

JURY REPORT

LEO WAAIJERS OPEN SCIENCE AWARD

2025

PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

The UKB is the partnership of the Dutch university libraries and the National Library. For the University libraries, Open Science is a key priority and with this Award the UKB aims to stimulate Open Science initiatives among researchers and research supporting professionals.

The namesake of this award – the late Leo Waaijers, a former university librarian – was an early and tireless fighter for open access and for restoring the balance of power between public and private actors in the scientific domain. He was bold, innovative and mobilized many others. As such he was an inspirational figure for many. This is the reason that the UKB decided to name the prize after him.

The Award is intended for an individual or group that has taken a bold, innovative and/or impactful initiative in the field of Open Science in recent years. The aim of the award is to highlight Open Science initiatives and thereby encourage and inspire others. For this Award, we ask for nominations to be submitted. Everyone can nominate; self-nominations are allowed.

SECOND AWARD

The UKB started this Award in 2024 with the aim to make it annual. In 2025, the second Award has been announced via the UKB website and other channels. In the first year, 20 nominations were received for 20 nominees. As a sign of the growing interest in the Award, this year 35 nominations were received for 26 nominees. Three nominees got more than one nomination: one got 6 nominations, another nominee 3 and a third one 2 nominations.

In the footsteps of Leo Waaijers

Leo Waaijers (1938 - 2023) was a tireless fighter for Open Access and for restoring the balance of power between public and private actors in the scientific domain. Leo was very active in the scientific information world for 35 years, bombarding it with innovative ideas, proposals and action plans. He did this from various positions, including as university librarian at TU Delft and at Wageningen University & Research, as manager at the SURF platform ICT and research, as Open Access consultant and employee of the CWTS. Leo scored national and international acclaim for setting up the successful 'Cream of Science', an initiative to give a quality boost to universities' Open Access repositories by asking 200 leading scientists to make all their scientific publications available for it. After this, Leo turned his attention to the scientific publishing process itself and founded QOAM - intended to let the quality of a journal be determined by the authors themselves and thus break the dominance of the 'journal impact factor'. Tireless as ever, he and CWTS colleagues published another plea to build a publishing infrastructure outside publishers two months before his unexpected death.

CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD

- Bold
- Inspiring
- Innovative
- Impactful

- Mobilizing

STATISTICS

Categories nominees Leo Waaijers Open Science Award	number
Discipline-specific Open Science research tools, best practices or methodologies	8
Training programmes related to methodologies of Open Science	6
Open Science policy makers in general	3
Open Access Scholarly Communication: infrastructures or projects	3
Infrastructures for Open Science	2
Open Science champions	2
Other	2
total number nominees	26

The table above presents an overview of the categorisation of the nominees. Of course, each categorisation is debatable and often a team or individual can fall under more than one category. However, the jury was very pleased to note the many initiatives for discipline-specific Open Science research tools, best practices or methodologies as well as the many training programs for Open Science.

LIST OF NOMINEES

Below a list of nominees is presented. The jury was very impressed with the high quality of the nominees and their contributions to Open Science. Each nominee would have been a worthy winner of the Award.

Nominees (alphabetical order)	Project / description
Alice Dejean dela Batie	The series Alma and Tim Learn about the Law Alma and Tim Learn About the Law is a colourful book series for children aged 8–11, bringing legal research to life through imaginative stories. Published open access in Dutch and English, the series explores questions around human rights, activism, freedom of thoughts, democracy, and the impact of new technologies on justice.
Anita Eerland, Erik Bijleveld, Bernd Figner, Jonathan van 't Riet, Rob Gommans, Anne van Hoogmoed, David Renjaän, Marieke Fransen, Max Prims, Sanne van der Ven, Linda Visser en Ruddy Faure	BSI Scientific Rigour Committee The BSI Scientific Rigour Committee advises the director of the research institute on policy, content, and strategy related to scientific rigour. Last year, they developed a preregistration policy for the institute. Moreover, they organize an annual Boost Your Skills Day to strengthen researchers' research skills including open science practices.
Arjan Schalken	As programme manager of UKBsis, Arjan is a key figure in the Open Access and Open Science activities of UKB and UNL. Arjan works tirelessly to improve the conditions for Dutch researchers to publish in Open Access. His activities (e.g. involvement in negotiations, UKBsis Datahub, Full Open Access project) have made a major contribution to optimising and improving consortium agreements with scientific publishers, and thus have had a major impact on the success of the Open Access policy of UKB and UNL. Because Arjan frequently seeks cooperation with international partners, his activities also have a positive impact in a broader (international) context.

Bob Siegerink and the members of the LUMC Graduate School	PhD thesis framework The way we do and organize science is changing, and the PhD thesis should reflect this change. After months of internal deliberation and stakeholder involvement, the LUMC Graduate School launched the LUMC PhD Thesis Framework, in which they shift from counting first-authorship publications to capturing the contribution of the candidate in the now mandatory CRediT table, which captures the contribution to all “PhD Project Chapters” and the newly added optional “Collaboration Chapters”. Bob and his group emphasize that work should be shared with various audiences as early and openly as possible and provide room in the portfolio section to showcase such efforts, which are often underreported and underrecognized in scientific publications. The framework, an infographic, the CRediT Table generator and more relevant material can all be found on http://osf.io/cbj5x/
Bogdana Huma, Lotte van Burgsteden, Sam Heijnen, Mike Huiskes, Quinten van der Knaap, Elisa de Andrade	Project Community of Practice for Open Naturally Occurring Data (COP4ONOD) The Community of Practice for Open Naturally Occurring Data (COP4ONOD) connects research professionals and researchers with the aim of creating, disseminating, and promoting practices, resources, technologies, and solutions for sharing and reusing naturally occurring data.
Esther Plomp	Esther is one of Open Science's most dedicated advocates and practitioners, and her values are directly aligned with the values of Open Science. Her advocacy transcends her own field of research and is recognised on an international level. She is never afraid of speaking out when it comes to Open Science, and relentlessly pushes for transparency, equity, inclusivity, and responsible research. Esther has been extensively involved in many innovative Open Science initiatives, including IsoArcH (a repository for openly publishing isotope data), The Turing Way, Open Life Science mentoring.
Eva Lekkerkerker, Hanne Vlietinck, Kristina Hettne, Fenne Riemsdagh, Marta Kargól, Renate Mattisziak en LCRDM	DCC SPRING Training Days The DCC Spring Training days is a central hub for peer-to-peer training and learning for researchers and research support staff. Input for the topics comes from both the participants as well as the trainers around the theme of (digital) skills to support research. The Spring Training Days also functions as a platform to test training on emerging topics and strengthens the network relations across the research supporters and researchers in the DCC landscape.
Flávio Azevedo	FORRT FORRT (the Framework for Open and Reproducible Research Training) is a global and interdisciplinary grassroots community that develops resources, curricula, and infrastructure to foster equitable, inclusive, and sustainable practices in open scholarship, supporting early-career researchers, metascientists, and educators worldwide.
František Bartoš, Nina Ehmann, Suzanne Hoogeveen, Alexandra Sarafoglou en Eric-Jan Wagenmakers	Journal of Robustness Reports (JRR) In 2025 the Journal of Robustness Reports (JRR; https://scipost.org/JRobustRep) is launched, a diamond open-access journal that publishes concise robustness analyses, that is, analyses of the original data with alternative, yet plausible, analytical approaches, of recently published high-impact findings. Publications in the JRR are diamond open-access, that is, free of charge for authors nor readers, and are overseen by an interdisciplinary editorial college, ensuring accessibility and methodological soundness of the reports.

Jonathan England	Open Science Quest Always thinking of creative ways to enable open practices and to instill learning outcomes through gamification, for example their space ship game that shows practices of open science in a fun way. Gamification is difficult, the storyline, the build, the launch and getting people engaged. Jonathan is so innovative in their thoughts. The Open Science Quest is a set of fictional interactive stories that guide learners through key Open Science principles and practices, with each story introducing one or two core concepts. The interactive narratives are carefully designed to be both engaging and educational, fostering active learning and reflection on Open Science practices.
Konrad Turek	CPF: the easy road to harmonize household panel data across seven nations Comparative Panel File (CPF, www.cpfdata.com) is the first data harmonization project in social science that moves the process to open science. It provides modifiable open-source resources that allow integrating world's major and longest-running panel surveys.
Melanie Imming	Melanie Imming has played a central role in the growth and strengthening of the Open Science movement in the Netherlands for many years. She was the driving force behind the Open Science Festival for years, initiated new forms of meeting and knowledge sharing with the OS Barcamp and OS Retreat, and is now a member of the OSC-NL executive team. Her way of working is direct, well-organised and always focused on achieving concrete results. The structures and networks she has helped to establish continue to form an important foundation for the Dutch OS community.
Mojtaba Barzegari Shankil	TuxRiders TuxRiders is a YouTube-based open science initiative that transforms advanced computational research methodologies into accessible educational content using open-source tools. The project bridges the gap between published research and practical implementation, revealing complete workflows typically excluded from academic publications. By democratizing computational techniques, TuxRiders accelerates and enables global reproducible research.
Patrick Ebel, Pavlo Bazilinskyy, Mark Colley, Courtney Michael Goodridge, Philipp Hock, Christian P. Janssen, Hauke Sandhaus, Aravinda Ramakrishnan Srinivasan, Philipp Wintersberger	Open Science in Automotive User Research This international team has documented open science practices and preferences in the field of automotive user interfaces research. Their results have been published here. In addition, since the publication, members of the team have taken up community roles to better facilitate open science practices within the research community, such as establishing an open data chair at the conference and publishing open science guidelines, see here for the 2025 version.
Paula Martinez Lavanchy, Narmin Rzayeva, Halford Dace, Carla Strubbia, Carlos Utrilla Guerrero, Shoko Dauwels, Maribel Barrera-Coronel	TU Delft Research Data and Software (RDS) Training Team TU Delft's RDS Training Team equips researchers with tailored, high-quality training in open science. Its structured, collaborative approach supports both broad and specialized learning needs. The initiative boosts research practices, community engagement, and long-term impact.
Roel Janssen	Djehuty, open-source repository for 4TU.ResearchData

	Roel created from scratch the Djehuty data repository open source software https://djehuty.4tu.nl . He had the skills both to envision the software, and to deliver it successfully.
Rogier Kievit, Nicholas Judd, Jordy van Langen, Aran van Hout	Open Matrix Stimulus Set (OMSS) Matrix reasoning items are a powerful, efficient measurement of cognitive ability, which predicts many life outcomes of interest. The Open Matrix Stimulus Set (OMSS) project replaces existing, copyrighted and expensive tests with a novel tool to generate infinitely many new stimuli, as well as a standard set of items validated on children, healthy adults, and leveraging AI technology.
Ronald Snijder	Ronald has worked for many years to develop the DOAB and OAPEN platforms. He did this with complete commitment and dedication.
Sajedeh Rasti en Daniel Lakens	Paul Meehl Graduate School (PMGS) The Paul Meehl Graduate School is a graduate school for Metascience based at Eindhoven University of Technology. It offers free state-of-the-art workshops for early-career metascientists and organizes a yearly graduate school conference. The graduate school provides a much-needed opportunity for early-career metascientists in Europe to network and get social support during their PhD.
Sven Dupré, Wietske Tinga, Birgit Meyer en Koen Leurs	Diamond Open Access fonds faculteit Geesteswetenschappen Universiteit Utrecht The Diamond OA Fund of the Faculty of Humanities of Utrecht University is one instrument within the broader faculty effort (implementing the principles of Recognition and Rewards) to transition to a diamond open access publishing culture. By structurally investing in diamond OA initiatives by the in-house research community the fund aims to reduce dependence on commercial publishers and eventually achieve a less costly system of scholarly communication. The fund was only made possible by close collaboration across the faculty and with the expert staff from the university library.
Tamarinde Haven	Pre-registration of Qualitative Research Besides conceptual work on the relevance and desirability of preregistration for qualitative research, Tamarinde led the development of a preregistration form for qualitative research that involved actual qualitative researchers. Her work kick-started the voice of qualitative research in the Open Science debate.
Tanya Yankelevich, Marit Bogert, Jelle Burger, Saskia Postema, Chiara Stenico, Charlotte Bruns, Simone Driessen en Jason Pridmore	Civic Engagement in Action Civic Engagement in Action, launched in 2025 by TU Delft, Erasmus University Rotterdam, and Erasmus MC, empowers early-career researchers and educators to integrate civic engagement into their work. The training series focused on practical tools for building relationships with communities and science communication. The initiative promotes openness by sharing training materials for adaptation and reuse, and has led to broader collaboration, including the HIER Hub for Impact and Engaged Research with Leiden University.
Yvonne Kuiper, Linda Drijvers, Peter Hagoort, Alan Sanfey,	Donders Citylab Donders Citylab is an initiative by the Donders Institute that brings brain, behaviour and cognition research into public spaces. Visitors learn about

Marco Gandolfo, Jeanette Mostert	science in an accessible and engaging way while participating in scientific experiments. This fosters curiosity for science, bring society and scientists together and creates a dual impact: engaging the public with science while contributing to research.
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TWO OF THE THREE SHORTLISTED NOMINATIONS

EnvisionBox team: Wim Pouw, Babajide Owoyele, James Trujillo, Davide Ahmar, Šárka Kadavá, Aleksandra Cwiek

[EnvisionBOX](#) is a pedagogical open science platform that prioritizes accessibility by democratizing multimodal social signal processing and analysis through open-source tools, learning modules, and easy-look-up of relevant curated open datasets and diamond scholar-led journals available to researchers worldwide. Founded on principles of collaborative open exchange organized from the bottom up, the platform aims to transform how researchers can benefit from and contribute to open science. With over 30 practical coding modules covering everything from automatic gesture detection, 3D motion tracking, to speech analysis, EnvisionBOX bridges the gap between expert knowledge and accessible education, which is further supported by winter and summer schools. The platform's community-driven approach has fostered a global network of learners who contribute modules, share experiences, and collectively advance the field of multimodal communication research. EnvisionBOX exemplifies the open science vision of breaking down barriers of intellectual and social capital between researchers and promoting transparent, equitable scientific practices, and we envision for the platform to be reused in other fields and to further grow by hosting lecture series, data challenges, open educational books, and much more.

The jury statement:

EnvisionBox is an initiative to bring Open Science into research practice. It is more than just a research method for analysing videos, because a great deal of attention is also paid to explaining the research method, which makes it easier for early career scientists and, increasingly, students to get started. This makes EnvisionBox open and accessible, even for citizen scientists or researchers not affiliated with a research institution. The proof of the pudding is in the high visitor numbers. The EnvisionBox team is bursting with plans for the future in its own field and aims to make the platform available for other fields and research methods. The jury has the highest praise for this wonderful, well thought-out and well executed Open Science initiative.

The coordinating team of the Barcelona Declaration: Ludo Waltman, Bianca Kramer en Cameron Neylon.

The [Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information](#) promotes community-driven action, based on a shared commitment: to make open research information the default. It asks for organizations performing, funding and evaluation research to (1) make openness of research information the default, (2) work with services and systems that support and enable open research information, (3) support the sustainability of infrastructures for open research information, and (4) work together to realize the transition from closed to open research information.

The Declaration was drafted at a workshop in Barcelona in November 2023. Over 25 research information experts took part in this workshop, representing organizations that carry out, fund, and evaluate research, as well as open infrastructure organizations. The Declaration was launched in April 2024.

Currently, over 120 organizations worldwide have signed the Declaration. In the Netherlands, the Declaration has been signed by six universities, as well as by UNL, NWO and ZonMW, Vereniging Hogescholen (VH) and the Taskforce for Applied Research SIA, the National Library of the Netherlands (KB), SURF and the Dutch Reproducibility Network (NLRN).

Together with other prospective signatory and supporter institutions in the Netherlands, the Dutch signatories exchange experiences, align strategies, and explore opportunities for joint action to make research information openly available and responsibly used.

The jury statement:

The Barcelona Declaration has had a huge impact in the short time since it was first published. The power of the declaration lies in the fact that it has not remained on paper but has had a direct and multiple impact. Administrators feel compelled to act because they do not want to be dependent on commercial parties for research information. Researchers also feel addressed because transparency of information on which they are assessed is obviously important to them. A special and commendable aspect is the global starting principle of the declaration. A special note goes to the CWTS as one of the driving forces between the Declaration, because it means a significant change for them in the way it organises its services. They are really sticking their necks out with this. The jury was unanimous in its enthusiasm for this initiative.

WINNER OF THE 2025 AWARD

The founder of ResearchEquals: Chris Hartgerink

[ResearchEquals](#) is a modular publishing platform that allows you to publish every step of your research process, not just the final report. From conference abstracts and grant proposals to collected data, code, images, and videos—anything you produce during your research can be shared. In 2017, process-based publishing was merely an idea conceived by Chris Hartgerink – five years of hard work later, ResearchEquals has been launched. Since then, hundreds of researchers joined to publish more than 250 research steps. Process based publishing is now possible, viable, and even desirable.

The jury statement:

ResearchEquals is an imaginative, complete rethink of academic publishing put into practice. Chris really did step into the footsteps of Leo Waaijers by not only getting the idea but also putting it into practice by developing this idea further, found money, founded a company, created a team and created step-by-step the platform ResearchEquals in a community-driven and principled way. A glowing example of putting Open Science in practice and of personal courage. The jury thinks that this complete rethink of scholarly communications is exactly what is urgently needed now and hopes that this Award will be a great stimulus for the next stages of ResearchEquals.

JURY COMPOSITION

Hilde van Wijngaarden – Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam¹

Anna van 't Veer – Assistant professor at Leiden University, winner of the Leo Waaijers Award 2024

Maurits van der Graaf – Pleiade Management & Consultancy

The work of the jury was supported by Inge De Bruyne of the UKB.

¹ Hilde replaced Hubert Krekels from Wageningen University & Research Library, who had to withdraw from the jury in the final stage.