



Understanding
and promoting
the information
needs of
researchers

Our role

The Research Information Network is a small policy unit supported by the UK higher education funding councils, the seven research councils and the three national libraries.

We aim to:

- enhance and broaden the understanding of how researchers in the UK create and use information resources and services of all kinds
- support the development of effective policies and practices for researchers, institutions, funders, information professionals and everyone who is involved in the research information landscape.

The UK's research community is one of the most successful in the world. To sustain this position, it is essential that we keep up with and exploit new opportunities in a rapidly changing information environment. Our role is to help researchers and the wider research community rise to this challenge, which will become even more important during the current economic climate of financial restraints.

Our approach

We work in partnership with our funders and other stakeholders to:

- develop the evidence base on the behaviours, perceptions and information needs of researchers
- provide authoritative advice and guidance to the research community and others
- promote change in research information policies and services
- broker relationships with key groups in research communications.





Developing the evidence base

- Our research projects are designed to increase our knowledge and understanding of the research information landscape and how researchers make use of key information resources and tools.
- We identify and assess the needs and views of researchers from different disciplines, subject areas and institutional settings, and at different stages of their careers.
- Our research reports identify good practice and inform the development of policy and services to support the research community.

Providing authoritative advice and guidance

- We produce advice and guidance on research information policy, strategy and service development. We engage with senior policymakers at institutional, national and international levels.
- We broker relationships and bring together organisations to consider the implications of the work we and others have done, and take forward coordinated and evidence-based policies and strategies.
- Our consultative and working groups draw on the knowledge and views of a wide range of stakeholders from the research, library and information sectors.

Promoting change

- We work with policymakers, service providers and key intermediaries to raise awareness of new developments in research information and the opportunities and challenges they bring.
- We promote changes to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the UK research community, and help organisations to harness the potential of library and information services in support of their research missions.

Communicating our work

We aim to create debates that lead to change.
We communicate to our audiences through:

- reports and briefings
- workshops and conferences
- our website and team blog
- the RIN newsletter and e-news
- our networks
- the media.

Stay up to date

To stay up to date with our work and other key developments, sign up for our monthly e-newsletter by emailing contact@rin.ac.uk

help desk



