

Meet them where they are!

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"Can you get researchers to come to these sort of meetings? If not, what can you do to engage them?" - Phil Bourne, closing remarks Force2016

Previous conferences have proven a great way to bring the existing Force11 community together. However, an additional challenge lies in expanding this community, and involving the researchers that are at the center of scholarly communication, but rarely directly involved in conversations about it. Having Force2017 in the vibrant research community that is Berlin offers exciting opportunities to do this.

We want to organize a session during the conference dedicated to outreach, in which Force11 participants will make previously arranged visits to research groups in the Berlin area. The aim of the visits is to discuss issues around scholarly communication, listen to the pressing concerns of researchers and their ideas about how to change the system. Discussions can start with a simple question: how can open practices accelerate their work, careers and impact on society? This will include identifying and discussing concerns, misunderstandings, and sources of friction towards adoption of specific practices.

For researchers, this will be a low-barrier opportunity to talk to funders, publishers, tool makers, etc., to have their voices heard, and tell us why what we are thinking about might or might not work for them. It could also be an opportunity for them to hear from others at the same institution (perhaps from different disciplines) about how they might struggle with similar issues, and what solutions they might see/use.

For Force11, this will be a way to connect to researchers, test our ideas and visions against reality and truly expand our community.

More information: <http://tinyurl.com/Force2017meetsBerlin>