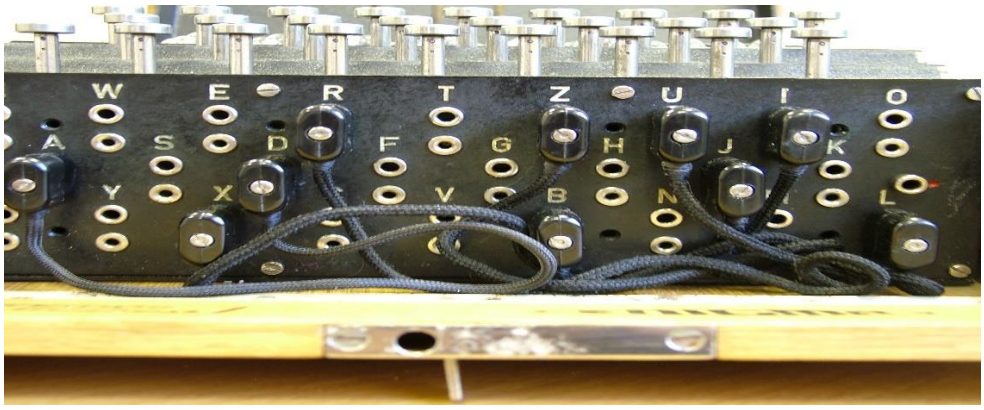
Open Software and code



Outputs of research can no longer be just confined to the data and final publication, any software and code developed as part of the project can be shared across the community. Resources such as code and software should be stored and preserved to ensure they remain usable over time, as well as cited in research papers, where permitted. Figshare, OSF, Github and Data Compass are free platforms where these outputs can be hosted and shared.

Advantages

Research funders increasingly recognize code and software as a valuable research output that should be shared to validate findings.

The EPSRC, NERC and Wellcome Trust make explicit reference to considering software and similar outputs.

A lot of current research is dependent on using software and having access to the full code of the software to enable the research to be reproduced.

The impact of the research can be increased if the source code is made open access.

Making software open and shareable allows the researchers who developed it to receive academic recognition for doing so.

Code can still be commercialized and LSHTM, as well as other universities set up residual companies to carry this out.

Choosing the right license

Researcher are encouraged to apply an open source license to software and code that enables continued access, use and development over time, where feasible. Exclusive rights to ownership or use handed over to third party should be discouraged, unless it is a condition imposed by contract or other obligations.

The following tools are helpful in choosing a license:

Public License Selector
Software Sustainability Institute
Open Source Licensing

Other Resources

- **Open Science Training Handbook: Open Research Software and Open Source**
- **Software Carpentry**
- **UKRN primer on open software and code**