



Doctoral Academy  
University of Dundee



# Integrated Knowledge Translation Toolkit for Open Research



**The Concordat**   
to Support the Career Development of Researchers



Knowledge Translation  
Research

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## What kind of an organisation is the University of Dundee in the context of the Concordat?

Established in 1881, the University of Dundee is a leading public research-intensive institution known for excellence in research and teaching, particularly in life sciences, dentistry, and law. It hosts prestigious research centres like the Dundee Drug Discovery Unit and Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science.

Retaining the HR Excellence in Research Award since 2011, the University actively adheres to the Principles of the Researcher Development Concordat, proudly signing the revised Concordat.



## What challenge was being addressed with this initiative?

The Open Research initiative and Integrated Knowledge Translation (IKT) toolkit addressed limited access to research findings. Funded by the University's Researcher Development Awards, the IKT toolkit offers practical guidance for knowledge mobilization throughout the research process, aiming for an integrated, participatory approach to knowledge generation.



## What was done and how does this align with the Principles of the Researcher Development Concordat?

The University's research initiative developed an Open Research strategy and an IKT toolkit. The toolkit, co-produced for any discipline or sector, includes eight knowledge briefs and a slide deck, providing practical guidance for an IKT process in eight research stages, fostering knowledge mobilization and stakeholder involvement.

This initiative aligns with the Researcher Development Concordat's obligation to consistently assess and report on the research environment and culture, actively seeking feedback from researchers, and utilizing the outcomes to enhance institutional practices.

### It does this through:

**Open research:** The University's initiative aims to make research outputs, data, and other products publicly available, emphasizing transparency, accessibility, and reproducibility.

**Stakeholder involvement:** The research initiative involves patients, the public, and decision-makers throughout the research process.

**Knowledge mobilisation:** Providing guidance on implementing knowledge mobilization activities and promoting an integrated, participatory approach to knowledge production.

**Evidence-informed:** Based on a focused evidence review and synthesis of peer-reviewed and grey literature, emphasizing evidence-based decisions and actions.

**Collaboration:** Fostering collaborative partnerships among researchers, practitioners, and knowledge users to co-generate new, accessible knowledge.

The research stage briefs for the resource can be downloaded from the University's Discovery Portal:  
<https://doi.org/10.20933/100001248>



## What were the challenges in implementation and how were they resolved?

**Resistance to change:** Address through awareness-raising and stakeholder involvement training.

**Lack of resources:** Address by providing funding and training, encouraging stakeholder involvement in proposals, and including funding for these activities in grants.

**Difficulty finding appropriate stakeholders:** Address through partnerships, involving organizations and communities, and utilizing existing PPI groups.

**Communication barriers:** Address by developing communication plans tailored to stakeholders' preferences.

Overall, commitment to stakeholder involvement and knowledge mobilization can be achieved through ongoing training, support, and resources.



## How was the impact of the initiative evaluated?

To comprehensively evaluate the toolkit's effectiveness, we employed the following methods, gaining valuable insights into the initiative's impact, identifying areas for improvement, and enabling evidence-based decisions for future developments.

**Stakeholder surveys:** Gathering feedback from researchers, practitioners, patients, and the public on effectiveness and usefulness.

**Usage tracking:** Monitoring the uptake and engagement.

**Outcome analysis:** Assessing the impact of stakeholder involvement and knowledge mobilization on research outcomes.

**Case studies:** Conducting in-depth case studies of research projects that used the IKT toolkit to understand benefits and challenges.

**External evaluations:** Assessment from independent evaluators or external organizations to evaluate effectiveness.

**Comparative analysis:** Comparing research outcomes and impact between projects that implemented the toolkit and those that did not.

An unexpected outcome was the breadth and diversity of interest in the resource and that all of the principles can be applied across the entire research community.



## Advice for others wanting to do this

- Involve stakeholders from the beginning to ensure their needs are considered.
- Conduct a needs assessment to tailor the initiative to specific contexts.
- Develop clear goals and objectives aligned with relevant principles.
- Co-design the toolkit with stakeholders for practicality and relevance.
- Provide training and ongoing support to build capacity.
- Regularly evaluate the initiative and adapt based on findings.

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