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# Updating the ORCID Work Type Vocabulary

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## Goals and Objectives

- **Support the work types our users want and need** so that they can represent their scholarly contributions correctly, with a focus on underrepresented humanities and non-STEM researchers
- **Shift towards an externally maintained community standard and provide mappings** so that we're more interoperable and have the benefit of community expertise in defining work types

- **Increase quality of multilingual support** so that we better support our diverse international user base
- **Provide a better user experience for manual entry** so that users can easily find and choose the correct work type without being overwhelmed by choice
- **Provide better guidance on which work types to choose**, so that users are not left confused by a long list of ambiguous types
- **Remain backwards compatible with the v2.x ORCID API** so that we're not forcing integrators to update their integrations

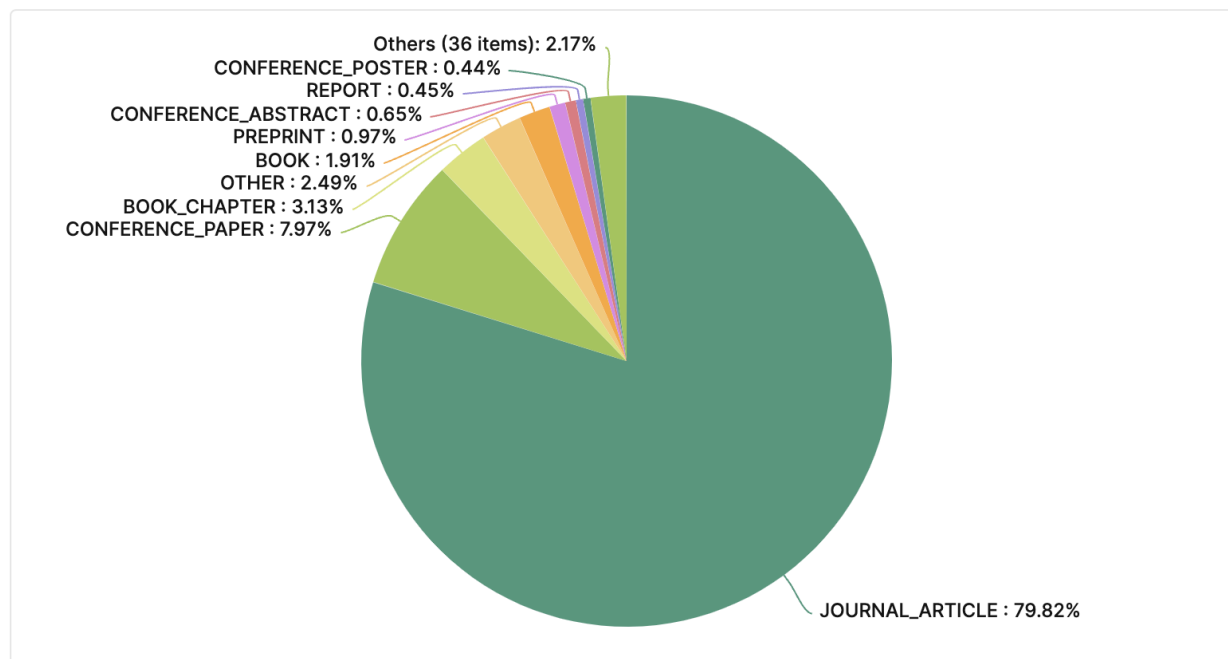
## Background

When ORCID was first launched we supported the CASRAI output type dictionary in our user interface and APIs. Sadly, this wasn't maintained, became defunct and ultimately disappeared from the web. Efforts to revive and maintain the CASRAI standards have resulted in the output types being merged into the Cerif output types vocabulary maintained by Eurocris. It appears that there is no current version of the vocabulary to refer to.

During the years the CASRAI standard was unmaintained we added several work types to the ORCID registry to support our community use cases, including software, pre-prints, annotations, data management plans, reviews and physical-objects. While useful, this is not a maintainable path. We don't have a good policy for which work types we support, why we support them, or a documented way for new ones to be added. For interoperability and quality purposes, ORCID should support a community standard that is externally maintained by a group of experts.

## Current use within ORCID

Works are added to ORCID records in two distinct ways, manual entry by the researcher, or automatic updates with our API by an ORCID member integration. At the time of writing, there are 130 million works in the ORCID registry attached to 5.8 million researchers. Note that all works must have an [ORCID work type](#).



The above pie chart shows that Journal Articles are by far the most common output types, followed by conference papers and book chapters. Notice that the 4th most popular type is 'other', illustrating the fact that researchers and API integrators can struggle to find the correct type either because it's difficult to find or that the correct type is not available. One measure of success for the work described in this document will be a reduction in the % of works allocated the 'other' type.

## Requests for more diverse work types

Researcher support requests for expanded work types are rare, coming in about once a month. However this could be because users are used to selecting 'other', rather than an indication of need. Summarized examples include:

*I am not quite sure how to enter conference presentations. I see options for conference abstract, paper, and poster, but nothing for presentations. So I the next best thing seems to be other - lecture/speech to report conference presentations. Is that the best way to cite conference presentations I have done?*

And

*Como arquitecto não consigo colocar o meu Portfolio de trabalhos executados na plataforma. Qual a melhor forma de o fazer ?*

*(As an architect, I cannot place my Portfolio of work performed on the platform. What's the best way to do it?)*

In addition, researchers occasionally point out the impact of 'othering' their work:

*It is rather frustrating that when you enter "Works," there is NO "Work type" for either **Music Recordings** (i.e. CDs, DVDs, other) or **Musical Compositions**.*

*In the field of music (esp. composition), audio recordings such as CDs are considered the equivalent of a "book" in other fields, and recordings and scores are THE primary format for the publication of ones' research and work.*

*It's very annoying to have to enter all that as "other" under the "Other" category, when just about every type of publication and work in any field imaginable is included as an option. **The message is that published work in the field of music & creative arts is not deemed as true "research" or something.***

ORCID has worked with our members in the past to add new work types, notably annotations and physical-objects. We have prioritized these when it's clear that the member will add works with the new type to researcher records via our APIs. Requests come in about once a year and we are currently looking at requests for clinical trials and video recordings.

## Possible vocabularies

Based on criteria of mappability, coverage, suitability for our use case, maintenance status and interoperability we came up with two main contenders:

- [CERIF output types](#)
- [\(COAR\) resource types](#)

Discussions with Eurocris revealed that their main use case - supporting openAIRE repositories meant that they in fact used a CERIF implementation of COAR in most instances and recommended we use COAR ourselves.

Discussions with COAR made us aware that as a living standard, changes and improvements for the next version are currently under discussion and should be made later this year.

## Proposal

Our proposal is that we expand our work type support and map to a subset of the Confederation of Open Access Repositories [\(COAR\) resource types](#). The mappings to the current standard,

and the fields we will directly support are described in this [COAR mapping spreadsheet](#). A new version of the COAR standard is planned for later this year, which will be considered separately when the time comes.

To achieve a granularity that works for our users, we do not think it prudent to map to every type directly as the COAR list is exhaustive, but instead map via the hierarchy expressed within COAR. For example, we will not support all the individual data-set types such as **‘geospatial-data’**, but will support **‘data-set’**. We will not support **‘policy-report’** but we will continue to support **‘report’**. We believe this level of detail is better described by the source. The spreadsheet above includes these mappings.

In summary this means we will add 11 new work types to the registry and merge several others. Based on the current COAR resource type vocabulary all but one COAR term (workflow) will be mappable to an ORCID term and most pre-existing ORCID terms will be mappable to a COAR term.

## Work types

### New types

The new types we propose to add

- design
- image
- moving image
- sound
- musical composition
- blog post
- conference presentation
- conference proceedings
- clinical study
- learning-object

This leaves only four COAR terms that cannot be mapped to an ORCID work type; **‘text’**, **‘workflow’**, **‘cartographic-material’** and **‘map’**. We have not had requests for these but it is conceivable that we could include workflow and cartographic material for completeness. Feedback received so far is that **‘text’** is a very confusing category for users to understand so is omitted for that reason.

## Merged types

We also propose to merge some lesser used and overlapping terms into single terms to reduce the complexity faced by researchers and enable better mappings to and from COAR. Note we have done this in the past to reduce confusion - by merging the CASRAI terms for dissertation and thesis.

- Newsletter-article and magazine-article
  - Becomes magazine-article (from COAR)
- Test and learning object (note test in this context is a test given to students)
  - Becomes learning-object (from COAR)
- Book and Edited-book
  - Becomes book (from COAR)
- Registered-copyright and trademark
  - Becomes trademark (from COAR)
- Dictionary-entry and encyclopedia-entry
  - Becomes dictionary-or-encyclopedia-entry (not present in COAR)

## Legacy work types

In the mapping process it became clear that some CASRAI terms cannot be well mapped to a COAR equivalent. Integrations mapping to COAR will be able to map these to **‘other’**. They include:

- dictionary-or-encyclopedia-entry (merged)
- research-tool
- supervised-student-publication
- license
- artistic-performance
- invention
- physical-object
- standards-and-policy

Works with these types do exist within our metadata and we will continue to support them for now. However, other options for dealing with them could be considered depending on feedback. For example, there is an option here to migrate our least used “ORCID only” work types to **‘other’** if we wish to keep the work type list (a) more manageable for users and (b) better mapped to COAR.

There are two legacy type we plan to remove:

- disclosure
  - The existing definition confuses researchers: “Publications that establish inventions as prior art thereby preventing others from patenting the same invention or concept” does not fit with the publishing definition of “providing transparency about any apparent, existing or potential conflicts of interest”
  - There are < 7000 of these and they don't seem to fit either definition very often at all.
  - The majority of items with this type are non-english language, implying translation of this term is unreliable.
  - To prevent confusion and misuse, we will merge these into the ‘other’ category
- Spin off company
  - This type is not widely used
  - This type is better placed in the website category - it's not really a scholarly output.

## User interface

### Categories

An important consideration is how the work types are presented and chosen by researchers when adding works via our user interface. We currently use the outdated CASRAI categories that have a history of confusing our users. We initially proposed the following categories for visual organization:

- Publications
- Media and creative
- Review and editing
- Data and Process
- Teaching and supervision
- Legal and IP

User feedback identified that the overloaded use of the word ‘media’ is troublesome and identified a need to distinguish dissemination and ‘third mission’ activities. In response we have devised two subtly [different proposals for work types](#):

1. [Option A](#)

Media outputs such as blog posts or magazine articles categorized under *Media and creative*.

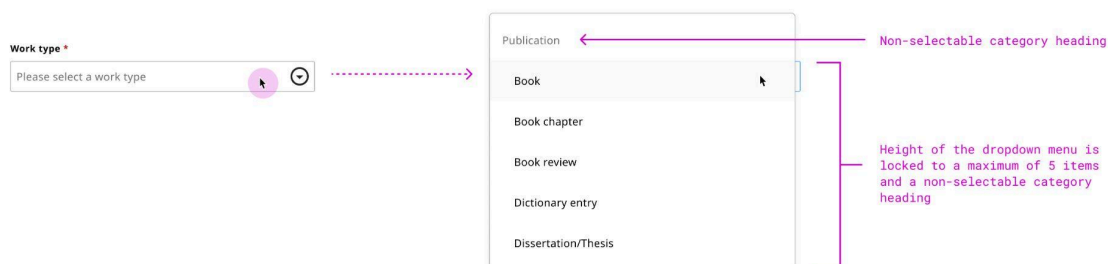
2. [Option B](#)

*Media and creative* is scoped to just *Creative*. Media outputs such as blog posts or magazine articles categorized under a separate *Dissemination* category.

## User interface labels

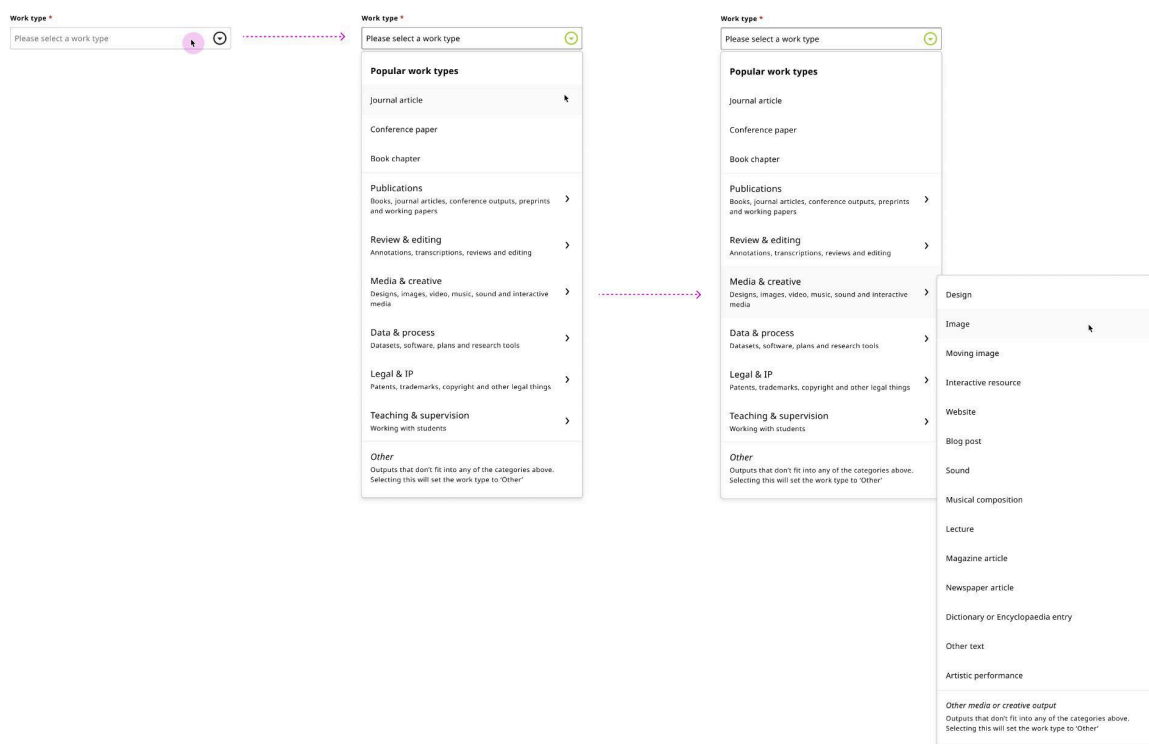
We have updated the work type labels to reflect researcher understanding of categories. For example, the term ‘artistic-performance’ is labeled as ‘Artistic output or performance’. A full list of English labels are available in the linked spreadsheet, and these will be translated into our supported languages using human translators.

## Current Interface





## Proposed interface



## Appendix

Full list of proposed work types ([see spreadsheet for more detail](#)):

1. dataset
2. design
3. image
4. moving image
5. interactive resource
6. website
7. learning object

8. other
9. patent
10. software
11. sound
12. musical composition
13. annotation
14. blog post
15. book
16. book chapter
17. conference abstract (or other conference output)
18. conference presentation
19. conference proceedings
20. conference paper
21. conference poster
22. journal issue
23. journal article
24. Lecture
25. magazine article
26. newspaper article
27. preprint
28. report
29. clinical study
30. data management plan
31. research protocol (or technique)
32. review
33. book review
34. dissertation or thesis
35. transcription
36. working paper
37. trademark or copyright
38. dictionary encyclopedia entry
39. research tool
40. supervised student-publication
41. license
42. artistic performance
43. invention
44. physical object
45. standards and policy

**Do you want to provide more feedback?**

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