reporting cycle.
- **Key discovery:** Out of ~1,700 verified OA publications, **nearly 500 records were completely missing** from the CRIS as of February 2026 (close to ICP deadline)!
- **Learning:** Relying on a once-a-year manual data alignment for annual reports is insufficient. We must establish an automated, continuous ingestion pipeline to connect CRIS metadata with the OAO funding master list.

2.4 Representing Diamond OA: Formalising Editorial Labour as CRIS Activities

- **Shifting focus:** Diamond OA has become a primary pillar of contemporary European science policy (DIAMAS).
- **Hidden engine:** Maintaining these community-led platforms relies entirely on the personal enthusiasm, energy, and uncompensated editorial labor of researchers.
- **Evaluation barrier:** Traditional research assessment frameworks remain heavily dependent on classic journal-level impact metrics, rendering this vital editorial work invisible.
- **Local infrastructure:** University-led hosting infrastructure powered by Open Journal Systems (OJS)

2.4 Representing Diamond OA: Formalising Editorial Labour as CRIS Activities

- **CRIS solution:** Aggregating scholar-led publishing data into normalised, standardised, and open data in the CRIS
- **Formalising editorial roles as "Activities" in the CRIS**
 - Journal Editorship / Editor-in-Chief roles
 - Editorial Board memberships
 - Verifiable peer-reviewing activities
- **Structural challenge:** There is no mandatory tracking or institutional obligation to record these activities at the University or in Austria.
- **Data quality concerns:** Decentralised, self-reported entries by researchers often lead to high fragmentation and incomplete information

2.4 Representing Diamond OA: Formalising Editorial Labour as CRIS Activities

- **Proposal:** Introduce a dedicated metadata curation service for journals hosted at journals.univie.ac.at.
- **Operational scope:**
 - Automate the tracking of local institutional authors.
 - Directly map and import editorial board roles and editorships of staff into CRIS Activities.
 - *Note:* Tracking external, non-affiliated authors remains outside institutional scope.
- **Minimising overhead:** The Open Access Office provides direct data curation support to alleviate administrative burdens on editorial teams.
- **Core questions:** Is our Diamond OA community actively interested in this service? How can it be operationalised effectively with minimal friction?

3. Outlook – Strategic Priorities for 2026/2027

- **System overhaul:** Fully transition the automated Open Access categorisation schema within u:cris.
- **Bilateral optimisation:** Fine-tune automated data exchange pathways between the CRIS and the IR to ensure continuous mutual metadata enrichment.
- **Continuous pipelines:** Establish automated, routine synchronisation workflows for administrative OA funding datasets.
- **Structured activity tracking:** Implement structured metadata paths for institutional editorial roles.
- **Challenge:** Strategically navigating shifting external stakeholder requirements and performance-driven management frameworks while safeguarding institutional autonomy and minimising administrative overhead.

Contact information

Christian Buchmayer: christian.buchmayer@univie.ac.at

Open Access Office

Michael Greil: michael.greil@univie.ac.at

Research Information System u:cris

Research and Publication Services, University Library, University of Vienna