

National Open Research Festival (NORFest), November 2023

CUJ Abstract (Kouker, Cox, Rogers)

The idea that the concepts and practices of open research are suitable for development at all educational stages is not a new one. However, while academic libraries do address the concepts and importance of open-access research at the undergraduate level, the challenge remains to transfer this teaching from the abstract into practice with tangible outcomes. Focusing on the theme of establishing a culture of open research and open pedagogical practice, we will discuss the creation of the Communications Undergraduate Journal (cujournal.ie).

The Council on Undergraduate Research lists various successful journals from around the world that showcase the output of students as creators of information. Open research and pedagogical practice provide students with an opportunity to thoroughly connect with their area of interest, encourage critical reasoning and invite debate about developments in their field of inquiry. Open research affords access to educational output for a global audience and the student as author can embrace this opportunity and be confident in the rigour of their research process. Most importantly, incentivising open research practices rewards students who actively engage with the journal process. They feel encouraged to put their best effort into their academic work, because constructive engagement with scholarly communication activates motivation from within, helping to sustain interest and creativity, which in turn raises the value of the university.

A mechanism for dissemination of undergraduate research to students, end users of research and the wider public, the CUJ incentivises open research practice through a clear workflow, fostering a highly collaborative culture among students and faculty from the School of Communications and DCU Library.

In our proposed presentation, we will discuss the origins of cujournal.ie and the process of developing library-faculty partnerships to enhance open research culture. We will discuss the virtues of such journals and how they can meaningfully support metaliterary instruction and inspire a transition to open pedagogy, thus ensuring others can engage with, and benefit from undergraduate research at the earliest opportunity.