Censire e curare i repository italiani: l’esperienza di COAR IRD

GenOA Week 2026

Sessione 3: Costi infrastrutturali e controllo delle piattaforme

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COAR Confederation of Open Access Repositories

Building a sustainable, global knowledge commons

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.

COAR is an international association with over 150 members and partners from around the world representing libraries, universities, research institutions, government funders and others.

COAR Members

Italy

Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna (since 2024)
University of Padua Library System (since 2016)

COAR Tools and Resources



COAR
Controlled
Vocabularies



COAR
Good Practice
Recommendations
for Repositories

COAR
International
Repository
Directory



COAR
Notify

COAR Tools and Resources

July 8, 2025 - COAR officially launches the International Repository Directory

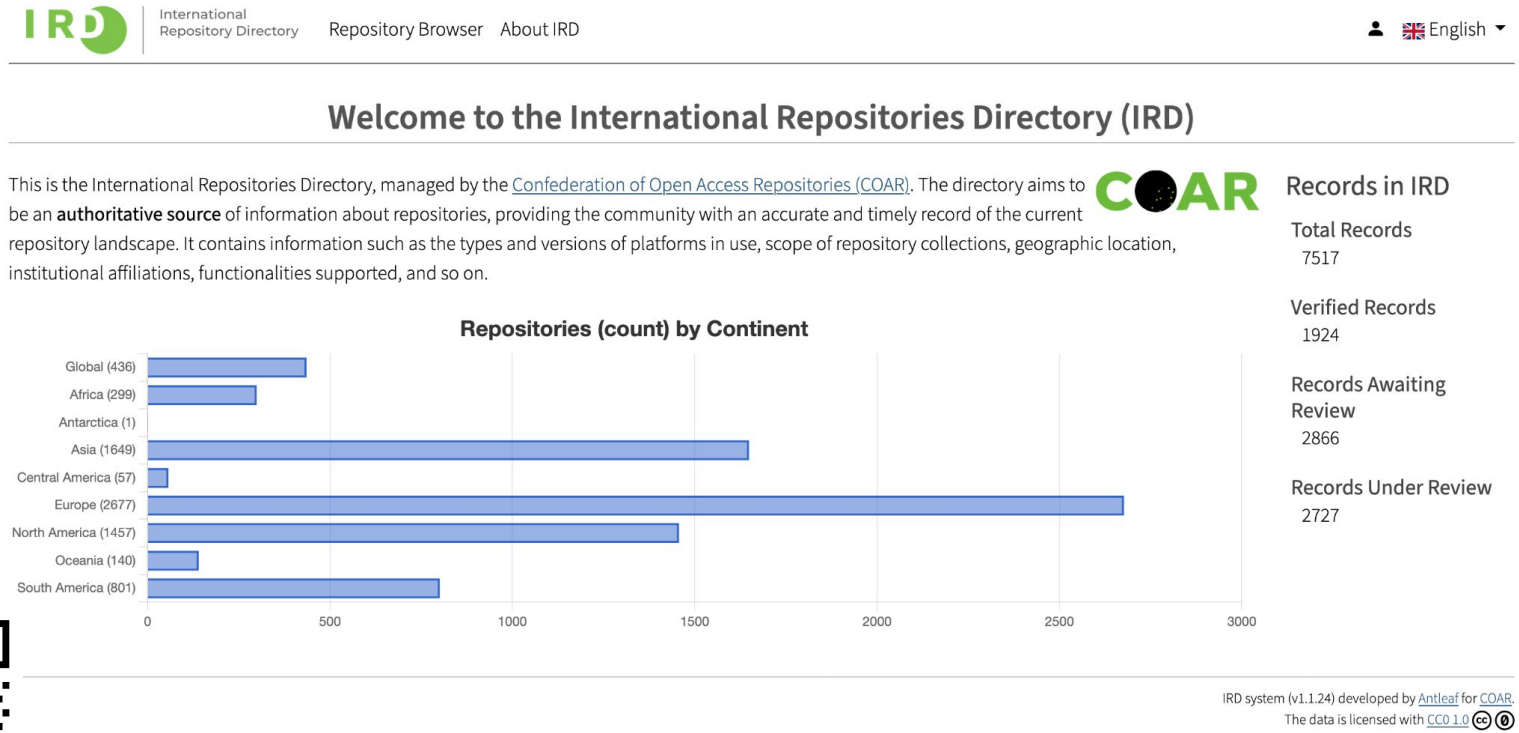
“The difference between the COAR IRD and other registries / directories is that it is community curated.

Rather than relying on a centralised staff based at the directory to update records, the responsibility for curation of the IRD is distributed to responsible organisations (ROs).

These organisations, in many cases – national entities – typically have a vested interest in maintaining up-to-date information about repositories within their purview.

This approach, we believe, will address the issue of out of date and obsolete records, which have plagued many of the directories in the scholarly communications landscape”.

COAR International Repository Directory (IRD)



ird.coar-repositories.org

COAR IRD data model

Repository identification through existing registries, with metadata collected and curated directly by IRD

INITIAL POPULATION

Starting sources

OpenDOAR · re3data.org · ROAR · LYRASIS

Registry IDs & repository URLs → Direct metadata collection by IRD → Distributed curation by ROs

INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Majority of repository content is fully Open Access
- Repository supports OAI-PMH

RO curators verify, correct and enrich seed records.

13 IRD fields

CL = Controlled List

REQUIRED · 7		RECOMMENDED · 3		OPTIONAL · 3
name		contact		id
homepage		owner_ror		owner_name
repository_type	CL	software	CL	software_version
oai_pmh_base_url				
media_types	CL			
primary_subject	CL			
record_status	CL			

id: UUID for existing records; nil for new records. owner_name: helper column, not processed by IRD.

CL = field-specific controlled list of allowed values

METADATA: CC0 · RECORD PID: ARK (ark:15398/x1<COAR-IRD ID>)

https://coar-repositories.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/IRD-Soft-Launch-July-8-2025.pdf

Who edits what in the IRD?

ROs curate assigned records; COAR administers IRD; the system tracks operational data.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANISATION CURATORS

Editable repository metadata in the IRD form

name · homepage · contact · owner_ror

repository_type · software · software_version

oai_pmh_base_url · media_types · primary_subject

The edit form also includes short_name, other_names, description and country

record_status — Curators set under_review, verified or archived through curation actions.

COAR / IRD GOVERNANCE

Administration and system-maintained data

COAR ADMINISTRATION

COAR manages the IRD service and acts as RO where none is assigned. Each RO appoints Managing Agents, who may delegate curation to Authorised Users.

IRD SYSTEM DATA

- id — UUID assigned by IRD
- Source IDs — imported from registries
- Metadata formats — detected via OAI-PMH
- System status — based on URL checks
- Latest update — actor and timestamp

FIELDS WITH VALUES FROM IRD CONTROLLED LISTS

Examples only

repository_type	media_types	primary_subject	software	record_status
institutional_repository · generalist_repository	research-articles · research-data · theses	multidisciplinary · humanities	dspace · eprints · dataverse	under_review · verified · archived

IRD International Repository Directory Repository Browser About IRD English

Repository Browser

Reset

Search by Name

Name...

Search

Filter

Country

- Afghanistan (1)
- Albania (2)
- Algeria (42)
- Antarctica (1)
- Argentina (102)
- Armenia (3)
- Australia (97)
- Austria (51)
- Azerbaijan (7)
- Bangladesh (16)
- Belarus (46)
- Belgium (36)
- Bolivia (7)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (3)
- Botswana (5)
- Brazil (241)
- British Indian Ocean Territory (11)

Characterisation

- Data-only repository (118)
- Preprints-only repository (3)

Record Status

- Awaiting Review (2866)
- Under Review (2839)
- Verified (1826)

Repository Scope

- Unclassified (5297)
- Institutional (1998)
- Special Collection (92)
- Disciplinary (91)
- Generalist (23)
- Governmental (16)
- Regional/National (14)

< 1 2 3 4 5 ... 377 >

(Total Results: 7531)

#Proforis

Scope: Unclassified
Software: DSpace-CRIS
Owner:
Primary Subject: Unknown



Reviewed: Not yet reviewed

Under Review System online OAI-PMH online

29 Mayis University Institutional Repository

Scope: Institutional
Software: DSpace (6.2)
Owner: Istanbul 29 Mayis University
Primary Subject: Multidisciplinary



Reviewed: 2025-12-29

Verified System online OAI-PMH online

4TU.ResearchData

Scope: Unclassified
Software: Unknown
Owner: 4TU
Primary Subject: Unknown



Reviewed: Not yet reviewed

Awaiting Review System online OAI-PMH unknown

<intR²Dok[§]

Scope: Unclassified
Software: MyCoRe
Owner: Berlin State Library
Primary Subject: Unknown



Reviewed: Not yet reviewed

Awaiting Review System online OAI-PMH online

[Exploring the COAR IRD]

IRIS Catalogo del Gran Sasso Science Institute - GSSI

Scope: Institutional
Software: DSpace (6)
Owner: Gran Sasso Science Institute
Primary Subject: Science



Verified

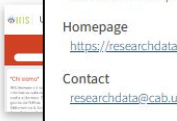
IRIS Cnr

Scope: Institutional



IRIS UNIMORE - Archivio istituzionale della ricerca - Modena e Reggio Emilia

Scope: Institutional
Software: DSpace (6)
Owner: University of Modena and Reggio Emilia
Primary Subject: Multidisciplinary



Verified

Research Data UNIPD

Persistent Identifier (PID): ark:15398/x146a363a71a2842dca8ac0c302e67708d

General Information

Name
Research Data UNIPD

Other Names
Research Data Unipd

Homepage
https://researchdata.cab.unipd.it/

Contact
researchdata@cab.unipd.it

Owner
University of Padua

Country
Italy



Repository Scope
Institutional

Primary Subject
Multidisciplinary

Content Types
- Research Data
- Images
- Learning Objects
- Multimedia
- Patents
- Software
- Other

Curation

Record Status
Verified
Most recently marked as reviewed: 2026-09-09

System Status
System online | OAI-PMH online

Responsible Organisation
Universities of Padova and Bologna

Request a Change
If you wish to report an issue with this record, or to request a change, please contact the Responsible Organisation for this record

Authorised Curators
Managing Agents for Universities of Padova and Bologna:
- Cristiana Bettella
- Amir Djalali
- Irene Frascari
- Marialaura Vignocchi
- Michela Zorzi

Most Recent Update
IRD System, 2026-09-17 09:41

Technical Information

Software
EPrints (3.3.15)

OAI-PMH Base URL
https://researchdata.cab.unipd.it/cgi/oai2

Metadata Formats Recognised by IRD
- DIDL
- DataCite 3
- Dublin Core
- METS
- UKETD_DC

Metadata Formats Reported by OAI-PMH but Unrecognised by IRD
prefix: rdf
namespace: http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#
schema: http://www.openarchives.org/OAI/2.0/rdf.xsd

COAR IRD | PERSISTENT IDENTIFIERS

One repository record, three ways to identify it

Research Data UNIPD · COAR International Repository Directory

01 INTERNAL RECORD ID · UUID

46a363a71a2842dca8ac0c302e67708d

02 PERSISTENT IDENTIFIER · ARK

ark:15398/x146a363a71a2842dca8ac0c302e67708d

03 RESOLVING URL · N2T

https://n2t.net/ark:15398/x146a363a71a2842dca8ac0c302e67708d

The ARK identifies the IRD record, not the repository infrastructure independently of the directory.

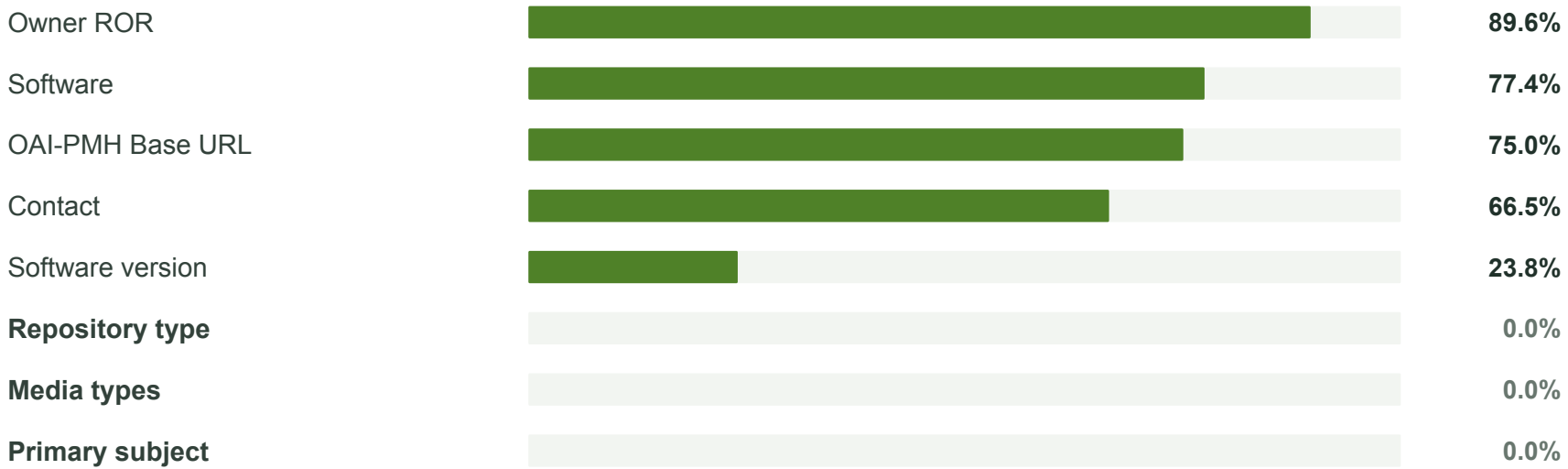
COAR IRD | CURATION BASELINE

The starting point: metadata quality before curation

164 repository records · September 2025 · all initially under_review

INFORMATIVE METADATA COVERAGE

Share of records with a usable value



All 164 records: repository_type = unknown · primary_subject = unknown · media_types = empty

Source: COAR IRD initial export (11 Sep 2025). Empty / unknown / _unknown excluded; OAI-PMH URLs not tested.

Workflow 1

Criteria for Inclusion

Each repository in this directory satisfies the following criteria:

- The majority of its content is fully Open Access
- It supports OAI-PMH

Column Name	Constraints & Rules
name	
homepage	This MUST be a valid HTTP or HTTPS URI.
repository_type	This field MUST contain one value from the list Repository Types (see below)
oai_pmh_base_url	This MUST be a valid HTTP or HTTPS URI
media_types	This field MUST contain one or more values from the list Media Types (see below). Separate each value with a “pipe” character: “|”
primary_subject	This field MUST contain one value from the list Primary Subjects (see below)
record_status	This field MUST contain one value from the list Record Statuses (see below). - If the repository is no longer valid for inclusion in IRD, use the value “archived” - If the repository has been checked, and all information is up-to-date, then use the value “verified” - Otherwise, use the value “under_review”.

COAR IRD | CURATION METHODOLOGY

From imported records to curated profiles

A collaborative workflow developed by the Italian Responsible Organisations

01

Verification

- Inclusion criteria
- Repository availability
- OAI-PMH endpoint
- Cross-checking external sources

02

Metadata Enrichment

- Required fields
- Repository and content types
- Primary subject
- Recommended / optional fields

03

Curatorial Decisions

- Review or archive records
- Identify repository migrations
- Assess new repositories
- Resolve ambiguous cases

Shared criteria · Repository manager consultation · Coordination with COAR IRD

Methodology based on the Italian RO curation workflow

From initial records to curated metadata

Informative field coverage · 162 matched records · September 2025 vs November 2026

METADATA COMPLETENESS — BEFORE / AFTER



All fields were reviewed, including already populated values; percentages measure completeness, not every correction.

Source: IRD snapshots (11 Sep 2025; 1 Nov 2026). Excludes empty and unknown values.

Coverage and record status

Italian repository records · September 2025 → November 2026

EVOLUTION OF THE ITALIAN DATASET

164	+50	−2	212
Initial records	Additional UUIDs	Not Italian	Final records

FINAL RECORD STATUS · 212 RECORDS



Verified 130 (61.3%) | Under review 13 (6.1%) | Archived 69 (32.5%)

ITALIAN RO CURATION OUTCOMES

129	12	45	25
Verified	Under review	Archived from 2025	24 Additional verified IDs +1 under review

2025 retained: 106 verified + 11 under review = 117 | Additional IDs: 24 verified + 2 under review

Findings and Insights

Explore the data and visualisations

Insights from the curation and analysis of Italian repository records

Lessons learned and next steps

Insights from the curation of Italian repository records

CHALLENGES

Classification & documentation

Clearer controlled-list definitions; one primary subject may oversimplify.

Inclusion & coverage

OA predominance and OAI-PMH requirements define a selective scope.

Repository characterisation

Data-only and preprint-only filters rely on media-type rules.

ADDED VALUE

Metadata quality & visibility

More accurate, transparent and discoverable repository profiles.

Shared stewardship

Distributed curation across repositories, ROs and COAR IRD.

Open infrastructure

CC0 metadata, MIT-licensed source code and persistent ARKs.

Cross-registry identity

External registry IDs provide a basis for reconciliation.

NEXT STEPS

Expand & maintain coverage

Assess eligible repositories and engage repository managers.

Improve documentation

Refine controlled lists, definitions and descriptive guidance.

Strengthen interoperability

Validate identity mappings; explore JSON-LD and automated reuse.

Share curated datasets

Explore richer descriptions and periodic Zenodo deposits.

Open metadata and shared stewardship foster reuse and interoperability.
Sustaining trustworthy repository information requires continuous validation, curation and coordination.

How to request changes or suggest a repository

To report an issue, request an update, or suggest a new repository for inclusion in COAR IRD,
please contact the Italian Responsible Organisations at:

coar-ird-italy@cab.unipd.it

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