

Using PCI, COAR Notify and EPrints to Re-Invent the Publication Workflow

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Overview

- Context – CoSector, COAR and PCI
- EPrints and PCI Integration
- PCI Publication Workflow
- Challenges
- Links and References

CoSector Repositories

- CoSector, University of London provide hosted institutional repositories for HE institutions
- We mostly use either EPrints or Samvera/Hyku for our hosted repositories catering for all types of research outputs
- In partnership with the COAR Notify Initiative and Aston University, we've been providing the technical solution for facilitating a new publishing workflow



Peer Community in

- “a free recommendation process of scientific preprints based on peer reviews and a journal”
- 2000+ recommenders, 20 PCIs, and 100+ PCI friendly journals
- “allows scientists to regain control of the scientific publication process and disconnect it from financial issues” ...
“wants to refocus on scientific quality [...] rather than on journals”



<https://peercommunityin.org/>

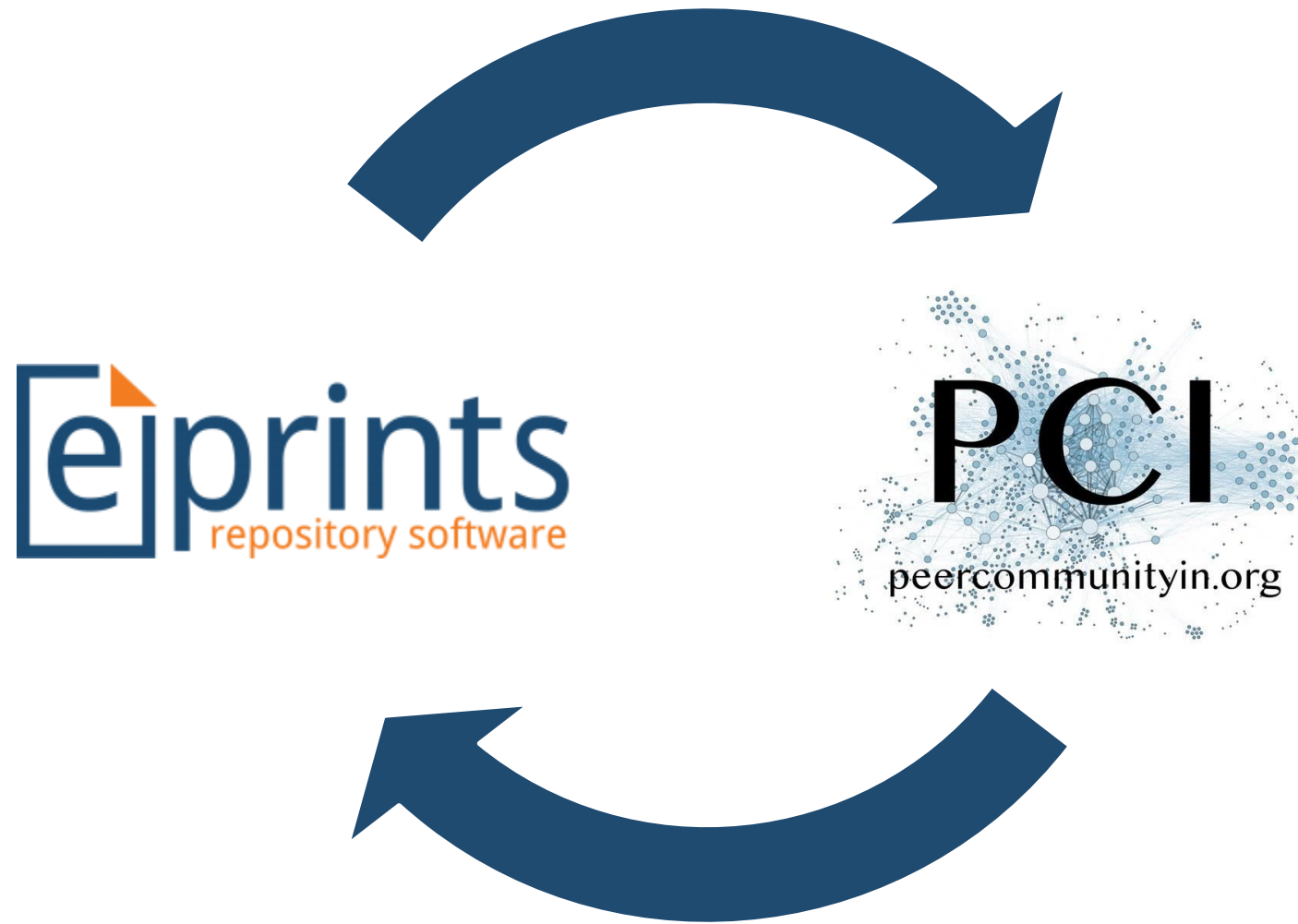
COAR Notify

- “bi-directional linking between peer review services, overlay journals and repositories”
- “based on two well-established W3C technologies/standards: linked data notifications and activity streams”
- Supported by the COAR Notify Initiative which is funded by Arcadia
- COAR Notify have developed the standard, provide technical resources, foster the growing community and illustrate with use cases



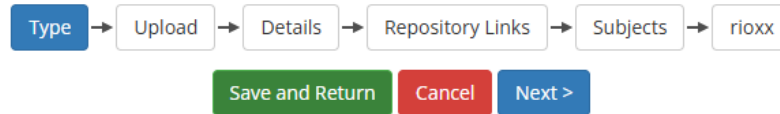
<https://coar-repositories.org/what-we-do/notify/>

Integrating PCI with EPrints Repositories



Integrating PCI with EPrints Repositories – 1. Preprint Item Types

Edit item: My Preprint



☆ Item Type

☐ **Article**

An article in a journal, magazine, newspaper. Not necessarily peer-reviewed. May be an electronic-only medium, such as an online journal or news website.

☐ **Book Section**

A chapter or section in a book.

☐ **Monograph**

A monograph. This may be a technical report, project report, documentation, manual, working paper or discussion paper.

☐ **Conference or Workshop Item**

A paper, poster, speech, lecture or presentation given at a conference, workshop or other event. If the conference item has been published in a journal or book then please use "Book Section" or "Article" instead.

☐ **Book**

A book or a conference volume.

☐ **Thesis**

A thesis or dissertation.

☒ **Preprint**

A preprint output that may not have been subjected to formal peer review

☐ **Portfolio**

A portfolio, collecting together a number of other items from the repository.

Introduce a new “Preprint” item type.

These have many of the same fields as “Articles” or “Conference or Workshop Items”.

But will also have special actions available related to PCI...

Integrating PCI with EPrints Repositories – 1. Preprint Item Types

The screenshot displays the Aston University Library Services EPrints interface. The header includes the Aston University logo, navigation links (Home, About Publications Explorer, Browse, Advanced Search), and a search bar. The main content area is titled "My Preprint" and shows a preprint entry by "Fyson, Will (2025). *My Preprint*. [Preprint]". A blue banner below the entry states: "This is a preprint output and may not have been subjected to formal peer review". The abstract section contains the text: "This is an abstract for my preprint. This preprint is actually being used for screenshots in a presentation that will be given at Open Repositories 2025". A table provides metadata for the preprint:

Last Modified:	09 Jun 2025 11:45
Date Deposited:	07 May 2025 14:07
Published Date:	2025-06-06
Authors:	Fyson, Will

On the right side, there are two purple-bordered boxes. The top box, titled "Download", contains a document icon, the text "License: Creative Commons Attribution", and a "Download (204kB)" button. The bottom box, titled "Export / Share Citation", contains a dropdown menu set to "EndNote" and an "Export" button.

Preprint summary pages will at first display a box stating the preprint has not been peer reviewed.

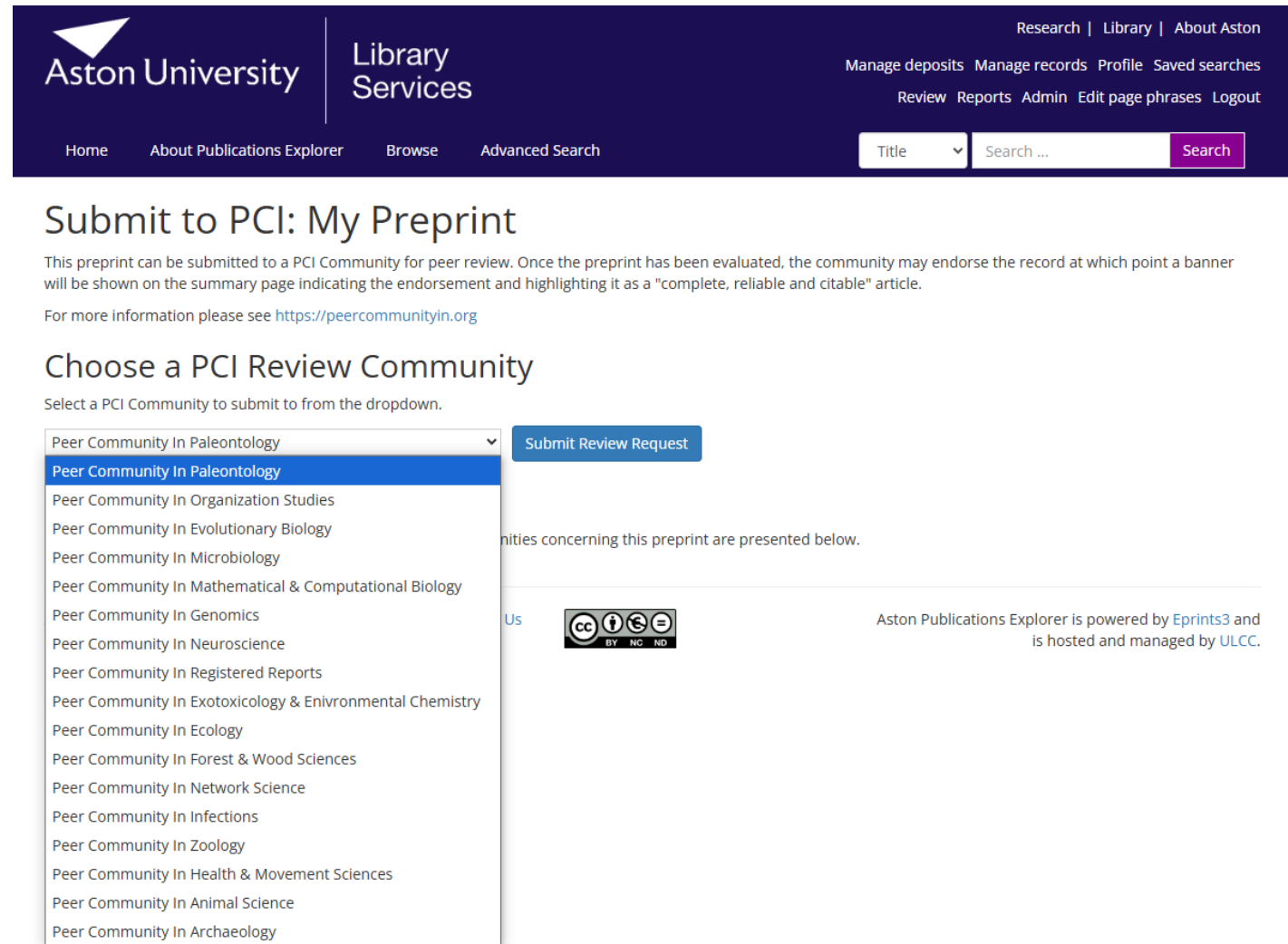
It's important to be clear about the nature of the output to any readers who may wish to cite the output or use it in their research.

Integrating PCI with EPrints Repositories – 2. Request Endorsement

Preprint items have a screen for managing PCI interactions.

This is where a “Request for Endorsement” can be initiated.

The user selects an appropriate community from the drop-down top and submits the request.



Aston University Library Services

Research | Library | About Aston

Manage deposits Manage records Profile Saved searches

Review Reports Admin Edit page phrases Logout

Home About Publications Explorer Browse Advanced Search

Title Search ... Search

Submit to PCI: My Preprint

This preprint can be submitted to a PCI Community for peer review. Once the preprint has been evaluated, the community may endorse the record at which point a banner will be shown on the summary page indicating the endorsement and highlighting it as a "complete, reliable and citable" article.

For more information please see <https://peercommunityin.org>

Choose a PCI Review Community

Select a PCI Community to submit to from the dropdown.

Peer Community In Paleontology

Peer Community In Paleontology

Peer Community In Organization Studies

Peer Community In Evolutionary Biology

Peer Community In Microbiology

Peer Community In Mathematical & Computational Biology

Peer Community In Genomics

Peer Community In Neuroscience

Peer Community In Registered Reports

Peer Community In Exotoxicology & Environmental Chemistry

Peer Community In Ecology

Peer Community In Forest & Wood Sciences

Peer Community In Network Science

Peer Community In Infections

Peer Community In Zoology

Peer Community In Health & Movement Sciences

Peer Community In Animal Science

Peer Community In Archaeology

Submit Review Request


ities concerning this preprint are presented below.

Us

CC BY NC ND

Aston Publications Explorer is powered by Eprints3 and is hosted and managed by ULCC.

Integrating PCI with EPrints Repositories – 2. Request Endorsement



Library Services

Research | Library | About Aston

Manage deposits | Manage records | Profile | Saved searches

Review | Reports | Admin | Edit page phrases | Logout

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Title

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For more information please see <https://peercommunityin.org>

Current Status: Request Pending

The review request has been sent to PCI and is currently awaiting a response.

Requests

Past and present notifications sent and received from PCI communities concerning this preprint are presented below.

Timestamp	To	Type	Show content
13 June 2025 09:32:55 UTC	Peer Community In Zoology	Request Endorsement	<input type="button" value="Show content"/>
Awaiting Response			

Once the request has been sent a message is displayed to alert the user.

Now we wait to see if the PCI...



will review



will not review

Integrating PCI with EPrints Repositories – 3. First Response



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

Dealing with rejection...

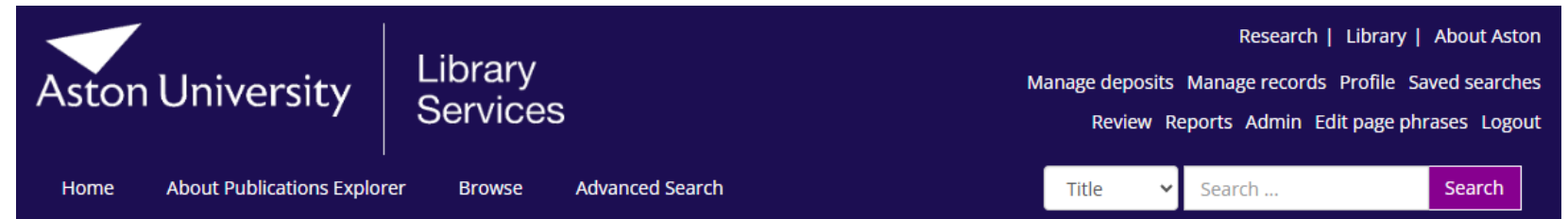
- Up to the author to decide what to do next...
- Perhaps there's a more appropriate PCI community to send it too?
- The option becomes available to re-start the cycle.

Integrating PCI with EPrints Repositories – 3. First Response

A “Tentative Accept” - good news, but more waiting....

At the bottom of the screen we see the chain of requests and responses start to build along with timestamps.

And the option – if needed – to look at the LDN payload.



Submit to PCI: My Preprint

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For more information please see <https://peercommunityin.org>

Current Status: Tentatively Accept

PCI tentatively accepts the offer to begin the process of reviewing and potentially endorsing this record.

The response contained the following message: "The offer has been tentatively accepted, subject to further review."

Requests

Past and present notifications sent and received from PCI communities concerning this preprint are presented below.

Timestamp	To	Type	Show content
13 June 2025 09:32:55 UTC	Peer Community In Zoology	Request Endorsement	
Responses			
Timestamp	From	Type	Show content
13 June 2025 09:56:29 UTC	https://zool.peercommunityin.org/coar_notify/	Tentatively Accept	

Integrating PCI with EPrints Repositories – 4. Secondary Response

Rejection



Integrating PCI with EPrints Repositories – 4. Secondary Response

Rejected

- The end of the workflow
- Negative reviews are not published
- Up to the author and institution about how to proceed next

Submit to PCI: My Preprint

This preprint can be submitted to a PCI Community for peer review. Once the preprint has been evaluated, the community may endorse the record at which point a banner will be shown on the summary page indicating the endorsement and highlighting it as a "complete, reliable and citable" article.

For more information please see <https://peercommunityin.org>

Current Status: Rejected

PCI has rejected the offer to endorse this record.

The response contained the following message: "The offer has been rejected because..."

Choose a PCI Review Community

Select a PCI Community to submit to from the dropdown.

Peer Community In Animal Science

Submit Review Request

Requests

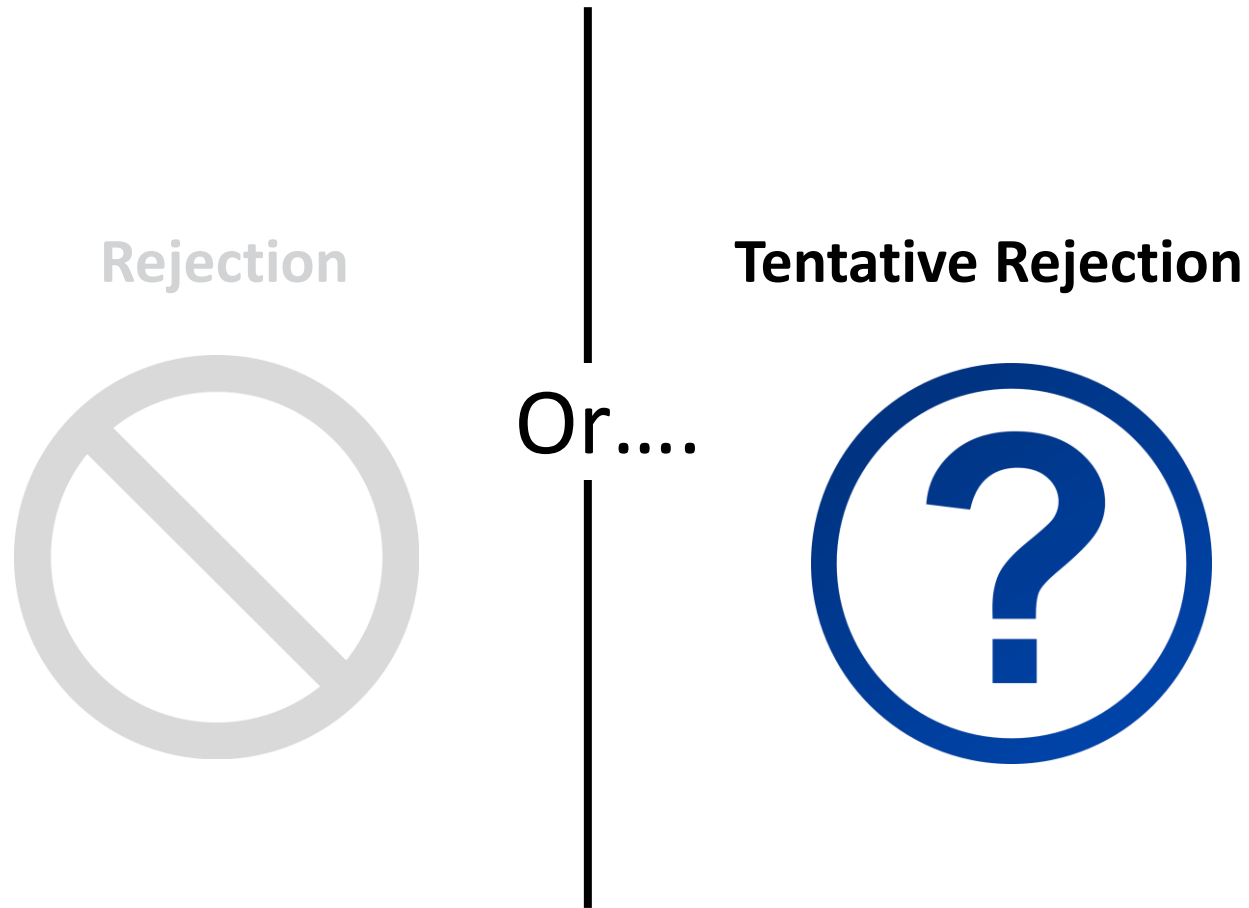
Past and present notifications sent and received from PCI communities concerning this preprint are presented below.

Timestamp	To	Type	Show content
13 June 2025 09:32:55 UTC	Peer Community In Zoology	Request Endorsement	Show content

Responses

Timestamp	From	Type	Show content
13 June 2025 10:19:34 UTC	https://zool.peercommunityin.org/coar_notify/	Reject	Show content
13 June 2025 09:56:29 UTC	https://zool.peercommunityin.org/coar_notify/	Tentatively Accept	Show content

Integrating PCI with EPrints Repositories – 4. Secondary Response



Integrating PCI with EPrints Repositories – 4. Secondary Response

Tentative Reject

- Reviewer recommends some changes
- The process starts again, but the initial request includes a reference to this first attempt

Submit to PCI: My Preprint

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For more information please see <https://peercommunityin.org>

Current Status: Tentative Reject

The editorial decision is that a revision to the record under review is required before endorsement is possible.

The response contained the following message: "The offer has been tentatively rejected, subject to further review."

Choose a PCI Review Community

Select a PCI Community to submit to from the dropdown.

Peer Community In Animal Science

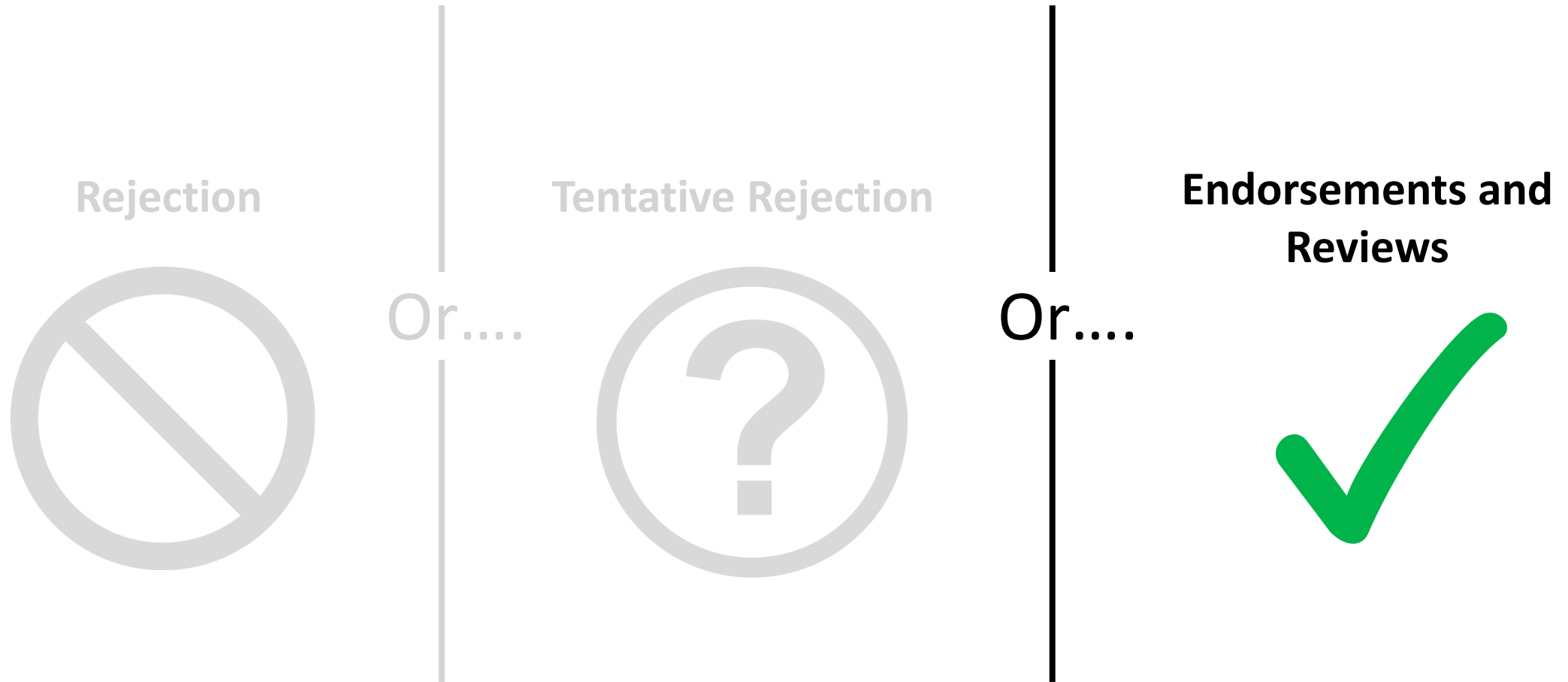
Submit Review Request

Requests

Past and present notifications sent and received from PCI communities concerning this preprint are presented below.

Timestamp	To	Type	Show content
13 June 2025 09:32:55 UTC	Peer Community In Zoology	Request Endorsement	Show content
Responses			
Timestamp	From	Type	Show content
13 June 2025 10:24:38 UTC	https://zool.peercommunityin.org/coar_notify/	Tentative Reject	Show content
13 June 2025 09:56:29 UTC	https://zool.peercommunityin.org/coar_notify/	Tentatively Accept	Show content

Integrating PCI with EPrints Repositories – 4. Secondary Response



Integrating PCI with EPrints Repositories – 4. Secondary Response

Announce Review

- A single item may receive several reviews
- A link to the latest review is displayed to the user

Submit to PCI: My Preprint

This preprint can be submitted to a PCI Community for peer review. Once the preprint has been evaluated, the community may endorse the record at which point a banner will be shown on the summary page indicating the endorsement and highlighting it as a "complete, reliable and citable" article.

For more information please see <https://peercommunityin.org>

Current Status: Announce Review

PCI has decided to endorse this record and has provided a link to the review.

The review is available at <https://zool.peercommunityin.org/articles/rec?articleId=794#review-3136>

Requests

Past and present notifications sent and received from PCI communities concerning this preprint are presented below.

Timestamp	To	Type	Show content
13 June 2025 09:32:55 UTC	Peer Community In Zoology	Request Endorsement	Show content
Responses			
Timestamp	From	Type	Show content
13 June 2025 10:35:19 UTC	https://zool.peercommunityin.org/coar_notify/	Announce Review	Show content
13 June 2025 09:56:29 UTC	https://zool.peercommunityin.org/coar_notify/	Tentatively Accept	Show content

Integrating PCI with EPrints Repositories – 4. Secondary Response

Announce Endorsement

- The final stage at the end of a successful workflow.
- No more actions required by the user

Submit to PCI: My Preprint

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Requests

Past and present notifications sent and received from PCI communities concerning this preprint are presented below.

Timestamp	To	Type	Show content
13 June 2025 09:32:55 UTC	Peer Community In Zoology	Request Endorsement	Show content
Responses			
Timestamp	From	Type	Show content
13 June 2025 10:36:52 UTC	https://zool.peercommunityin.org/coar_notify/	Announce Endorsement	Show content
13 June 2025 10:35:19 UTC	https://zool.peercommunityin.org/coar_notify/	Announce Review	Show content
13 June 2025 09:56:29 UTC	https://zool.peercommunityin.org/coar_notify/	Tentatively Accept	Show content

Integrating PCI with EPrints Repositories – 4. Secondary Response

The endorsement is displayed on the summary page, with a link.

Readers can follow the link and read the reviews...

...and ultimately know the output is reliable and has been reviewed by a community of peers.

The screenshot shows the 'My Preprint' page on the Aston University Library Services website. The header includes the Aston University logo and navigation links. The main content area displays the preprint title 'Fyson, Will (2025). My Preprint. [Preprint]' with a 'Copy' button. A blue banner states: 'This preprint has been endorsed by PCI. The endorsement is available at: <https://zool.peercommunityin.org/articles/rec?articleId=794>'. Below this is the 'Abstract' section with a placeholder text. A table lists metadata: Last Modified (09 Jun 2025 11:45), Date Deposited (07 May 2025 14:07), Published Date (2025-06-06), and Authors (Fyson, Will). On the right, a purple 'Download' box contains a document icon, the license 'Creative Commons Attribution', and a 'Download (204kB)' button. At the bottom right is an 'Export / Share Citation' button.

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Home | About Publications Explorer | Browse | Advanced Search

Title Search ...

My Preprint

Fyson, Will (2025). *My Preprint*. [Preprint]


This preprint has been endorsed by PCI.
The endorsement is available at: <https://zool.peercommunityin.org/articles/rec?articleId=794>

Abstract

This is an abstract for my preprint. This preprint is actually being used for screenshots in a presentation that will be given at Open Repositories 2025

Last Modified:	09 Jun 2025 11:45
Date Deposited:	07 May 2025 14:07
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Authors:	Fyson, Will

Download

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Export / Share Citation

Technical vs Social Challenges

- The role of technology vs. the role of individuals and organisations in changing established systems
- A bigger and more complex problem is researcher engagement
- Lots of questions...

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Q. Would I be better off publishing in a normal journal?

Q. Does my institution support this approach?

Technical vs Social Challenges

- The role of technology vs. the role of individuals and organisations in changing established systems
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- Lots of questions...

Q. Would I be better off publishing in a normal journal?

Q. Does my institution support this approach?

Q. Does a community exist for my subject?

Technical vs Social Challenges

- The role of technology vs. the role of individuals and organisations in changing established systems
- A bigger and more complex problem is researcher engagement
- Lots of questions...

Q. Would I be better off publishing in a normal journal?

Q. Does my institution support this approach?

Q. Does a community exist for my subject?

Q. Why should I take a risk?

Links and References

Code

- COAR Notify EPrints Plugin:
https://github.com/eprintsug/coar_notify
- PCI EPrints Plugin:
https://github.com/eprintsug/pci_review
- EPrints Repository Platform:
<https://github.com/eprints> or
<https://files.eprints.org/>

Useful Links

- COAR Notify:
<https://coar-repositories.org/what-we-do/notify/>
- COAR Notify Examples:
<https://coar-notify.net/catalogue/workflows/>
- PCI: <https://peercommunityin.org/>
- Arcadia: <https://www.arcadiafund.org.uk/>