

Crossref Funders Advisory Group- Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The Funders Advisory Group serves as a consultative body to Crossref, providing strategic advice, expert insights, and constructive feedback on Crossref's operations, programs, and strategic direction, particularly in relation to the Grant Linking System.

2. Functions and Responsibilities

The Funders Advisory Group will:

- Provide expert advice and recommendations on operational matters, strategy, initiatives, and developments in relation to:
 - Open funding metadata
 - Crossref Grant Linking System (GLS)
 - Any other related activity or initiative
- Review and comment on proposed programs, changes to Crossref services, fees, initiatives, policies, and strategic plans as requested
- Identify emerging opportunities, risks, and trends relevant to the funding community and Crossref

The Funders Advisory Group operates in a consultative capacity only and does not have governance, or decision-making authority over the organisation.

3. Membership

Composition: The Funders Advisory Group is open to funder members and research funding organisations and networks that have an interest in adoption of the GLS and wish to provide feedback to Crossref and keep abreast of developments.

Appointment: There is no formal election process. Funders can be invited to join the Advisory Group by Crossref or they can request to join.

Term: Members are welcome to be part of the Funders Advisory Group for as long as they wish. Members can request to leave the group at any time.

Voluntary Service: All Advisory Group positions are voluntary and unremunerated.

4. Meetings

- The Advisory Group meets 3-4 times per year virtually
- Meetings are scheduled with reasonable advance notice and two time slots are offered to accommodate as many timezones as possible
- Additional meetings or consultations may be called as needed
- Members unable to attend are welcome to provide input in writing

5. Roles

Secretary: Crossref staff will coordinate meeting logistics, prepare agendas in consultation with members, and maintain records of meetings and recommendations.

Members: Members will attend meetings, propose agenda items, and provide comments and recommendations to Crossref.

External attendees: Crossref or members can invite external attendees to individual meetings to present on a topic of interest.

6. Confidentiality

Discussions and information shared with members should not be treated as confidential unless otherwise stated by Crossref staff. Members will respect the confidential nature of information shared during discussions and will not disclose sensitive organisational information without authorization.

7. Conflict of Interest

Members will disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest and will recuse themselves from discussions where such conflicts exist.

8. Review

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed every year or as needed to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

Adopted: April 2026

Next Review: April 2027