The Rise of Funders

The Changing Shape of Science Publishing

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Government funding: Research and Development as a % of R&D

Source: R&D Magazine
A Changing World...

- Technology change in a searchable digital world
- Pressure on the sustainability of life on the planet
- Innovation and discovery grow in importance
- Private and public funding increases to meet demand
- The need for scrutiny questions traditional roles
- Scrutiny needs comparability and accessibility
Research goes Interdisciplinary

- Collaboration has to grow and improve
- Geography is less important in a digital world
- Funders need a knowledge context within which to meet researchers
- Previous funding records of collaborators and institutions are vital

Who is funding what? Uber Research: Dimensions
Peer Review

• More important at the input/proposal stage than at output/article stage?
• Pressure on project selection tightens (recession, volume, lab space)
• More Science... creates More Science
• Greater cost realism - FEC (full economic cost) calculation
• Proposal peer review gets more valuable still as pressure increases on institutions.
Funding

- Funder now has to be more hands on - does progress reporting and ethical due diligence become open and part of the scholarly communications system
- Flagging problems. Duty to Science or breach of confidence?
- Mapping rivals and duplications - competition v ethical positioning?
- Funding people not projects? Less grant proposals and more salaries = faster results (NIS, HHMI)

Standards: the lack of metadata consistency and classification still inhibits accurate description of funders, institutions, researchers.

FundRef
Open Access

• Now 184 sources on Sherpa/Juliet
• Embargo periods are still very various: will they diminish?
• Will OA become established for interim or provisional findings?
• Open Data Access. Subject to peer review? Will Dryad and figshare become the model?
Metrics and Grant Awards

Q. Surely we need to assess new projects on the back of measurable past success?

A. How long can we wait? Publication takes up to 2 years and citations 3-8 years.

Q. So we need to publish preliminary results to get citations? Do immediate post publication peer review? And have a better insight into what other funders are funding?

A. How long can we wait? Publication takes up to 2 years and citations 3-8 years.

SciNEcv. Science Network Experts Curriculum Vitae
Impact

Q. How do we know how valuable those citations were?

A. Well, you have the Impact Factors.

Q. But that only tells me about the journal and its record, and the article and its citations. What happened to the researcher?

A. Look at Kudos for the promotion, but check Umetrics to see if the individual and the team succeeded.
And Now...

- There is a market need to get these various data together and make them consistent and interoperable - especially Sherpa, Orcid, the CRedIT taxonomy, UberResearch
- Create an impact factor for funders along the lines of SciVal or Web of Science
- Create a standard classification service for funders and institutions to enable them to have full data visibility across the funding process
- OR some current funders could do it for themselves - and become publishers as well in the process
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