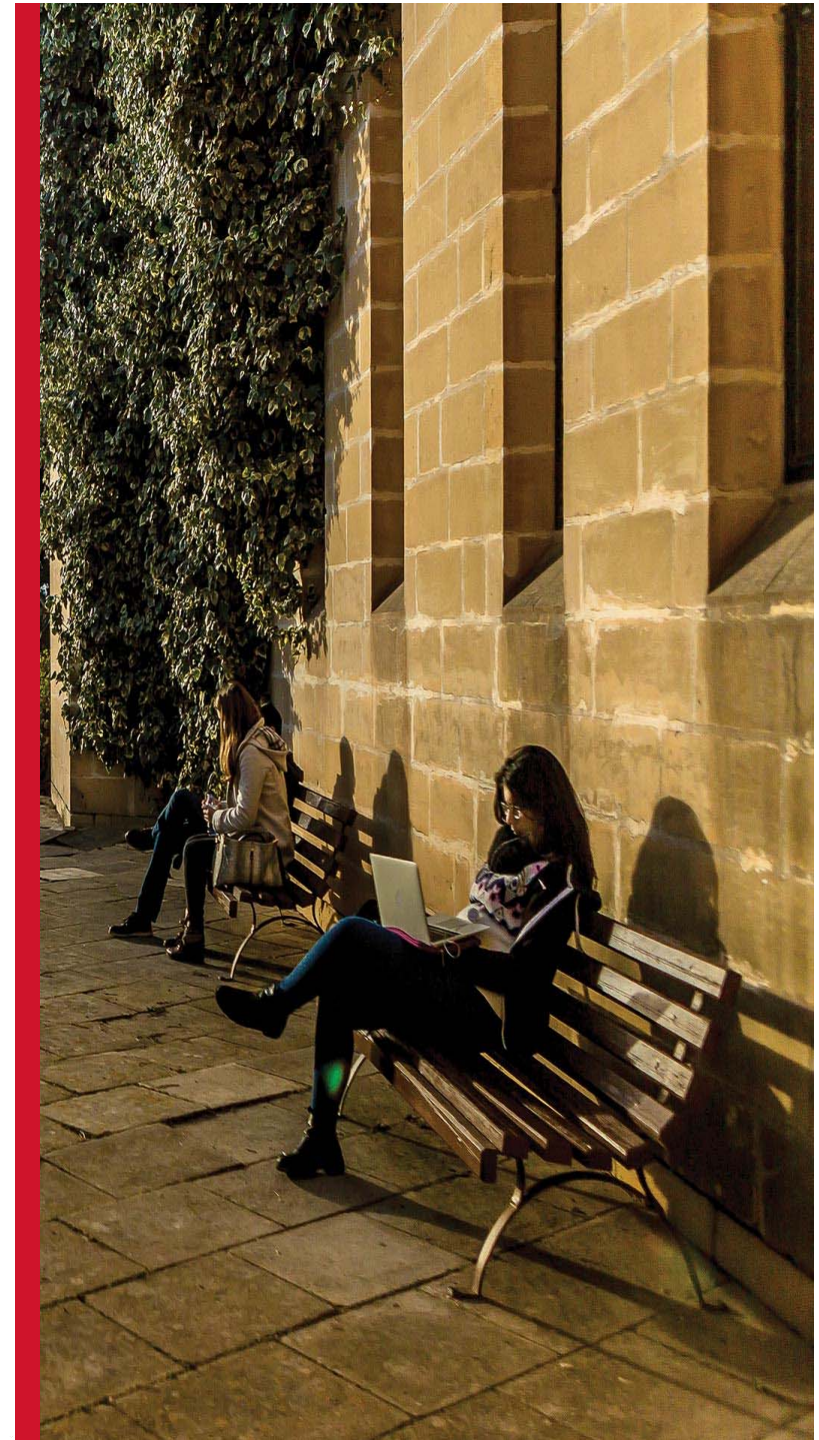# The Open Science Department at the University of Malta : an Overview

Steve Micallef

University of Malta Library

Open Science Department

28th May 2018

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# The Open Science Department at the University of Malta Library

- In September 2014, the University of Malta Library launched the first Institutional Repository on the Island.

- The Open Science Department was launched in January 2017 to administer, maintain and populate the repository.

- The remit of the Open Science Department at the University of Malta is to support the effective dissemination of research and data produced under the auspices of the University of Malta, promote Open Science and populate the University's Institutional Repository – OAR@UM.

- Enhance awareness about the importance of making research available in Open Access and to provide support and advice on copyright clearance, licences, embargo periods, and any other issues pertaining to OA publishing.

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# Mission, Vision & Goals

- Populate the OAR@UM by uploading publications on behalf of Researchers (through mediated deposit).

- Provide support through the organisation of events, awareness-raising activities, and provide instructions and training on OA issues.

- To promote Open Access and to enhance awareness about the importance of making research widely available by organising regular workshops and events.

- To provide support and advice on copyright clearance, embargo periods, and any other issues pertaining to OA publishing.

- Scanning publications available only in print format for the purpose of deposit.

- Be a reference point for researchers who want to publish in Open Access.

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# Items included in OAR@UM

- OAR@UM is managed by the Library and includes:

  - articles, books and book chapters, audio visual content, out of copyright material and other scholarly content most of which are available in OA.

  - electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs).

  - national intellectual output important to Malta's cultural heritage and identity.

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# Benefits of UM OA Policy: University of Malta

- Collects and preserves its scientific output and disseminates it through its Institutional Repository.

- Provides the possibility of indexing and tracking the scientific output of the institution from international search engines on the internet such as Google.

- Monitors the number of visits and use, and collects data and indicators that can be used in institutional planning.

- Provides opportunities for the use and re-use of the institution's output for scientific purposes .

- Strengthens international communication and collaboration channels and the institution's international profile .

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# What is an Open Access Policy for the University of Malta (UM OA Policy)?

Legally binding document that serves to ensure that all research outputs produced under the auspices of the University is made freely available to everyone via the Institutional Repository OAR@UM.

'Researchers are encouraged to deposit all research produced under the auspices of the UM in OAR@UM' (UM OA Policy § 3.1)

https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar//handle/123456789/20022

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# UM OA Policy Compilation (1)

- **Identifying a working group within the Library**

- **Evaluation of several documents regarding OA Policies – Literature review**
  - The H2020 Guidelines on OA to Scientific Publications and Research Data in H2020
  - Fact Sheet OA to publications and Data in H2020: FAQ
  - PASTEUR4OA/ Open Access policy guidelines for research institutions

- **Evaluation of several selected OA Policies**

- **Identifying the themes that constitute an OA Policy**

Definitions relating to OA Policy, responsibilities of stakeholders involved, copyright issues, waiver options and embargo periods, licence issues, etc.
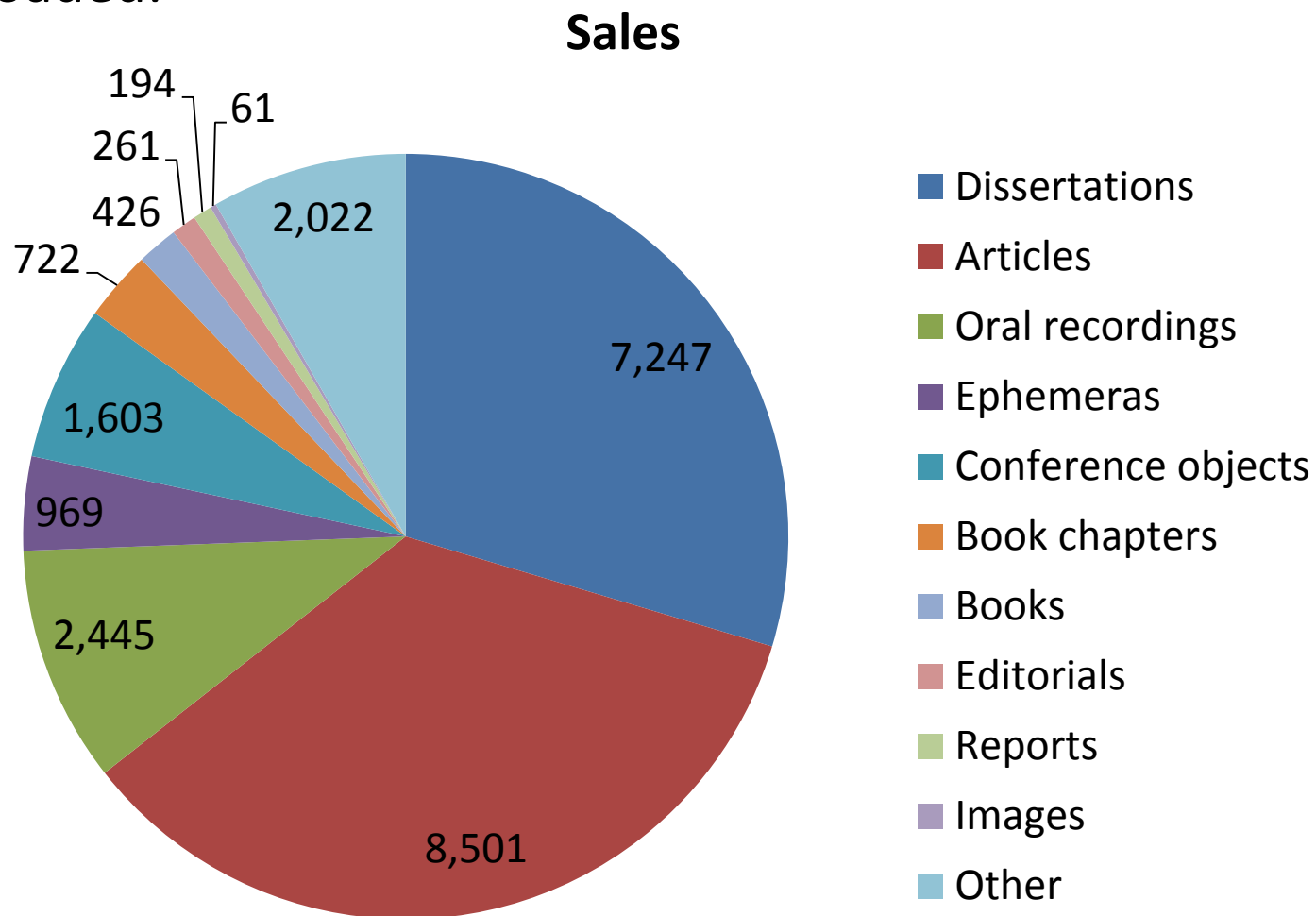
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# UM OA Policy Compilation (2)

- **Compiling the first draft.**

- **Communicating the policy with different stakeholders and sought advice.** Library Management, UM Legal Office, Directorate for Corporate Research and Knowledge Transfer, University of Minho, PASTEUR4OA

- **Amending the Policy according to the stakeholders' suggestions and advice**

- **Communicating the policy with Rectorate**
Open Access Policy approved by Rectorate

- **Presented the Policy to Senate for approval during the September 2017**

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# Content archived in OAR@UM

As of April 2018 a total of 24,451 items have been uploaded:

**Sales**



- 194
- 61
- 261
- 426
- 722
- 2,022
- 7,247
- 1,603
- 969
- 2,445
- 8,501

Legend:
- Dissertations
- Articles
- Oral recordings
- Ephemeras
- Conference objects
- Book chapters
- Books
- Editorials
- Reports
- Images
- Other

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# Additional Roles and Future Projects

- Additional Roles:
    - Part of the Webometrics Task Force, with the purpose of advancing the University of Malta's position in institutional rankings.

    - Compiling a database of academic profiles. This serves as a central database of University of Malta Researchers and to quantify their presence on the web. The goal is to identify which services researchers are using on the web.

- Future Projects:
    - Upgrade DSpace.

    - Make a more easy to navigate directory/search function.

    - To add an option to browse by the access type.

    - Implement a Data Repository for the UM

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# Useful links

OAR@UM: https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/

OAR@UM Contact: http://www.um.edu.mt/contact/oarlib

OAR@UM Help:
https://www.um.edu.mt/library/helpandsupport/oar@uom_help

UM Open Access Policy:
https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar//handle/123456789/20022

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# Thank you for your attention!

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