Open Science & Evaluation

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“Everything changes and nothing stands still”
Heraclitus (5th century BCE), as quoted by Plato in Cratylus

... and human beings are a major (and paradoxical) source for change

Inertia and resistance of change (organizations and people)

Continuous changes require continuous adaptations

There are no simple solutions to complex problems
before ANECA (June, 2020)

1. The UC library asked me to send them the post-prints of my articles.... I didn't know what a post-print was or what they wanted it for but being disciplined I would send it in.

2. Some colleagues (not very prestigious) insistently explained that they publish in certain journals and publishers (even less prestigious and characterized by paying to publish easily and quickly) because of their commitment to open science.

3. Long experience in university management (Dean, Vice President for Academic Affairs and for Academic Staff)
   Personal experience as evaluated person
ANECA

1. External advisor for accreditation processes improvement (response times and digitalization) (June-December, 2020)
2. Director of the Faculty Evaluation Division (January-November 2021)
   1. Research evaluation (every six years) (CNEAI)
   2. Faculty accreditation programs (a requirement to be able to compete for positions offered by Spanish universities) (PEP & ACADEMIA)

Law establishes:

   1. Research evaluation and Promotion system (accreditation)
   2. Great detail about how evaluation must be done (number of committees and evaluators in each committee, how to select evaluators, type of evaluation, etc).

At the same time, this system creates strong incentives for teachers and can therefore be used to drive change.

How to adapt the evaluation (of the research) to the new landscape taking into account the legal restrictions?
How to adapt (research) evaluation to the new landscape?

- Legal framework
- Continuous adaptation
- Incremental changes
- Experts & Knowledge
- International benchmarking
- Equity & gender
- Research integrity

- Open Science
- Open Access Publishers
- Quantitative vs Qualitative evaluation
How to adapt (research) evaluation to the new landscape?

Expert Group on Research Evaluation (bibliometrics, OS, gender, altmetrics, ..,)

Recommendations:

1. Improving (evolving) quantitative evaluation.
   1. Introduce Normalized impact indicators at the journal level.
   2. Introduce Normalized impact indicators at the paper or publication level.

2. Improving and developing qualitative assessment (training evaluators).

3. Introducing Open Science in evaluation.
Principles & Guidelines for updating research evaluation

Principles

P1. Promote quality in research, rather than quantity.

P2. To provide stability to the criteria, without losing the necessary adaptation to the evolution of the scientific context.

P3. To limit the damage that the necessary changes that will have to be introduced to respond to the evolution of the context may cause in long academic trajectories.

P4. To guarantee transparency and facilitate self-evaluation.

P5. Incorporate academic integrity in evaluation processes.

P6. Incorporate measures that help to advance equity and social inclusion.

P7. Complement the journal impact index as the sole indicator of quality with other bibliometric and/or qualitative indicators.

P8. Incorporate mechanisms to identify and promote multidisciplinarity and collaborative and science.

P9. Incorporate elements of open science within the European and Spanish strategy.
Guidelines: How to introduce OS in evaluation and accreditation processes?

Together with OS experts we prioritize objectives:

1. To improve the knowledge that scientific community have about OS.
2. To increase the use of repositories and, therefore the visibility of Spanish researchers.
3. To provide incentives to OS practitioners

Need to adapt proposals to the reality of the different evaluation programs: evaluators of each area participate in the definition of standards.
Guidelines: How to introduce OS in evaluation and accreditation processes?

Research evaluation (every six years)
1. Committees of researchers by subject designed by the Agency.
2. **General rules** and criteria by subject but the committee have **technical discretion**.
3. Researcher select their five better papers.
4. **Proposals:**
   1. Recommend (before making it mandatory) to deposit the five articles in a repository with Green Open Access.
   2. Specially relevant merits: Depending on the field of knowledge, the openness of data linked to a publication may be an additional quality indicator.
   3. Information. How is it credited? By adding the link to the deposited article.  [Recolecta](https://recolecta.fecyt.es/).
Guidelines: How to introduce OS in evaluation and accreditation processes?

Faculty accreditation programs (ACADEMIA accreditation for Associate Professor and Full Professor)

1. Committees of researchers by subject designed by an external committee after an aleatory selection process among all the candidates.
2. Very detailed rules and criteria by subject, category and dimension (teaching, research, transfer, ..).
3. Candidates present most of their CV for a mostly quantitative evaluation
4. Candidates select their four more relevant results for a qualitative evaluation

5. Proposals

   1. Recommend (before making it mandatory) to deposit the four articles in a repository with Green Open Access.
   2. Specially relevant merits: Depending on the field of knowledge, the openness of data linked to a publication may be assessed as an additional quality indicator.
   3. Information. How is it credited? By adding the link to the deposited article. Recolecta (https://recolecta.fecyt.es/) is the national aggregator.
after ANECA (2022)

One year later, this is still (apparently) the reference document.

The update has not yet been formally implemented despite it was supposed to be finished in January 2023.
One never notices what has been done; one can only see what remains to be done.

Marie Curie
Letter to her brother (1894)
Open Science & Evaluation

Thank you!!