

Academic OSPO Trends

Enabling Academic OSS in a Changing World

Clare Dillon

clare@curioss.org

www.linkedin.com/in/claredillon/



Open Source Trends

Open Source is
Everywhere



Open Source for
Open Research



Open Source for
Social Impact



Open Source for
Economic Impact



**OPEN SOURCE IS THE
BUILDING BLOCKS
FOR ALL SOFTWARE**

96% of the world's
software contains open
source code

77% of all code originates
from open source software

Open Source Trends

Open Source is
Everywhere



Open Source for
Open Research



Open Source for
Social Impact



Open Source for
Economic Impact



OPEN SOURCE FOR OPEN RESEARCH

“In terms of specific practices, open research includes open access to publications, open research data, **open-source software/tools**, open workflows, citizen science, open educational resources, and alternative methods for research evaluation.”

Open Source Trends

Open Source is
Everywhere



Open Source for
Open Research



Open Source for
Social Impact



Open Source for
Economic Impact



OPEN SOURCE FOR ECONOMIC IMPACT

Open source software contributes €65 - €95 billion to the EU's GDP.

\$ 26.4b funding for commercial open source (COSS) startups in 2024.

COSS startups average 7x greater valuations at IPO and 14x at M&A than closed-source peers.

Open Source Trends

Open Source is
Everywhere



Open Source for
Open Research



Open Source for
Social Impact



Open Source for
Economic Impact



OPEN SOURCE FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

Open-source software, open data, open AI models, open standards, and open content that adhere to privacy and other applicable laws and best practices, do no harm by design, and help attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



University OSS

What's different about University OSS?

66

OSS in university **goals** may differ from OSS in corporations or the OSS community at large.

For example, OSS success for Open Research may be reproducibility not community contributions.



66

University **context** is different, with unique structures, systems and cultures.

For example, libraries do not exist in corporations; how do you cite software?



66

Profiles are different. Academic personnel are a diverse audience and may not consider themselves “developers”; they may also change focus over time





OSPO Overview

What is an Open Source Program Office?

66

“center of competency for an organization's open source operations and structure”

– *TODO Group*



66

“a cross-functional team to help define and steer an organization's open source management strategy and organizational readiness”

– *OSPO Alliance*



66

“an institutional organizational construct that supports and accelerates the consumption, creation, and application of Open Source software”

– *OpenForum Europe*



TODO OSPO Landscape





Academic OSPO Overview

What is an Academic Open Source Program Office?

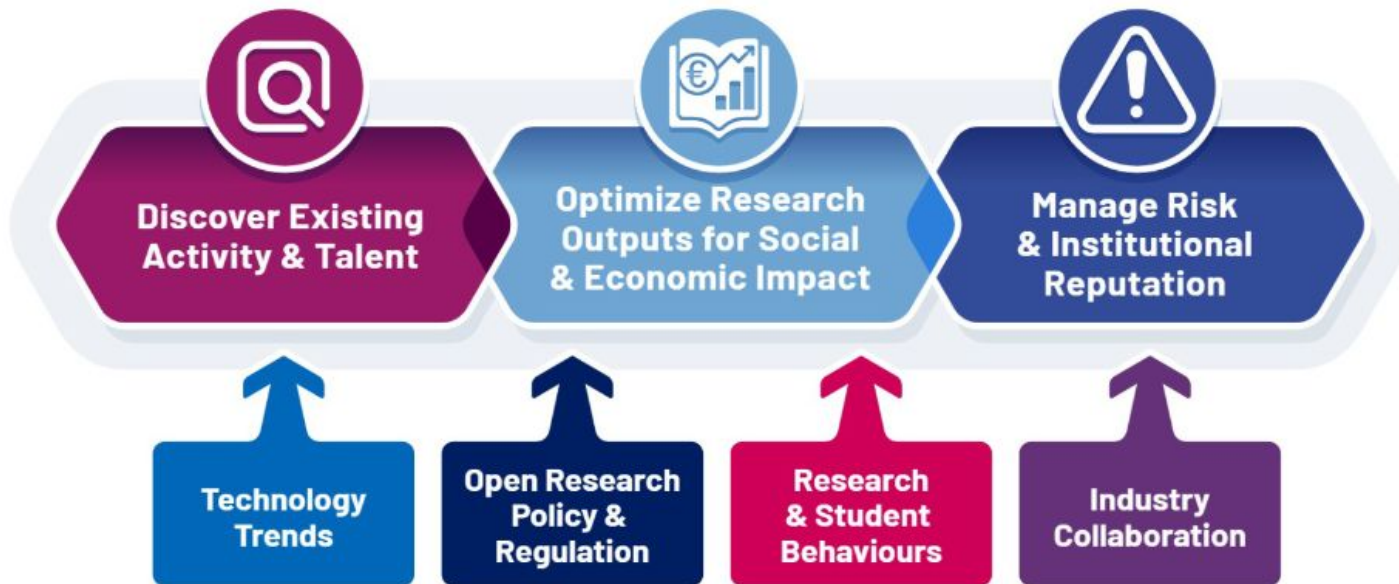
66

“**Academic OSPOs** can be defined as organizational constructs that act as a convener, community steward, & center of competency for open source in an academic context.

The overarching goal of an academic OSPO is to maximize the social and economic impact of open source software for research & education

– *CURIOSS OSPO Definition Working Group*

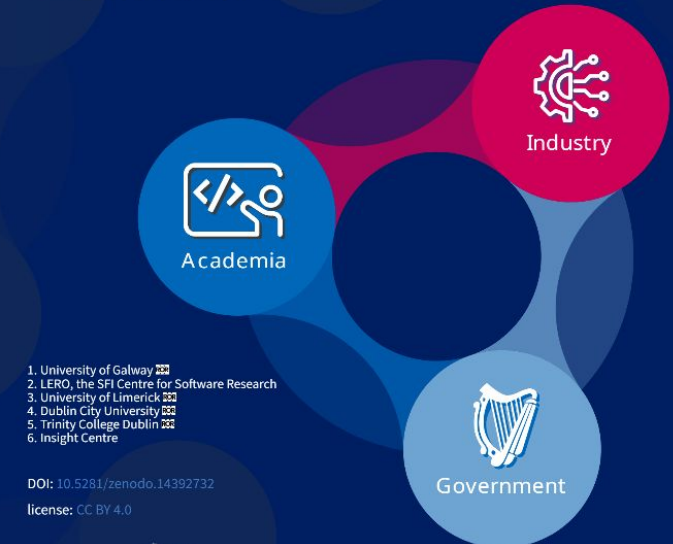
Why Have an Academic OSPO?



Framework for Managing University Open Source Software

An Initiative to Manage Open Source Software in Irish Universities (MOSS-I)

Clare Dillon^{1,2}, Michael Meagher³, Ian Gallivan⁴, Kevin Moerman^{1,2}, Lorraine Morgan^{1,2}, Conor Morris³, Noel O'Connor⁵, Martina Prendergast^{2,3}, Aoife Tierney⁵, Carlos Tighe^{1,6}, Patrick Healy^{7,3}



1. University of Galway
2. LERO, the SFI Centre for Software Research
3. University of Limerick
4. Dublin City University
5. Trinity College Dublin
6. Insight Centre

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.14392732

license: CC BY 4.0

Driving Ireland's Future
through Open Source
Innovation & Collaboration



Academic OSPOs



Goals

Open Source Excellence

- Open Source License Guidance

- Open Source Best Practices in university context

Research Impact

- Working with Technology Transfer Offices

- Working with communities

Skills & Education

- Supporting open source skills in curricula

- Student Programs (e.g. internship programs, hackathons)

Operations & Outreach

- OSPO operations, tools & infrastructure

- Outreach – internally & to open source ecosystem

Community for University & Research Institute OSPOs



We aim to facilitate the networking and collaboration between OSPO representatives from universities and research institutions worldwide.

CURILOSS was set up in 2023 with the support of a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

CURIOSS Members

60+ members from 26 institutions

Carnegie
Mellon
University
Libraries

ETH zürich
transfer

THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

Trinity
College
Dublin
The University of Dublin

UGA

uni.lu | SNT

GT
Georgia
Tech.

JOHNS HOPKINS
SHERIDAN LIBRARIES
Open Source
Programs Office

LERO
Software for
a better world

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

UC DAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

UCLA

MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY

Oregon State
University

RIT

UC San Diego

UC SANTA BARBARA

OSPO
ospo.ucsc.edu

SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY

Stanford
University

S
Syracuse
University

UCL

M
INNOVATION
PARTNERSHIPS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT AUSTIN

The University of Vermont

WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

CURIOSS History

A timeline...

2022



- ★ CMU
- ★ JHU
- ★ RIT
- ★ SLU
- ★ UCSC
- ★ UVM

- TCD
- Lero

2023



- ★ Georgia Tech
- ★ GWU
- ★ Stanford
- ★ Syracuse
- ★ UT Austin
- ★ UW - Madison

2024

- ★ UC Berkeley
- ★ UC Davis
- ★ UCLA
- ★ UC San Diego
- ★ UC Santa Barbara

- ETH Zurich
- Oregon State University
- University of Luxembourg

2025

- Mississippi State Uni
- U Michigan
- UCL
- **UGA**



Academic OSPO Locations

No two OSPOs are the same...

Library	• CMU • JHU
Research Centre	• Lero • Syracuse
Centre Of Excellence	• UCSC • Stanford
Central IT	• UT Austin (jointly with Office of Research)
Comp Sci Department	• SLU • OSU
Technology Transfer Office	• Trinity College Dublin • ETH Zurich
Research Software Engineering	• UCL • UGA

Academic OSPO Activities



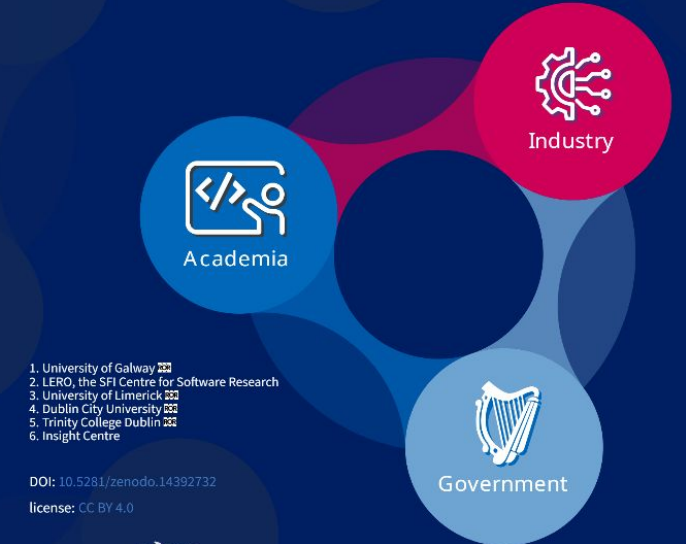
Aligning OSPO & University Goals



Framework for Managing University Open Source Software

An Initiative to Manage Open Source Software in Irish Universities (MOSS-I)

Clare Dillon^{1,2}, Michael Meagher³, Ian Gallivan¹, Kevin Moerman^{1,2}, Lorraine Morgan^{1,2}, Conor Morris³, Noel O'Connor⁴, Martina Prendergast^{2,3}, Aoife Tierney⁵, Carlos Tighe^{1,6}, Patrick Healy^{2,3}



1. University of Galway
2. LERO, the SFI Centre for Software Research
3. University of Limerick
4. Dublin City University
5. Trinity College Dublin
6. Insight Centre

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.14392732

license: CC BY 4.0

Driving Ireland's Future
through **Open Source**
Innovation & Collaboration



Aligning OSPO & University Goals



Research Excellence & Influence

OSS enables Open Research excellence
OSS can increase researcher influence

Education Excellence & Student Success

OSS enables hands on learning
OSS can increase employability

Aligning OSPO & University Goals



Research Impact - Economic

OSS increases spin-out opportunities
OSS can improve industry collaboration

Social Impact of Research

OSS can deliver social impact through free movement of innovation
Addresses non-commercial focus areas

Aligning OSPO & University Goals



Openness & Inclusivity

OSS helps democratize education

OSS helps build inclusive communities

Sustainability

OSS helps address climate change

OSS can increase long-term project viability

Aligning OSPO & University Goals



University Relevance & Leadership

Aligns with global best practices; Provides new opportunities for leadership

What are the Trends to Watch?



“Standing still is the fastest way of moving backwards in a rapidly changing world.”

- *Lauren Bacall*

Trends To Watch...

Example

“In France, an overwhelming 76.4% of projects lack any available license information.”

Source:
https://www.softwareheritage.org/2025/09/18/software-academia_oecd_talk/

Open Source Excellence

- Open Source Best Practices (regulations, adoption trends)
- Open Source License Trends
- Open Source AI Research Best Practices

Trends To Watch...

Example

A growing number of discussions on enabling corporate-academic open source collaborations.

Source:
<https://todogroup.org/blog/industry-academic-ospo/>

Open Source Excellence

- Open Source Best Practices (regulations, adoption trends)
- Open Source License Trends
- Open Source AI Research Best Practices

Research Impact

- Corporate / Academic Collaborations
- Investment trends from VCs in COSS (Commercial Open Source Companies)
- UN SDG work & activities

Trends To Watch...

Example

*“Are Entry-Level Jobs Going Away?
The Hidden Workforce Shift”*

Source:
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/dianehamilton/2025/03/01/are-entry-level-jobs-going-away-the-hidden-workforce-shift/>

Open Source Excellence

- Open Source Best Practices (regulations, adoption trends)
- Open Source License Trends
- Open Source AI Research Best Practices

Research Impact

- Corporate / Academic Collaborations
- Investment trends from VCs in COSS (Commercial Open Source Companies)
- UN SDG work & activities

Skills & Education

- AI disruption to job markets
- Focus on practical skills gap, in rapidly changing landscape
- Lack of entry level roles
- Call for apprenticeships

Trends To Watch...

Example

“Allen Institute for AI lands \$152M from Nvidia and NSF to lead national AI project”

Source:
<https://www.geekwire.com/2025/allen-institute-for-ai-lands-152m-from-nvidia-and-nsf-to-lead-national-ai-project/>

Open Source Excellence

- Open Source Best Practices (regulations, adoption trends)
- Open Source License Trends
- Open Source AI Research Best Practices

Research Impact

- Corporate / Academic Collaborations
- Investment trends from VCs in COSS (Commercial Open Source Companies)
- UN SDG work & activities

Skills & Education

- AI disruption to job markets
- Focus on practical skills gap, in rapidly changing landscape
- Lack of entry level roles
- Call for apprenticeships

Operations & Outreach

- University resourcing / business model trends
- Changing funding landscape

CURIOSS Goals

Dedicated spaces for shared learning & collaboration



Partner & collaborate with other related organizations & communities



Share, adapt, and co-create relevant resources & tools



Promote awareness of academic OSPOs



PATTERNS

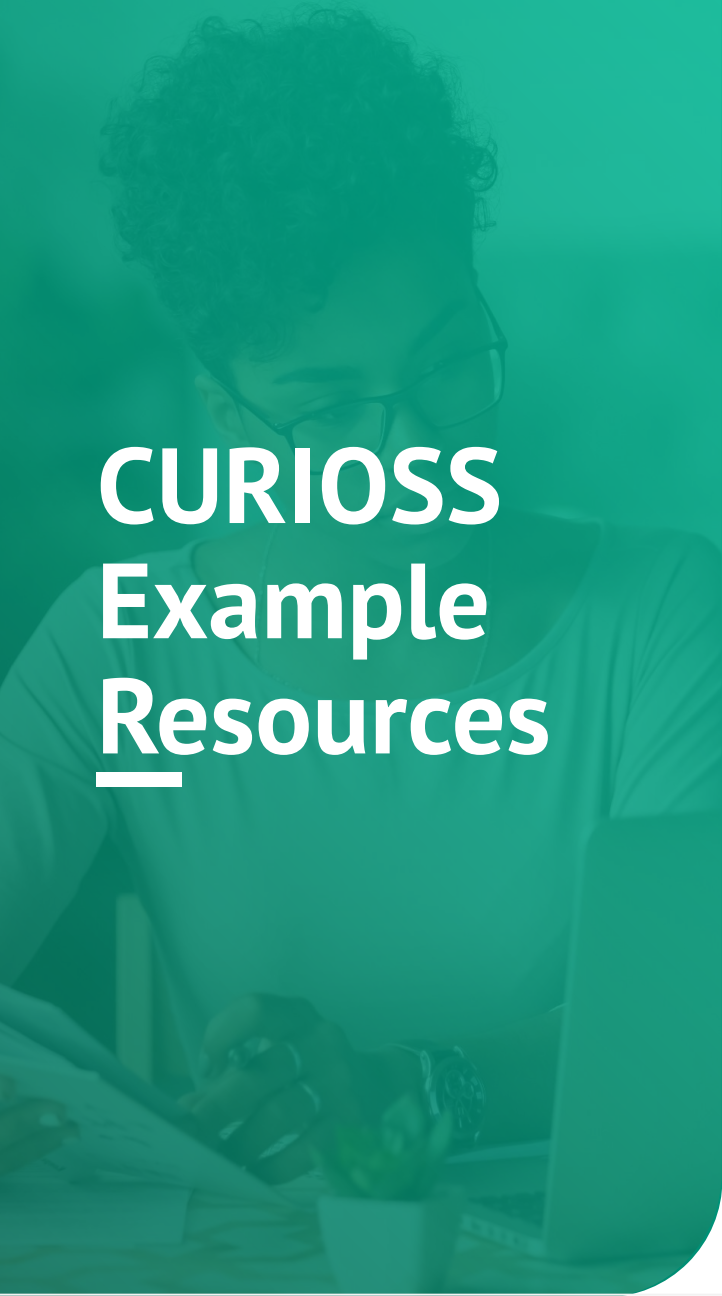
bit.ly/curioss-patterns

RESOURCES

bit.ly/curioss-resource-list

DEEP DIVES

bit.ly/curioss-deepdives

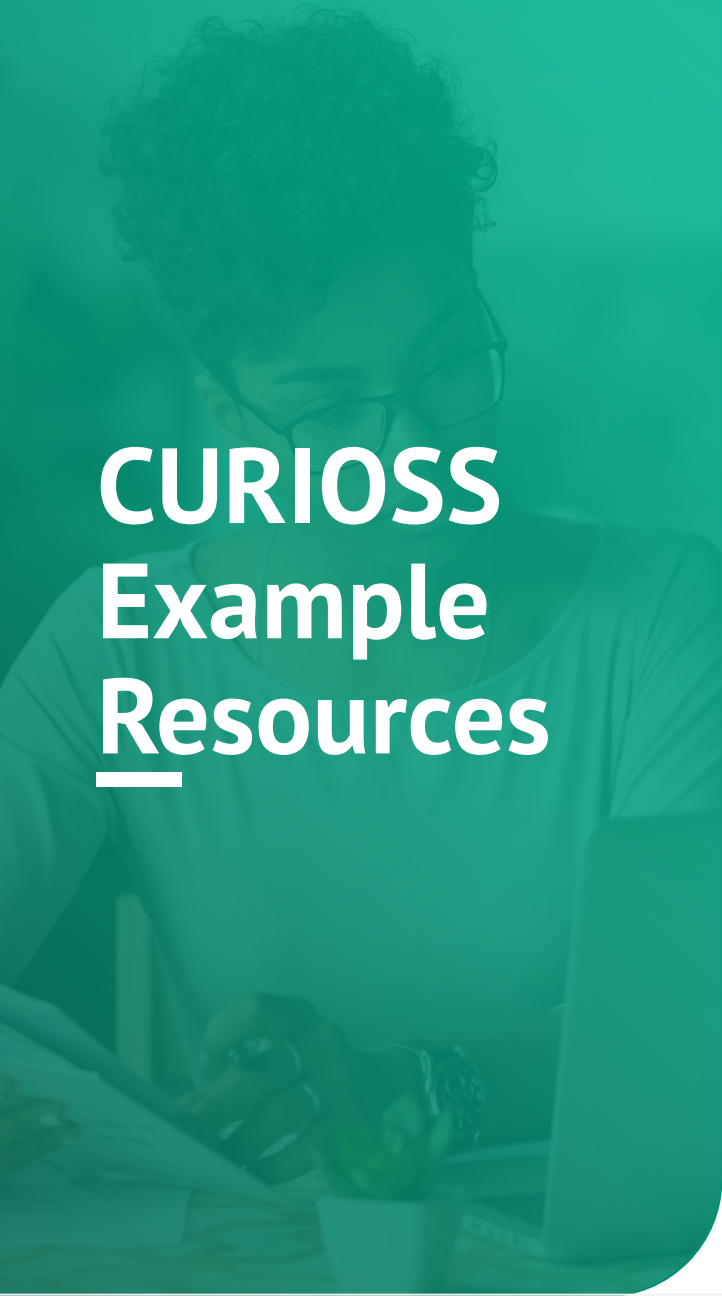


CURIOSS Example Resources

Licensing Resources *Curated* by CURIOSS Members

bit.ly/curioss-resource-list

Name/ Description	Link	Context
A short lecture on Open Licensing	https://figshare.com/articles/presentation/A_short_lecture_on_Open_Licensing/4516892/1	The importance of open source and open source licenses in academia.
Choose an Open Source License website	https://choosealicense.com/	Website offering a directory of open source licenses and their uses.
FOSSology	https://www.fossology.org/	FOSSology is a open source license compliance software system and toolkit. The toolkit enables running of licenses, copyright and export control scans from the command line.
Guide with shared learning from universities that have already set up a University OSPO.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChOWPUEDHg8	Presentation on how OSS licensing practices have evolved at CMU and the Technology Transfer Office's continuing efforts to adapt and support it. The talk includes an overview of OSS licenses used and the processes now in place to enable researcher innovation across a wide variety of disciplines.



CURIOSS Example Resources

Licensing Resources *Created* by CURIOSS Members

bit.ly/curioss-resource-list

Name / Description	Link	Context
Open Source Software (“OSS”) at UC: Use and Redistribution of Modified & Unmodified OSS	https://security.ucop.edu/files/documents/resources/oss-chart.pdf	University of California's chart outlining the levels of potential risk for various OSS licenses
Open Source Software Licensing	https://ospo.cc.gatech.edu/open-source-software-licensing/	Flowchart developed by Georgia Technological University to assist developers in selecting the most appropriate software license, guiding them through various considerations based on their specific needs and goals.
Open Source License Comparison Grid	https://www.cmu.edu/cttec/forms/opensourcelicense/gridv1.pdf	Grid developed by Carnegie Mellon University to assist researchers/OSS projects to choose an appropriate license.
OSS Licensing for Research and Education	https://gw-ospo.github.io/oss-licensing/intro.html	Short course designed by George Washington University that introduces researchers to the essentials of OSS licensing for research and educational purposes

CURIOSS Patterns



100+ Patterns

bit.ly/curioss-patterns

Advocacy, Governance & Policy

- [Embedding the OSPO as Research Infrastructure](#)
- [Framework for Managing University OSS](#)
- [Host an Open Source Conference](#)
- [Lunch and Learn](#)
- [Open Source Grant Commitment Letter](#)
- [OSPO as Co-Principal Investigator](#)
- [OSPO as Lead Principal Investigator](#)
- [Senior Leadership Keynote](#)
- [Student Showcase Sessions at OSPO Events](#)
- [Supporting grant proposals with an open source component](#)

Awareness

- [Framework for Managing University OSS](#)
- [Host an Open Source Conference](#)
- [Lunch and Learn](#)
- [Open Source Survey](#)
- [Piggyback onto a larger conference](#)
- [Senior Leadership Keynote](#)
- [Student Showcase Sessions at OSPO Events](#)

Community Building

- [Co-hosting Student Events](#)
- [Create a Donor/Sponsorship Prospectus](#)
- [Create template documents for GitHub Repositories](#)
- [Facilitate connections at Open Source Conferences](#)
- [Host an Open Source Conference](#)
- [Individual consultations / Office Hours](#)
- [Informal OSPO focus group sessions at Open Source Events](#)
- [Open Source Catalog](#)
- [Open Source Software Prize](#)
- [Open Source Survey](#)
- [OSPO Advisory Board](#)

Demonstrating value as an Academic OSPO

- [Create a Donor/Sponsorship Prospectus](#)
- [Embedding the OSPO as Research Infrastructure](#)
- [Host an Open Source Conference](#)
- [Informal OSPO focus group sessions at Open Source Events](#)
- [Lunch and Learn](#)
- [Open Source AI Pilot](#)
- [Open Source Grant Commitment Letter](#)
- [OSPO Advisory Board](#)
- [OSPO as Co-Principal Investigator](#)
- [OSPO as Lead Principal Investigator](#)
- [Source Industry Mentors for the I-Corps program](#)
- [Senior Leadership Keynote](#)
- [Student Showcase Sessions at OSPO Events](#)
- [Supporting grant proposals with an open source component](#)

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

- [Open Source Software Prize](#)

Education & Skills

- [Co-hosting Student Events](#)
- [Embedding the OSPO as Research Infrastructure](#)
- [Host an Open Source Conference](#)
- [Open Research Community Accelerator](#)
- [Open Source AI Pilot](#)
- [Organize one-off workshops](#)
- [OSS Tutorials Using Authoring Tools](#)
- [Piggyback onto a larger conference](#)
- [Source Industry Mentors for the I-Corps program](#)
- [Student Showcase Sessions at OSPO Events](#)
- [Summer Internship Program](#)

Funding & Financial Support

- [Create a Donor/Sponsorship Prospectus](#)
- [Embedding the OSPO as Research Infrastructure](#)
- [Host an Open Source Conference](#)
- [Individual consultations / Office Hours](#)
- [Open Source Grant Commitment Letter](#)
- [OSPO as Co-Principal Investigator](#)
- [OSPO as Lead Principal Investigator](#)
- [Secure Sponsorship for an Open Source Conference](#)
- [Set up an OSPO Giving Page](#)
- [Source Industry Mentors for the I-Corps program](#)
- [Supporting grant proposals with an open source component](#)
- [Template for 1:1 Campus Consultations](#)

Open Source Development

- [Embedding the OSPO as Research Infrastructure](#)
- [Host an Open Source Conference](#)
- [Individual consultations / Office Hours](#)
- [Informal OSPO focus group sessions at Open Source Events](#)
- [Open Research Community Accelerator](#)
- [Open Source AI Pilot](#)
- [OSPO as Co-Principal Investigator](#)
- [OSPO as Lead Principal Investigator](#)
- [Piggyback onto a larger conference](#)
- [Source Industry Mentors for the I-Corps program](#)
- [Student Showcase Sessions at OSPO Events](#)
- [Template for 1:1 Campus Consultations](#)

Open Source Discovery

- [Open Source Catalog](#)
- [Open Source Software Prize](#)
- [Open Source Survey](#)

CURIOSS Example Resources

Deep Dives

bit.ly/curioss-deepdives

 **CURIOSS**
Deep Dive

Anita Bandrowski
SciCrunch

*Research Resource Identifiers (RRIDs)
and the RRID Portal*

 17:17

25 07 24 RRIDs and the RRID Portal :
11 views • 1 month ago

 **CURIOSS**
Deep Dive

Zach Chandler
Francesca Vera
Leah Wasser

*OpenSource@Stanford
and pyOpenSci*



 19:13

CURIOSS Deep Dive:
OpenSource@Stanford & pyOpenSci :
38 views • 2 months ago

 **CURIOSS**
Deep Dive

Jonathan Starr
NumFOCUS

*Mapping the impact of
academic OSS with NumFOCUS*

 40:41

Mapping the impact of academic
OSS with NumFOCUS :
28 views • 3 months ago

 **CURIOSS**
Deep Dive

Lou Woodley
Center for Scientific Collaboration and
Community Engagement (CSCCE)

*Introducing CSCCE and
resources for OSPOs*

 34:10

Introducing the Center for Scientific
Collaboration and Community... :
26 views • 4 months ago

 **CURIOSS**
Deep Dive

Bridget Almas, Lyrasis

*The Lyrasis Organizational Home -
Supporting OSS Research Infrastructure*

 15:23

The Lyrasis Organizational Home -
Supporting OSS Research... :
45 views • 5 months ago

 **CURIOSS**
Deep Dive

Anita Sarma
Oregon State University

*OSS Sustainability through
an "Inclusivity" lens*

 24:36

CURIOSS Deep Dive: OSS
Sustainability through an... :
33 views • 6 months ago

 **CURIOSS**
Deep Dive

Dr. Maria Doyle
Community Manager

The Bioconductor Project

 23:01

CURIOSS Deep Dive: The
Bioconductor Project :
39 views • 7 months ago

 **CURIOSS**
Deep Dive

Daniel S. Katz
Research Software Alliance

*An Introduction to
Research Software Engineering*

 30:00

CURIOSS Deep Dive: An Introduction
to Research Software Engineering :
55 views • 9 months ago

 **CURIOSS**
Deep Dive

with Michael Shensky
The University of Texas at Austin,
Open Source Program Office

*Discovering OSS activity at
The University of Texas at Austin*

 30:24

CURIOSS Deep Dive: Discovering
OSS Activity at The University of... :
26 views • 9 months ago

 **CURIOSS**
Deep Dive

with Roberto Di Cosmo &
Morgane Gruenpeter

*An Introduction to
Software Heritage*

 32:45

CURIOSS Deep Dive: An Introduction
to Software Heritage :
44 views • 10 months ago

 **CURIOSS**
Deep Dive

with Roberto Di Cosmo &
Morgane Gruenpeter

*An Introduction to
Software Identifiers*


 14:04

CURIOSS Deep Dive: An Introduction
to Software Identifiers :
44 views • 10 months ago



Why name an OSPO?

“A rose by any other name smells as sweet”

- *Shakespeare*

CURIOSS welcomes members from OSPO-like organizations, but there is value in being an “OSPO”

- Clarity of Purpose & Focus
 - Shared understanding; changing landscapes
- Alignment with Ecosystem
 - Global trend; global collaborations
- Discoverability & Visibility
 - Internally and externally
- Strategic Signalling
 - Signals commitment; attracts talent

Thank you!

Please connect with me if you
would like to learn more



Clare Dillon

clare@curioss.org

www.linkedin.com/in/claredillon/



 **CURIOS**