# **Roadmap for Open Research – Self-Assessment 2025**

The following table contains a self-assessment on Queen’s University Belfast’s readiness for Open Research, based on the 37 criteria set out in the [LERU Open Science Roadmap](https://www.leru.org/files/LERU-AP24-Open-Science-full-paper.pdf).

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|  | **Topic** | **Question** | **Assessment of progress** | **Proposed next steps** | **RAG****Status** |
| **Cultural change** |
| 1. | Leadership | Has your university appointed a senior manager to lead Open Research (OR) approaches across all eight pillars of the Open Science debate identified by the European Commission? | * [OR Group](https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/InformationServices/TheLibrary/ResearchSupport/OpenResearch/OpenResearchGroup/) was established
* [Open Science Guidelines](https://qubpsy.github.io/QUBPsyOpenScience/) were produced by the School of Psychology
* [ReproducibiliTea](https://osf.io/2rgth/) network was established for Queen’s researchers interested in OR
* Library joined the [Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC)](https://www.dpconline.org/), implemented a [Digital Preservation Policy](https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/InformationServices/TheLibrary/CustomerService/PoliciesandRegulations/DigitalPreservationPolicy/), subscribed to a digital preservation platform (Preservica) and appointed a Digital Preservation Officer
 | * REF and Research Culture Teams in Research & Enterprise (R&E) will continue to advocate for uptake of Psychology Open Science guidelines model across Queen’s
* Institutional membership of UKRN will be kept under review
* Queen’s is participating in UKRN’s [Open and Responsible Researcher Reward and Recognition project (OR4)](https://www.ukrn.org/open-and-responsible-researcher-reward-and-recognition-or4/) as a case study institution
* Library is acting as a champion for digital preservation within the University
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| 2. | HR | Has your university developed a programme of cultural change, which is necessary to support the changes in principle and practice which OR brings? | * University has a Research Culture Action Plan in place, with one of five strategic priorities committed to “Incentivise a culture of creativity and innovation in which researchers have the freedom and flexibility required to explore ambitious and novel research ideas in the spirit of openness, transparency and integrity”
* School of Psychology has included OR in recruitment documentation
* OR team is coordinating efforts on elements of OR: open access (OA), e-theses, research data management (RDM) and Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) such as ORCID
 | * R&E will consider including OR-specific questions in future research culture survey
* Work is being undertaken on embedding conversations around OR into PDR process for researchers
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| 3. | Advocacy | Does your university have advocacy programmes to identify the benefits of OR approaches, whilst being realistic about the challenges? | * [ReproducibiliTea](https://osf.io/2rgth/) network at Queen’s meets regularly
* OR team has OA, e-theses and RDM outreach programmes
* [Open and Responsible Research Symposium](https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/InformationServices/TheLibrary/News/OpenResponsibleResearchSymposiumQUB.html) was held
 | * Open Science Workgroup in the School of Psychology is advocating (through the Open Science Guidelines and discussions with staff) Open Science within the School
* OR Group will consider running an Open and Responsible Research Symposium annually
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| 4. | Communication | Does your university have communication strategies which enable the whole university body to become familiar with OR practices? | * OR team produced [OR webpages](https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/InformationServices/TheLibrary/ResearchSupport/OpenResearch/)
* Representative from OR team attends Faculty Research Committee meetings when required
 | * OR team will continue to encourage the use of the more inclusive term “Open Research” over “Open Science”
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| **The future of scholarly publishing** |
| 5. | Compliance | Does your university have institutional mandates to support the move to full OA and does it monitor implementation of these mandates? | * [Research Publications and Copyright Policy](https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/InformationServices/TheLibrary/CustomerService/PoliciesandRegulations/ResearchPublicationsandCopyrightPolicy/), which supersedes the University’s OA Policy, aligns with Research Excellence Framework (REF) OA Policy
* Initial compliance rate with the new UKRI OA Policy was investigated by the OR team
* An institutional OA journal fund is available to researchers who are not sponsored by a research funder
 | * OR team will review how they support researchers with the REF 2029 OA policy
* OR team is supporting UKRI funded authors in complying with new OA policy for long form publications via monthly training sessions and [webpages](https://libguides.qub.ac.uk/openaccess/ukri/monographs) that include funding and exemption application forms. A crib sheet is also in development that will help authors when liaising with publishers about publication costs
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| 6. | Planning | Can relevant stakeholders work together to deliver a roadmap for how they, or specific groupings, can develop agreed plans for the future of scholarly publishing in their institution? | * OA for journal articles and conference papers is well established at the University
* OR team provides support for OA monographs via advocacy and training; [webpages](https://libguides.qub.ac.uk/c.php?g=322847&p=5101114); and Pure (University’s Current Research Information System (CRIS)) validation workflows for books and book chapters
* Developing Digital Preservation Strategy and workflows with relevant Special Collections and Archives, OR and Digital and Information Services (D&IS) stakeholders
* Collaborative Digital Asset Register in place, with automated syncing to facilitate preservation planning across units
* Digital Preservation Subgroup of the OR Group established
 | * OR team is providing advice and training on the University’s new thesis model, Thesis With Publications (TWP). This model allows research postgraduate students to include work they have published without having to rewrite it to the traditional thesis format
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| 7. | Advocacy | Does your university advocate the use of author identifier systems such as ORCID across the institution? | * ORCID is integrated with Pure
* There are over 1000 staff and postgraduate research students in Pure with ORCID iDs
* ORCID is incorporated into OR team outreach and training and [PID webpages](https://libguides.qub.ac.uk/persistentidentifiers) have been produced
* Research Publications and Copyright Policy, which supersedes the University’s OA Policy, encourages researchers to make use of ORCID
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| 8. | Innovation | Has your university considered supporting new forms of scholarly publishing from third parties, such as OpenEdition and Knowledge Unlatched, which are dedicated to OA approaches? | * Library supports number of OA publishing initiatives such as [Modern Languages Open](https://libguides.qub.ac.uk/ld.php?content_id=32849804) (OA publishing platform)
 | * Library will continue to support new publishing initiatives where possible
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| 9 | Innovation | Where appropriate, has your university established new mechanisms for scholarly publishing based on the good practice identified in this chapter? | * Queen’s does not have a university press and D&IS does not host OA journals
* Library is a member of the [Open Institutional Publishing Association](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Foipauk.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Crebecca.clarke%40qub.ac.uk%7C7915df5c3ca040e6f55208dc2984737d%7Ceaab77eab4a549e3a1e8d6dd23a1f286%7C0%7C0%7C638430896040191919%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HidjQIiMGm30KT%2B0vBomcFuwOlEnPNzzv8Sfvmz43cM%3D&reserved=0). This is a community of practice that reports on developments within institutional publishing and more widely on how funder policies effect institutional presses
* Library joined the [Scottish Universities Press (SUP)](https://www.sup.ac.uk/), which is an OA publishing press coordinated by [SCURL](https://www.scurl.ac.uk/) and managed by member libraries on a not-for-profit basis. SUP provides Queen’s researchers with a cost-effective publishing route for OA monographs
* Library supports a range of [Diamond OA initiatives](https://libguides.qub.ac.uk/c.php?g=322847&p=5101114#s-lib-ctab-16391862-2) including MIT Press Direct to Open, The University of Michigan Press Ebook Collection and Liverpool University Press: Opening the Future
* Library arranged a demo of the [Octopus](https://www.octopus.ac/) publishing platform
 | * Library is a partner institution in [National Open Research Forum (NORF)](https://norf.ie/) 2022 Open Research Fund projects
* OR team will continue to monitor developments in Diamond OA publishing
* OR team are part of [Open Repositories Ireland (ORI)](https://www.universityofgalway.ie/openrepositories/ori/) which offers resources and guidance to help repositories meet national and international standards
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| **FAIR data** |
| 10. | Institutional policy | Has your institution a research data policy or strategy? | * University’s [RDM Policy](https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/InformationServices/TheLibrary/CustomerService/PoliciesandRegulations/ResearchDataManagementPolicy/) was introduced in 2015 and updated in December 2024
* Research Data Management Subgroup (comprised of RDM support stakeholders) of the OR Group was established
* University's [Digital Object Identifier (DOI) Policy](https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/InformationServices/TheLibrary/CustomerService/PoliciesandRegulations/DigitalObjectIdentifierPolicy/) upholds FAIR principles regarding assigning DOIs for datasets in the data repository and sets out eligibility criteria to ensure high Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability and Reusability of datasets in Pure
 | * New Responsible Research Assessment Policy approved in 2024/25, with guidance and advocacy campaign to follow. It is anticipated that sub-policies will be developed for specific purposes such as Academic Progression and REF preparations
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| 11. | Institutional policy | Does your institution research data policy or strategy include FAIR principles? | * University’s RDM Policy predates the FAIR Principles
* Research Data Librarian participated in the FAIR IMPACT award for Research Performing Organisations (Feb - Jun 2024). This was a tailored support programme run by the Digital Curation Centre (DCC) to enable institutions to become familiar with FAIR-enabling tools, approaches and methods
 | * OR team will update the University’s RDM Policy to include FAIR Principles
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| 12. | Institutional support | Has your institution established a dedicated service to provide data stewardship to its researchers? | * Research Data Librarian post was created within the OR team to provide RDM support, advocacy and training
* Library subscribes to [DMPonline](https://qub.dmponline-mt.dcc.ac.uk/?perform_check=false), which helps academic staff create data management plans (DMPs)
* University-specific guidance was added to DMPonline to make it easier for researchers to complete DMPs
* OR team mints DOIs for datasets in Pure. The DOI policy ensures the embrace of FAIR principles with the assignment of DOIs to dataset content in data repository (Pure)
* Digital Preservation post created to provide support, training, and advocacy for long-term data preservation
* To assist researchers with research proposals, a [Digital Research Toolkit](https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/InformationServices/TheLibrary/ResearchSupport/Toolsandresources/) was produced that signposts services available in these areas
 | * Data Access Committee will be established to manage access by researchers to sensitive research data that is stored in the data repository but cannot be openly shared
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| 13 | Infrastructure | Does your institution provide access to an infrastructure storage and publication of research data? If it does not, does your institution inform its researchers of available infrastructures that follow the FAIR principles? | * Academic staff can access cloud-based storage via Microsoft OneDrive
* New and enhanced Research Data Storage platform was deployed to support the secure storage of large datasets for the duration of research projects
* A subscription to Preservica was purchased so that Special Collections and Archives digital assets and the University’s e-theses can be preserved
 | * Figshare repository platform for research datasets and e-theses will be implemented at Queen’s
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| 14 | Data | Does your institution gather information about the data archived and published by its research community? | * Regular reports on data held in Pure are provided to the Open Research Group
* Information is not gathered about data that is deposited externally by researchers
 | * OR team are monitoring whether Data Access Statements are being included in UKRI funded research papers
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| 15. | Metadata | Does your institution publish all metadata about research data generated or obtained within its research community? | * Pure is used as the University’s data catalogue
* An extra OR Assistant post was introduced to assist with metadata enrichment and validation
* Metadata records in Pure are not routinely created for data that is deposited externally by researchers
 | * OR team will encourage academic staff to create metadata records in Pure that describe and link to externally deposited datasets
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| 16. | Assessment | Does your institution include research data as a valuable output in research assessments? | * OR team’s outreach and training stresses the importance of data deposit in a data repository to increase citations, improve visibility, fulfil funder mandates, decrease research reproduction and increase collaboration
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| **The European Open Science Cloud** |
| 17. | Infrastructure development | Has your university established a data repository, or does it have access to a 3rd party repository/repositories which can interact with the EOSC? | * Pure is used as the University’s data repository
 | * D&IS is developing an open-source Pure-Preservica connector
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| 18. | Infrastructure development | Does your university have a search and discovery service, enabling users to find what research data is available, and where it is located? | * [Research Portal](https://pure.qub.ac.uk/) is the University’s search and discovery service
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| 19. | Policy development | Has your university signed the EOSC Declaration as a statement of commitment at a local level? | * University did not sign the EOSC Declaration
* Can join EOSC Association but Jisc is already an Observer Member
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| 20. | Co-operation and collaboration | Will your university develop their research data management offering so that it is aligned with the principles of engagement with the EOSC, once the latter are agreed and available? | * EOSC is still under development and Jisc will advise UK HE community when to begin engaging directly with EOSC
 | * OR Group will keep engagement with EOSC under review
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| **Education and skills** |
| 21. | Training | Does your institution offer skills training specifically in OR (in all or certain of the eight areas, or other OR aspects)? | * OR team offers courses (through Staff Learning and Development Programme, Postdoctoral Development Centre and Graduate School) aimed at academic staff and research postgraduates. OR team also offers ad hoc training sessions to schools and research groups
 | * Information Compliance Unit, Open Research Team and Governance, Ethics and Integrity will continue to collaborate on RDM training where possible
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| 22. | Audience | Is any OR skills training mandatory, and for which categories of staff/researchers/students? | * OR training is not mandatory although an online course on the REF OA Policy was created in Queen’s Online
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| 23. | Assessment | Does your institution monitor or assess the provision, uptake and impact of OR skills training? | * OR team provides training attendance figures for the Open Research Group, Library Annual Report and the [SCONUL](https://www.sconul.ac.uk/) annual statistical return
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| **Recognition and rewards** |
| 24. | HR policy | Does your institution integrate OR in its HR and career frameworks as an explicit element in recruitment, performance evaluation and career advancement policies? | * Queen’s is a signatory to the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)](https://www.qub.ac.uk/Research/Our-people/Our-Research-Environment/Responsible-Metrics/) and has associated institutional recommendations in place
 | * Work is being undertaken on embedding conversations around OR into PDR process for researchers. Inclusion of OR in academic profiles should also be considered
* New Responsible Research Assessment Policy approved, with guidance and advocacy campaign to follow. It is anticipated that sub-policies will be developed for specific purposes such as Academic Progression and REF preparations
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| 25. | Assessment | Does your institution assess the extent to which individuals, teams or units integrate OR in their daily practice? And does it recognize and/or rewards them for this? | * OR team produced monthly REF OA Policy compliance reports for the REF Champions. These are now available on request
* OA KPI has been set as part of the Research and Innovation Strategy 2030 and is shared with the Research and Innovation (R&I) Committee three times a year
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| 26. | Communication | Does your institution make information about its policies on researcher evaluation open and easily accessible? | * All details on [academic progression](https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/HumanResources/employees/development-and-career-progression/academic-progression/) are available on the University website. Academic ‘profiles’ for different grades and contract types are made available internally via Queen’s Online
* REF process not used to assess individuals
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| **Next generation metrics** |
| 27. | Policy development | Will your university develop a bibliometrics policy grounded in the principles outlined in this paper, with the aim of changing the culture in the academic community about research assessment? | * Queen’s is a signatory to the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)](https://www.qub.ac.uk/Research/Our-people/Our-Research-Environment/Responsible-Metrics/) and has associated institutional recommendations in place
* A new institutional Publication Quality and Dissemination Action Plan (PQDAP) has been developed to support efforts enhance the overall academic reputation and impact of the University through research publishing, to improve awareness and understanding of publication-level and journal-level data amongst the academic community, and to ensure that these metrics are used in a responsible and supportive manner, in line with our commitments under e.g. DORA
* Paper on responsible research assessment presented to R&I Committee May 2023, with broad agreement to explore developing an institutional policy statement. This would encompass responsible research assessment (RRA) and the responsible use of metrics. R&E is developing a draft policy for consultation, and approval by R&I Committee later in the academic year. R&I Committee agreed that UKRN membership should be pursued, but indicated that [CoARA](https://coara.eu/) signatory status should be considered after the institutional policy is developed
 | * New Responsible Research Assessment Policy approved, with guidance and advocacy campaign to follow. It is anticipated that sub-policies will be developed for specific purposes such as Academic Progression and REF preparations
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| 28. | HR | Will your university embed the new forms of research evaluation in its internal processes for promotion/reward and research evaluation? | * Queen’s is participating in UKRN’s [Open and Responsible Researcher Reward and Recognition project (OR4)](https://www.ukrn.org/open-and-responsible-researcher-reward-and-recognition-or4/) as a case study institution
* An internal R&E project has been delivered to manage the adoption of narrative CVs at Queen’s as part of our broader commitment to RRA. R&E staff have joined the UKRI Alternative Uses Group to take part in a sector-wide discussion on this, and it is intended we will have clear proposals for broader adoption of the narrative CV in place for the start of the next academic year
* Institutional review of academic profiles currently underway and R&E colleagues feeding back to People and Culture, which includes embedding references to open and responsible research, and working to tailor the structure of profiles to the Narrative CV
 | * Review of academic profiles and progression processes underway, led by PVC R&E and PVC Education.
* Narrative CV training actively being delivered, and will be used as broad template for review of academic profiles
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| 29. | Best practice guidance | Will your university, via appropriate internal bodies, construct guidance for research administrators and academics on good and bad practice in the use of traditional bibliometrics and in the development of new metrics, working with the scientific community in this endeavour? | * Paper on responsible research assessment presented to R&I Committee May 2023, with broad agreement to explore developing an institutional policy statement. This would encompass RRA and the responsible use of metrics. R&E developing a draft policy for consultation, and approval by R&I Committee later in the academic year. R&I Committee agreed that UKRN membership should be pursued, but indicated that CoARA signatory status should be considered after the institutional policy is developed
 | * New Responsible Research Assessment Policy approved, with guidance and advocacy campaign to follow. It is anticipated that sub-policies will be developed for specific purposes such as Academic Progression and REF preparations.
* As part of the new R&E Intranet site, a new online resource has launched entitled [Publishing Your Research](https://qubstudentcloud.sharepoint.com/%3Au%3A/r/sites/int-re/SitePages/PUBLISHING.aspx?csf=1&web=1&e=COvCRD). This includes information and guidance on the responsible use of metrics, ensuring that academics, researchers and professional support staff are fully aware of the range of metrics used in research publishing, and the tools and approaches that can be used to responsibly utilise them
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| 30. | Training for early career researchers | Will your university give particular focus to early career researchers, particularly those embarking on a course of doctoral study, providing training to enable them to embrace the change of culture and practice which the responsible use of metrics brings? | * OR team deliver training sessions aimed at research postgraduates and postdocs. Information about OA, ORCID and RDM also included on the Postdoctoral Development Centre website
 | * As part of PQDAP, R&E have partnered with Elsevier on various projects to improve awareness, understanding and responsible use of a range of metrics. This included in-person training for all interested staff. Staff are also routinely invited to join Elsevier’s ‘SciVal’ accreditation course, an option which a number of colleagues have taken up
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| **Research integrity** |
| 31. | Communication | Does your institution promote awareness amongst the research community of how OR can ensure the highest standards of research? | * OR team outreach and advocacy includes the promotion of the benefits of openness
* Through various training and induction programmes OR is promoted to staff and PGR students
 | * As part of the Research and Innovation Strategy that supports Strategy 2030 it is planned that, alongside research culture, research integrity will be a core focus for 2025-26. OR will be an important part of this focus.
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| 32. | Policy | Does your university have a research integrity code which embraces the principles of OR? If not, does your institution abide by the European Code for Research Integrity (ALLEA Code) and the Open Science provisions it contains? | * The University has a [Code of Conduct and Integrity in Research](https://www.qub.ac.uk/Research/Governance-ethics-and-integrity/FileStore/Filetoupload%2C1791793%2Cen.pdf), section 4 of the Code promotes openness and transparency
 | * The University’s guidance on authorship and publication is being updated and it too will reflect on the importance of OR.
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| **Citizen science** |
| 33. | Policy | Does your university recognise citizen science as an evolving set of research methods, as well as its societal and educational benefits? | * Yes, see commitments to [Engaged Research activities and Engaged Research Action Plan](https://www.qub.ac.uk/Research/Our-impact/). Also, one of the four priorities within [Strategy 2030](https://www.qub.ac.uk/about/strategy/) is Social and Civic Responsibility, and Economic Prosperity
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| 34. | Communication | Is there a single point for citizen science within your institution? | * Yes, Impact and Engagement team within R&E. Additionally, several engagement hubs existing and further planned including around patient and public involvement (PPI), heritage and sustainable development
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| 35. | Communication | Does your university raise awareness amongst researchers of criteria for successful citizen science? | * Yes, see commitments to [Engaged Research activities and Engaged Research Action Plan](https://www.qub.ac.uk/Research/Our-impact/)
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| 36. | Assessment | Are citizen science contributions assessed and research evaluation and reputation systems adapted accordingly? |  | * Work is being undertaken on embedding conversations around OR into PDR process for researchers
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| 37. | Policy | Do proposals for granting bodies for citizen science projects include long-term commitment for infrastructures and data repositories? |  |  |  |