

ASREN efforts Towards a FAIR Compliant Commons in the ASREN Region



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Origin of FAIR Data

- The acronym and principles were defined in a March 2016 paper in the journal Scientific Data Wilkinson, Mark D.; Dumontier, Michel; Aalbersberg, IJsbrand Jan; Appleton, Gabrielle; et al. (15 March 2016). "The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship". Scientific Data. 3: 160018. doi:10.1038/sdata.2016.18
- OECD (2007), Principles and Guidelines for Access to Research Data from Public Funding <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264034020-en-fr>
- Hodson and Molloy (2015), Current Best Practice for Research Data Management Policies <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.27872>
- Royal Society (2012), Science as an Open Enterprise <https://royalsociety.org/policy/projects/science-public-enterprise/Report>
- G8 Science Ministers Statement, 13 June 2013 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/g8-science-ministers-statement>

‘Open scientific research data should be easily discoverable, accessible, assessable, intelligible, useable, and wherever possible interoperable to specific quality standards.’

Definition of FAIR

The FAIR guiding principles: <https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2016.18>

- **To be Findable:**

- F1. (meta)data are assigned a globally unique and persistent identifier
- F2. data are described with rich metadata (defined by R1 below)
- F3. metadata clearly and explicitly include the identifier of the data it describes
- F4. (meta)data are registered or indexed in a searchable resource

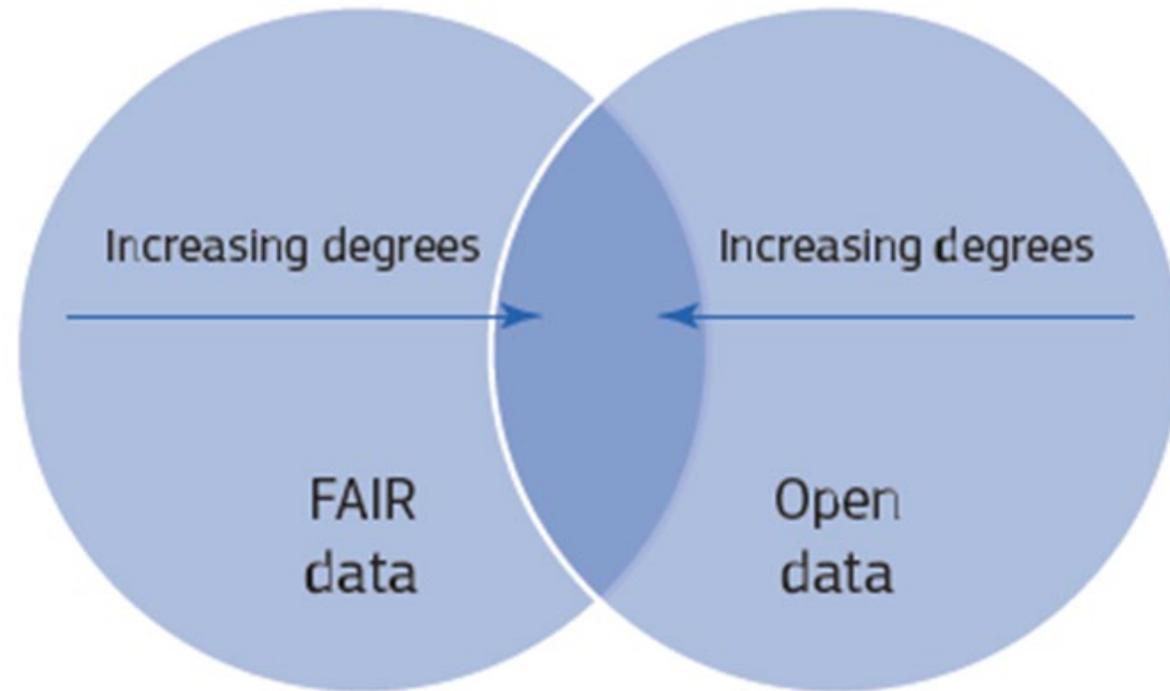
- **To be Accessible:**

- A1. (meta)data are retrievable by their identifier using a standardized communications protocol
 - A1.1. the protocol is free, open and universally implementable
 - A1.2. the protocol allows for an authentication and authorization procedure, where necessary
- A2. metadata are accessible, even when the data are no longer available

- **To be Interoperable:**
 - I1. (meta)data use a formal, accessible, shared, and broadly applicable language for knowledge representation
 - I2. (meta)data uses vocabularies that follow FAIR principles
 - I3. (meta)data include qualified references to other (meta)data
- **To be reusable:**
 - R1. (meta)data are richly described with a plurality of accurate and relevant attributes
 - R1.1. (meta)data are released with a clear and accessible data usage license
 - R1.2. (meta)data are associated with data provenance
 - R1.3. (meta)data meet domain relevant community standards

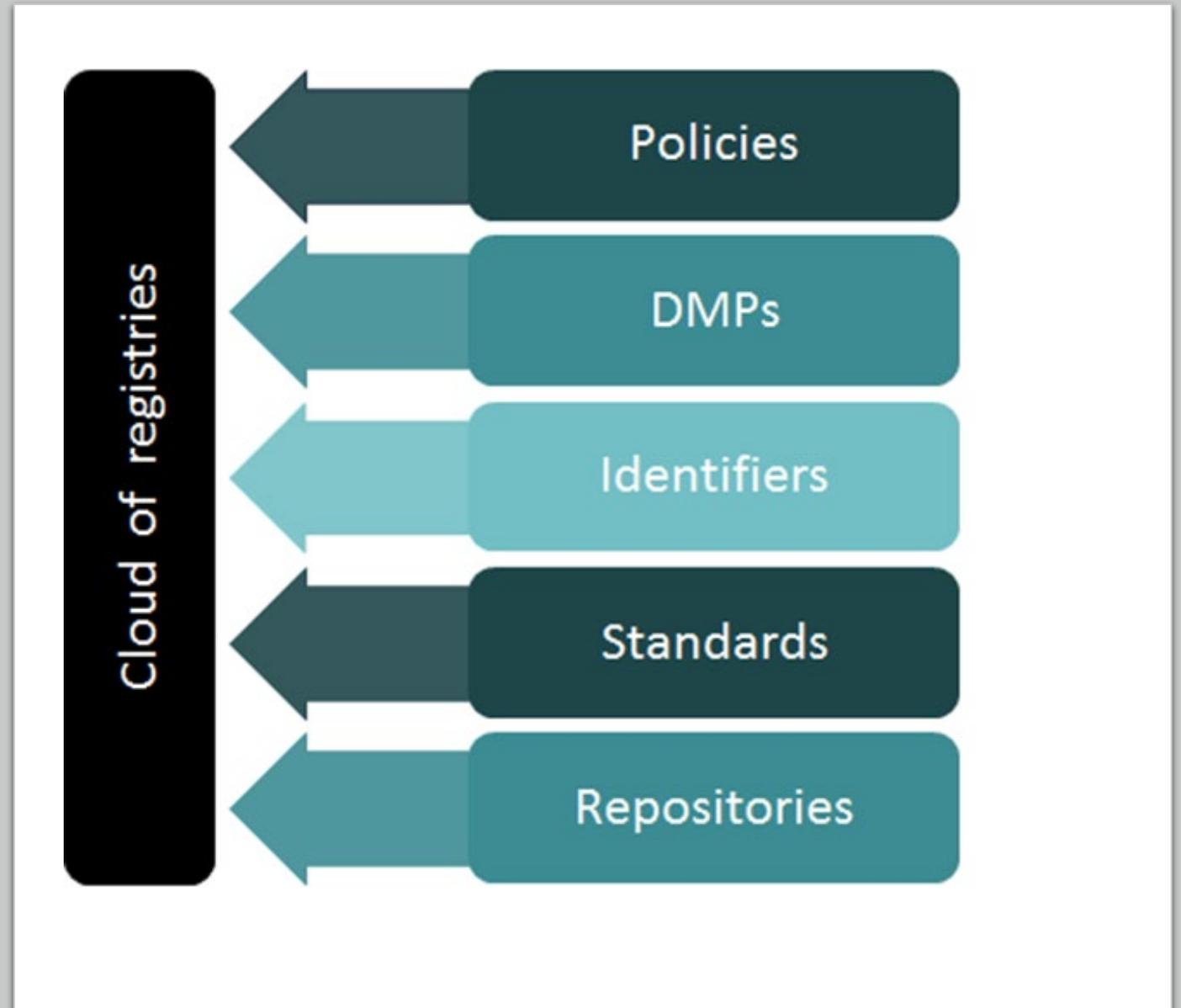
FAIR and Open Data

- Data can be FAIR or Open, both or neither.
- The greatest benefits come when data are both FAIR and Open



The realisation of FAIR data relies on, at minimum, the following essential components:

policies, Data Management Plans, identifiers, standards and repositories.



ASREN efforts Towards a FAIR Compliant Commons through:

- LIBSENSE initiative: Workshops & activities
- Collaboration with Datacite & Orcid
- Collaboration with LA Referencia
- Collaboration with UNESCO
- Collaboration with EOSC

LIBSENSE initiative

<https://spaces.wacren.net/display/LIBSENSE/Home>

- LIBSENSE Initiative was launched in 2016 to bring the research and education networks (RENs) and academic library communities together to build sustainable and relevant approaches for open access and open science.
- The West and Central African Research and Education Network (WACREN) leads the LIBSENSE initiative in collaboration with sister regional African RENs (ASREN and UbuntuNet Alliance).
- Other participating partners include several national RENs, libraries, library associations, universities and research communities, in conjunction with COAR, EIFL, University of Sheffield, National Institute of Informatics (Japan), GEANT, and OpenAIRE.

Why Libraries ?

Academic libraries have already become involved in some aspects of new Research & Education environment

- In promoting OA
- Setting up publishing services
- Developing research data management policies
- Running repositories

Outcomes of the LIBSENSE initiative

- Terms of Reference for NREN-Library collaboration.
- Metadata guidelines for repositories.
- Plans for a regional repository hosting service.
- National and institutional policy templates.

ASREN Contribution to LIBSENSE Initiative



- LIBSENSE III Workshop (Tunisia April 2019) , Priorities surfaced:
 - A federated discovery system for the region.
 - Increasing the value of Arabic content.
 - Shared content hosting platform.
 - Advocacy, training, and communities of practice.
- LIBSENSE Virtual Workshop (October 2020) addressed Open Science/Open Access in Arabic region.
- Third ASREN - LIBSENSE workshop entitled “Next steps” (Dec 2020) discussed supporting Open Knowledge through an initiative for harvesting data repositories in the Arab region with focus on Arabic content and language.
- Promoting the Open Access trends and practices.

ASREN mailing lists :Librarians & Scientific Research communities.

ASREN always contributes/builds on LIBSENSE WGs:

- Infrastructure - OA journals, repositories, and discovery services activities.
- Co-designing Open Access publishing infrastructures
- Capacity Building Priorities: Open repositories, Open access publishing, Research data management, Open learning and open educational resources.

Collaboration with DataCite & ORCID



- LIBSENSE WGs always address the Importance of PIDs
 - Technical awareness sessions/Trainings for RREN staff and for libraries/research communities.
 - ASREN latest activity “ORCID Workshop: A Reliable Open Research e-Infrastructures Enabler (Dec 2020)
- ASREN with the other LIBSENSE partners; WACREN & UbnetoNet have continuous discussions with DataCite & ORCID , each RREN aims to be PIDs provider/enabler in its region.

Collaboration with LA Referencia

- After several technical meetings & discussions LA Referencia, RedClara and the three African regional research and education networks - ASREN, WACREN and UbuntuNet Alliance - signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalize their relationship as the two continents seek to ramp up their open science activities.
- The aim of the collaboration is to advance open science policies, services and infrastructure that reflect the unique needs and conditions of each continent within a framework of international cooperation.
- Through 4 months pilot project ASREN is leading the technical evaluation of LA Referencia setup.
- Based on evaluation ASREN and other partners hopefully will adopt and contribute in LA “Referencia setup” internationalization.

Collaboration with UNESCO

- Contributing to UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science:
 - LIBSENSE Statement on Open Science in Africa.
 - ASREN always show the commitment towards achieving an Open Science platform for the Arab region and highlight the activities in this perspective.
 - Discussions with UNESCO to support :
 - Developing national roadmaps
 - Arab States Open Science Cloud
 - Policy development workshops

Collaboration with EOSC

- ASREN became Observer member at EOSC Association in March 2021.
- ASREN team started to participate in EOSC Advisory Groups/Task Forces.

Thank you

Any questions? ralzoubi@asrenorg.net

ASREN



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