

ARMA UKRN Overview September 2022

Highlights of the overview presentation (Neil Jacobs):

- UKRN is volunteer- and community-led and develops a number of resources, workshops, and trainings
- UKRN collaborates significantly across the sector at a number of different levels
- There is a 5-year Open Research Programme underway with three strands: training priorities and resources, evaluation/survey instruments, and ways of sharing practice. More to come on the website later this year.
 - Training: syllabus development is underway; plan to deliver training for the institutional trainers is in 9-12 months' time
 - Evaluation: hoping to explore more involved evaluation methods than surveys over time; a working group will be developing evaluation strategies (over the next 12 months)
 - Sharing practice: aim to develop resources that institutions can use to self-assess and develop OR locally; aware of other work in this sector already and an advisory group is providing input
 - Forthcoming roundtable opportunity for professional and technical staff bodies to engage with the programme - how do they influence OR practices and what role might they play as we continue forward

Breakout Notes

Discuss and agree what questions / comments you want to bring to the final Q&A session

Each group please identify your 1 or 2 most pressing points. There is a google document available

https://docs.google.com/document/d/10LGEYsSslkDF78kFOver9kV9VVjwNO4hjVYWKhlru_mQ/edit?usp=sharing should any group wish to record some comments there.

Areas to consider:

- Train the Trainer
- Sharing best practice
- Survey of researcher open research practice
- Recognition and reward
- Other

Breakout Summaries

Breakout 1

- How would the training be delivered and what might be the ratio between professional and academic staff in the 10 trainers?

- The Training Lead at each institution will help guide this locally and there will likely be a mix between different areas of work (guided by UKRN and institutional priorities)

Breakout 2

- How do we elevate the visibility of the programme and UKRN at institutions?
- Are you expecting the network to grow in numbers?
 - Yes, but participation at the start of the programme and at a later stage may look differently as we progress
 - New institutions don't necessarily have leads in place or time to help with involvement - but institutions would need to bring resources to become involved
- How do you ensure people commit to adhering to best practices?
 - It will require a culture change - and there could be an opportunity to demonstrate tangible institutional efforts in this direction in future

Breakout 3

- How will sharing of the best practices happen? Are there UKRN contacts that will be able to assist with knowing what resources are available?
 - Tools will be developed for the community's use but the form of those tools will likely depend on feedback from participants; there may need to be a public forum for institutes to share their best practices, and private space for less well developed policies
- How will the recognition and reward system work?
 - There are lots of good policies already in place, institutions can share other good practice.
 - Can develop some sort of maturity scale that respects various diversities. E.g. recruitment - do you discourage openness in the way you recruit (even without meaning to)? Do you expect applicants to make their research open? And would you reward this?

Breakout 4

- So far the focus has been on an academic institutional lead; is there a plan to balance that with professional staff in leadership roles also?
 - Something for UKRN to reflect on - the key thing is for an institutional lead to have a mandate from senior leadership at the institution, buy-in and leadership role within their academic community also
 - One of the challenges may be time commitment expected from a senior academic staff member
- How will we get people involved in undertaking activities/engage?
 - Academic lead is important - institutions need to coordinate on this and work together on recognition and reward

Breakout 5

- Is there a pilot phase for the train-the-trainer sessions?

- Not so much a pilot as preliminary work; initial sessions to get to know the trainers and align everyone's understanding and understand current capacity/abilities to ensure the training is appropriately delivered; previous training delivery experience by UKRN will be leveraged
- Would UKRN provide guidance/recommendations on what areas of work/research the initial trainers should come from?
 - A diverse group (backgrounds/experience/roles) may be more challenging to train as a group; but the makeup of groups will largely be driven by institutional choice and in line with their priorities
- There is a need for wider and senior institutional buy-in for this programme from the start; what resources and support may be developed at that level?
 - An institutional lead is required
 - Engagement/new participation is often driven by peer exchanges between institutions that are engaged and institutions which aren't yet as fully involved but there may be an opportunity to develop more resources to help encourage participation internally (as professional and academic staff may otherwise hear and want to get involved)

Other comments:

Unfortunately the academics are coming back saying they don't have the time! (to fully engage with OR training and management sic - where professional services might help alleviate admin burden - but not necessarily devolve responsibility nor dilute academic leadership)

One organisation noted the decision to get membership came from an academic who thought it a good idea. It was discussed and agreed at the university's research committee. The Research Office was tasked with getting the institutional lead and expect to get involved with some of the activities.