

# COAR Strategy 2026-2028

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[COAR](#) is an international association that brings together individual repositories and repository networks in order to build capacity, align policies and practices, and act as a global voice for the repository community.

## Introduction

This strategy is based on members' input, expert consultations, and strategic discussions undertaken by the Executive Board in 2025. The strategy provides an important framework for positioning COAR in the broader ecosystem and identifying the activities for which COAR can have the greatest impact.

The strategy is best situated in conjunction with a [Strategic Analysis of the Landscape](#) published by COAR in November 2025. Although this strategy is meant to define COAR's priorities and objectives for the three year period of 2026-2028, the Executive Board may choose to revise it in the future in order to remain relevant.

## Vision

COAR's vision is a sustainable, inclusive, and trusted global knowledge commons based on a network of open access digital repositories

## Mission

COAR's mission is to increase the availability and use of high-quality research outputs for the benefit of scholarship and society through a sustainable and interoperable global network of open access repositories.

## Four strategic directions

1. Raise the visibility of repositories
2. Build a trusted information environment
3. Improve digital coherence
4. Shape the future for repositories

# COAR's Unique Role

COAR plays an important and unique role in the repository ecosystem.

## Trusted Convenor

COAR is a global membership association with participants from all over the world. Over the past two decades, COAR has collaborated with key national partners to enhance local repository practices across various countries and regions. With a strong commitment to community engagement, COAR has consistently demonstrated its ability to respond effectively to the evolving needs of its members and the broader repository community. COAR is uniquely positioned to serve as a central convenor, bringing together repositories and repository networks to collectively drive progress and advance our shared vision.

## Influential Voice

In a time of significant change, marked by rapid developments in scholarly publishing reform, funding and political disruptions, and the growing influence of AI in scholarly communication, COAR is a widely recognised stakeholder representing the repository community. It is uniquely positioned to ensure that repositories remain a priority in international discussions and policy fora. COAR also plays an important role in supporting local advocacy efforts. While the most effective repository advocacy is tailored to national and regional contexts, COAR can reinforce the work of local organisations by sharing international examples that highlight the value and impact of repositories in other parts of the world.

## Innovative Leader

Over the last decade, COAR has been a driving force for innovation in the repository space, from articulating the vision of a networked repository ecosystem, to identifying next-generation repository functionalities, and most recently developing the COAR Notify protocol. As the landscape continues to rapidly evolve, COAR will maintain this leadership role by drawing on the collective expertise and engagement of its members and partners to advance its vision, while also capitalising on emerging opportunities for repositories to positively shape and transform the broader scholarly communication ecosystem.

# COAR Action Plan 2026

This plan outlines all of the activities that COAR will undertake in 2026.

<p><b>1. <i>Raise the visibility of repositories</i></b></p> <p>Further articulate compelling, evidence-based value propositions for repositories at global, national, and regional levels</p> <p>Support the development and implementation of tailored strategies to strengthen repository networks in different countries and regions</p> <p>Promote the adoption of rights retention strategies and secondary publishing rights to ease the deposit of articles into repositories</p>	<p><b>2. <i>Build a trusted information environment</i></b></p> <p>Review and expand the “COAR Community Framework for Good Practices in Repositories” to include new developments</p> <p>Convene repository networks and repository communities to share knowledge, technologies, increase collaborations</p> <p>Help position repositories to play an effective and ethical role in an AI-mediated discovery environment</p>
<p><b>3. <i>Improve digital coherence</i></b></p> <p>Maintain and update the COAR Controlled Vocabularies</p> <p>Manage, improve, and expand the International Repository Directory</p> <p>Support the interoperability of alternative PIDs options with mainstream PIDs</p> <p>Develop good practices for repositories participating in the Publish, Review, Curate ecosystem such as versioning, linking, and other standards</p>	<p><b>4. <i>Shape the future for repositories</i></b></p> <p>Support the adoption of the COAR Notify Protocol</p> <p>Develop recommendations for machine access to repository resources (e.g. APIs and formats)</p> <p>Improve access to multilingual research outputs by evaluating and piloting new models for discovery</p> <p>Advance the the adoption of Publish, Review, Curate model across the scholarly ecosystem</p>