

OSC-W Newsletter December 2024



Hello Open Science Community,

As we approach the end of 2024, it is a pleasure to bring you the second edition of our new OSC-W newsletter.

The global Open Science movement continues to grow, driven by people like you—researchers, librarians, data stewards, and educators—who believe in the power of shared knowledge.

2025 will mark the start of a more active year for our community—a chance to build momentum together in championing transparency, collaboration, and shared knowledge in science.

In this edition, you'll find highlights of recent advancements and a peek at what's coming in 2025. I hope this newsletter sparks fresh ideas and reminds you why openness matters, not just in science but also in building a stronger academic community.

Thank you for your support and engagement. Here's to a bright, collaborative year ahead!

P.S. This newsletter looks much better if you click the orange "Online version" link at the top

Register Now! How Not to Fool Yourself in Science: Ensuring Reliability in Research

Tuesday 4th February 2025

The first OSC-W event of 2025!

In the era of open access, our ability to share our findings widely also comes with the responsibility of ensuring their reliability. How do we, as scientists, avoid common pitfalls that lead to unreliable results? How can we enhance the reliability of our work and increase trust and transparency in science?

Join us for a discussion exploring how different WUR science groups uphold the standards of replicability in their work and exchange ideas, share challenges, and build solutions to strengthen the foundations of good, open science.

[Register Here](#)

The Human Cell Atlas - Open Science without Borders

Last month, the Human Cell Atlas (HCA) project celebrated a landmark achievement with the publication of 40 research papers in Nature and associated journals, showcasing pioneering insights into human biology. Among the latest findings was a comprehensive map of the full gastrointestinal tract.

Researchers explored the types of cells present, their locations, and how they interact with neighbouring cells. This effort led to the identification of a previously unknown cell type—gut metaplastic cells—which appear to exacerbate inflammation in inflammatory bowel diseases like Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, conditions affecting over seven million people worldwide.

The HCA's open science approach has been key to such breakthroughs. Its datasets, shared freely through an open-access model, empower over 3,600 scientists from 100 countries to contribute to and benefit from

these discoveries. Recognizing the complexities of genomic data sharing, HCA also employs a managed-access system for sensitive data, balancing openness with privacy to promote responsible global collaboration.

Read more about the open practices of the HCA in their paper "[The commitment of the human cell atlas to humanity](#)"

View the HCA

Nature collection

WUR Open Science Story: Fränzel van Duijnhoven

On the subject of balancing Open Science with preserving privacy, Fränzel van Duijnhoven, associate professor in Nutrition and Disease within the Human Nutrition and Health group, shared her experience making her research FAIR whilst working with human data as part of the WUR Open Science Stories series.

Click the video or watch it, and more in the series, [here](#).



Are you interested in sharing your open science story or know of someone that might? You can send your suggestions [here](#).

A Case for Open Science: Building Trust Through Transparency

While we prefer to keep the stories in this newsletter positive, the investigation into alleged plagiarism in Dutch State Secretary Vicky Maeijer's 2009 thesis highlights an important lesson about transparency in academia. The allegations arose because the thesis was accessible via the Erasmus University library, allowing scrutiny and critique—core tenets of openness.

This serves as a timely reminder of the benefits of open practices. By encouraging clear attribution, rigorous documentation, and the sharing of data and methods with our students, we help ensure their work is both credible and reproducible.

More information [here](#).

Events

11/12/24 - Library lecture: Research analytics [\[Event\]](#)

12/12/24 - Groen Kennisnet: Natuurinclusieve landbouw in de praktijk [\[Online\]](#)

14/01/25 - CS-NL Citizen Science Netwerkdag [\[Event\]](#)

That's all for now

Thank you for reading this issue of the OSC-W newsletter.

I hope you found the articles interesting and good starting points for discussion.

I would love to hear your feedback on the OSC-W newsletter and your desires for the OSC-W as a whole. If you would like to share your (anonymous) opinion there is a form [here](#), or you can contact me directly at ben.excell@wur.nl.

Ben Excell

Your Open Science Community Manager

OSC-W

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