

Good Practice Principles for Scholarly Communication Services

COAR and SPARC have developed seven good practice principles to ensure that scholarly communication services are transparent, open, and support the aims of scholarship. These principles can be used by users to make decisions about which services they will contract with, and by service providers to improve their practices and governance



GOOD GOVERNANCE

The service has strategic governance that allows community input on the direction of the service and operational governance with community representation and decision making power.



OPEN STANDARDS

The service uses open APIs to enable interoperability, and adheres to open standards. Ideally, the platform is based on open-source software, but in cases where it is not, user-owned content is managed according to well-established, international standards.



FAIR DATA COLLECTION

Only data necessary for the service's provision are collected from users and the type of the data collected and how they are used is clearly and publicly articulated.

These principles are informed by Principles for Open Scholarly Infrastructure-v1 by Bilder G, Lin J, Neylon C (2015) © 2019 COAR and SPARC, subject to a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License



TRANSPARENT PRICING AND CONTRACTS

The service's contract conditions and pricing are transparent and equitable, with no non-disclosure agreements included.



EASY MIGRATION

User-owned or generated content can be easily migrated to another platform or service upon termination of contract, without any additional fee from the service provider.



SUCCESSION PLANNING

If the service is a nonprofit, the organization's bylaws state the conditions and terms governing how the organization may be transferred or wound down. If the service is provided by a for-profit entity, the contract/agreement should not be assignable to another entity without the client's express permission.



OPEN CONTENT

Content, metadata and usage data are immediately, openly and freely available in machine-readable format via open standards, and using licenses (like CC0 or similar) which facilitate reuse.