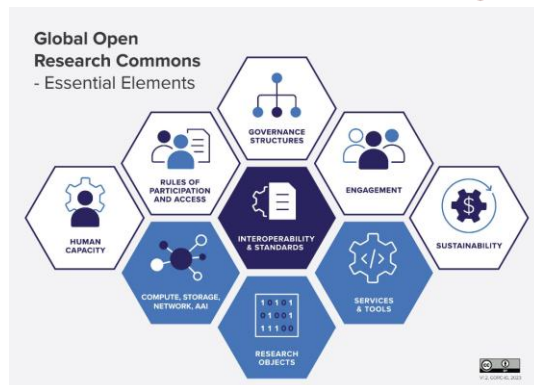


ADOPTING THE GLOBAL OPEN RESEARCH COMMONS MODEL - SURF



SURF adopted The Global Open Research Commons (GORC) model; a framework designed to facilitate the development of interoperable research commons.



THE RDA OUTPUTS ADOPTED

The [Global Open Research Commons \(GORC\) International Model](#) is a framework designed to facilitate the development of interoperable research commons, promoting open and accessible research for the public good. It provides a common language and structure for stakeholders involved in research commons development, offering guidance on essential elements, attributes, and key performance indicators. The model is not prescriptive but rather aims to establish a foundation for building and connecting research commons globally.

THE CHALLENGE

The challenge being addressed by SURF by implementing the GORC International Model was the lack of clarity and consistency when discussing "infrastructure" in research contexts, which could refer to anything from physical equipment to communities of practice. The GORC model helps to address this issue by providing a structured, comprehensive framework to explicitly define and organize key aspects such as governance, sustainability, and tools. It helps bring coherence and credibility to these discussions, especially with its visual representation and endorsement by the RDA community, making it easier to communicate and gain trust among stakeholders.

THE ADOPTION PROCESS

The adoption process was straightforward: we simply started using the GORC model, focusing mainly on the nine elements. A specific use case involved conducting interviews with stakeholders and using the model to organize their responses, helping structure an inventory effectively.

BENEFITS AND IMPACT OF ADOPTION

The GORC model improved the quality and consistency of the information gathered, enhanced understanding and communication of outcomes, and made stakeholder conversations more effective and engaging. It provided a helpful structure for explaining the purpose and connections behind our work.

LESSONS LEARNED

A key lesson learned was that applying the GORC model requires practice, especially in determining what qualifies as a "commons" and at what level of granularity. The SURF members involved in this work noted that over-using or loosely applying the concept can reduce its value. Another challenge was interpreting the nine elements accurately. Users often rely on their own understanding, which can vary. While that's acceptable in ad hoc use, consistent application requires aligning interpretations with the official documentation to maintain clarity and quality.

ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

SURF

[SURF](#) is the IT cooperative of Dutch education and research institutions. The members, the owners of SURF, join forces to develop or procure the best possible digital services, work together on complex innovation issues, and develop and share knowledge with each other

