

Introduction to Research Data Management and Open Science (aka Research)

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28th and 29th July 2025, Trieste, Italy

Agenda

	Day 1 (28th July)
14:00	Introduction to research data management (RDM)
15:00	Exercise: Practical session on RDM
15:30	Introduction to Open Science (Research)
16:00	Break
16:30	Introduction to Open Science (Research) (cont'd)
17:00	Exercise: Open Science
18:00	End Day 1
	Day 2 (29th July)
08:30	Introduction to DMPs
09:30	End

Learning outcomes

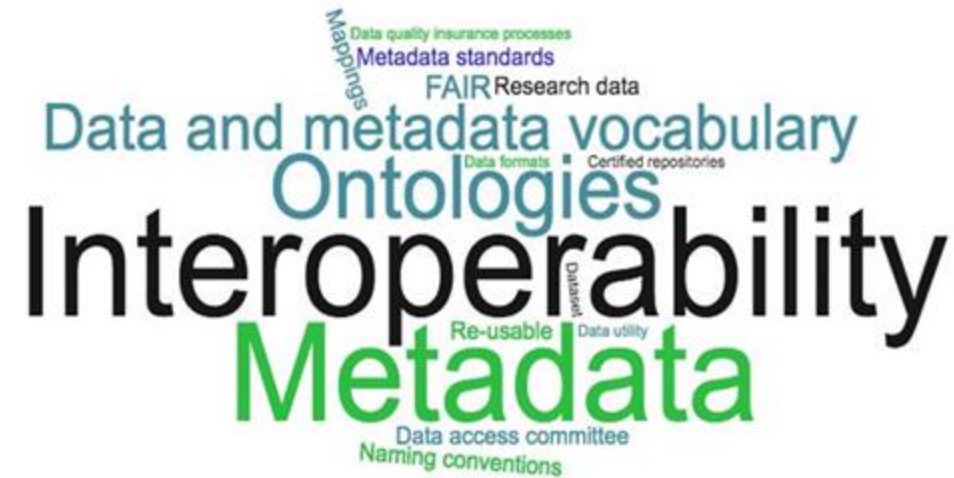
- Be familiar with the curation lifecycle.
 - Understand the standardisation methods and principles available to add value to your data.
 - Learn about resources to aid your workflows.
 - Increase/encourage your level of openness.
 - Learn about data management plans and the value in implementing them.
-

Language is a barrier...

Respondents mentioned 40 terms which were unclear to them in European Commission DMP:

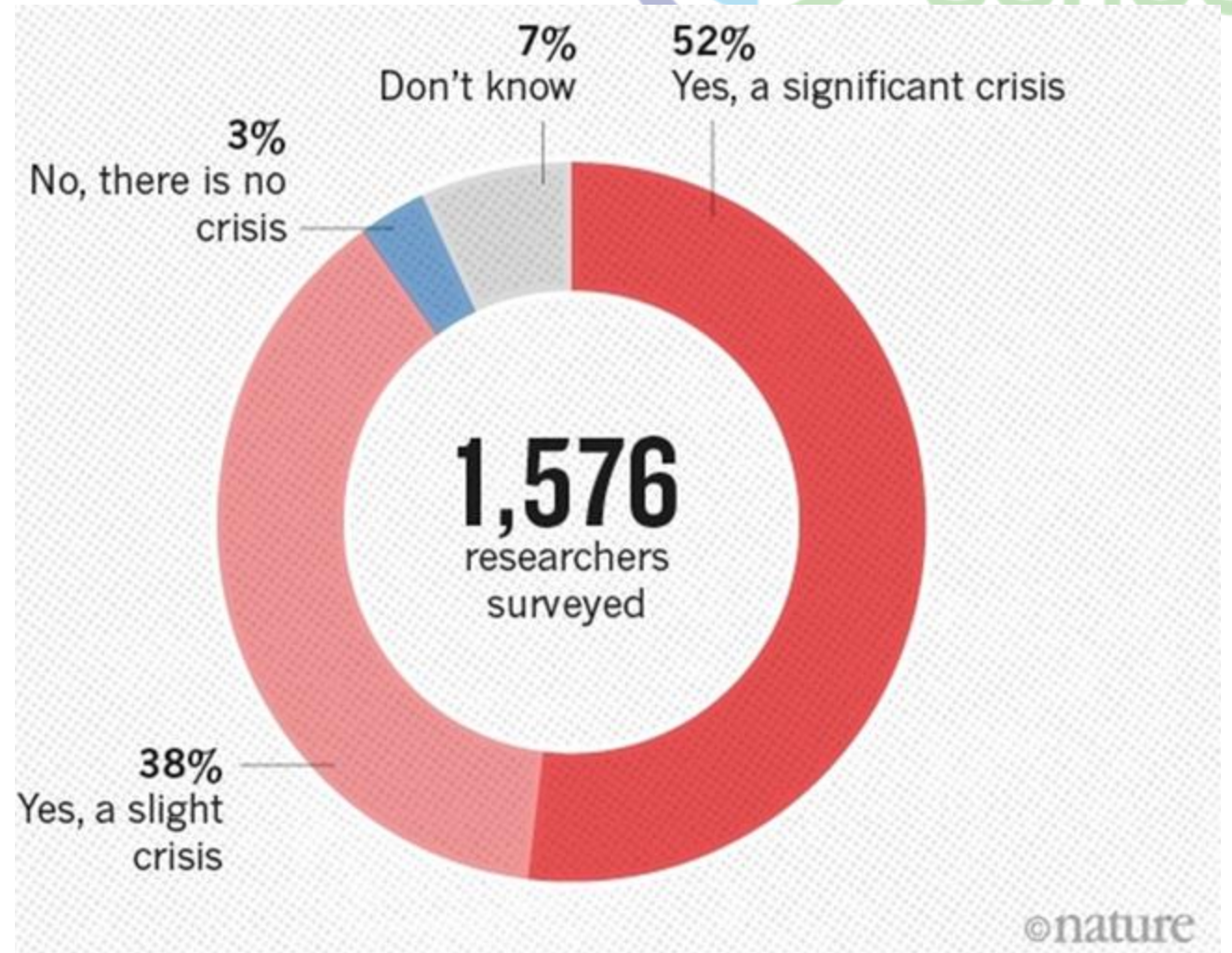
*“Researchers are not familiar with the following terms/phrases :
Metadata, standards for metadata/data, ontologies, mapping with ontologies, interoperability,
All the ICT jargon”*

“With the help from Swedish National Data Service we could clarify many questions. Without this help we would not be able to finish the DMP.”



Is there a reproducibility crisis?

Baker, M. "1,500 scientists lift the lid on reproducibility" [*Nature* 533: 452-454 \(2016\)](#).



Is there a reproducibility crisis?

Kupferschmidt, K. *Tide of Lies*
[Science 361: 636-641 \(2018\)](#)

- 5 out of the top 10 in the [Retraction Watch Leaderboard](#) are Japanese researchers.
 - This article tells a story of one of the researchers in this list and how their research misconduct was uncovered.
-



Is there a reproducibility crisis?

Kupferschmidt, K. *Tide of Lies*
[Science 361: 636-641 \(2018\)](#)

- But this points to cultural issues that could affect the scientific process.
 - We need to instil a *culture change*.
-



The “data deluge”

- The volume of data is growing exponentially with >90% of all data in the world having been generated in just the last few years.
- How to safeguard for the future?
 - Good RDM is essential!
- And what about the environmental impact??

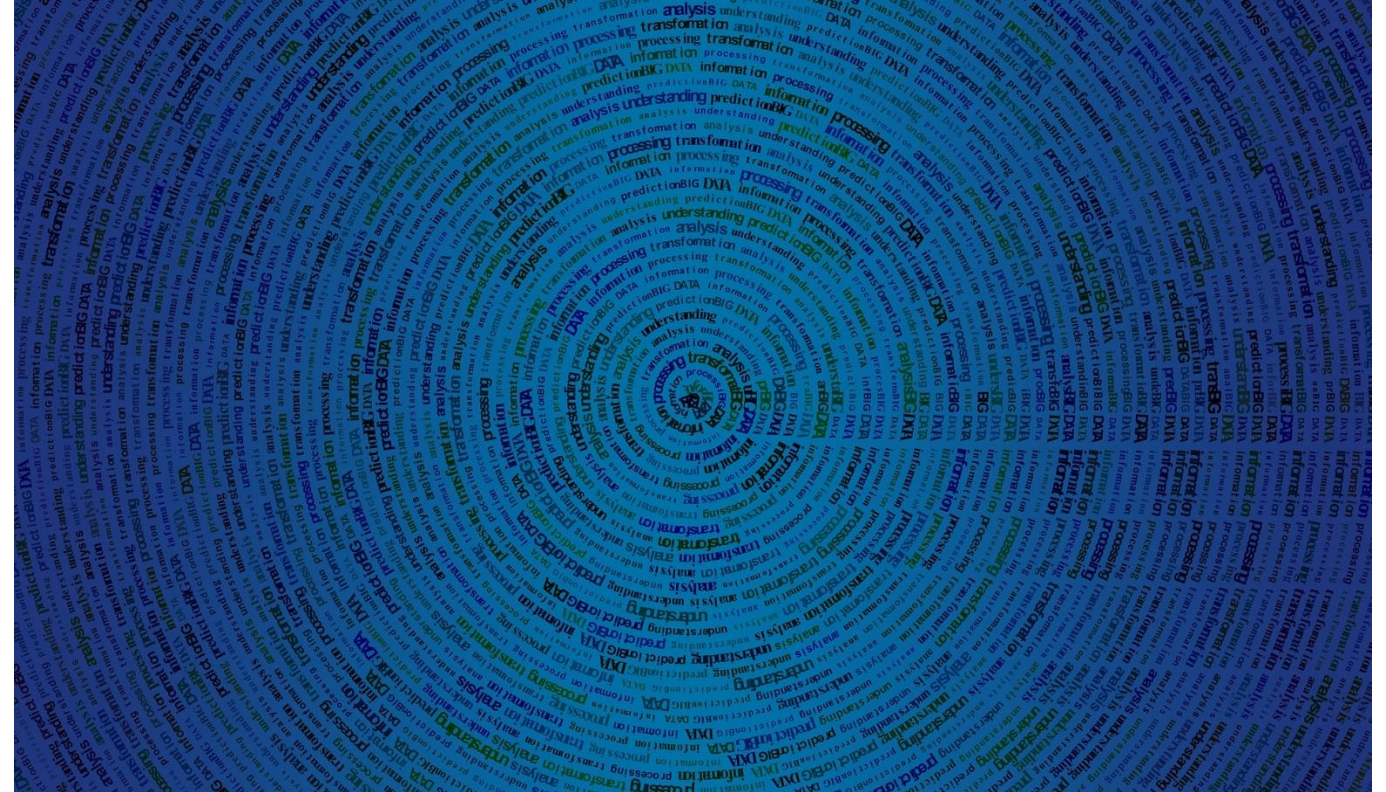


Image by Pete from [Pixabay](#)

The wider context

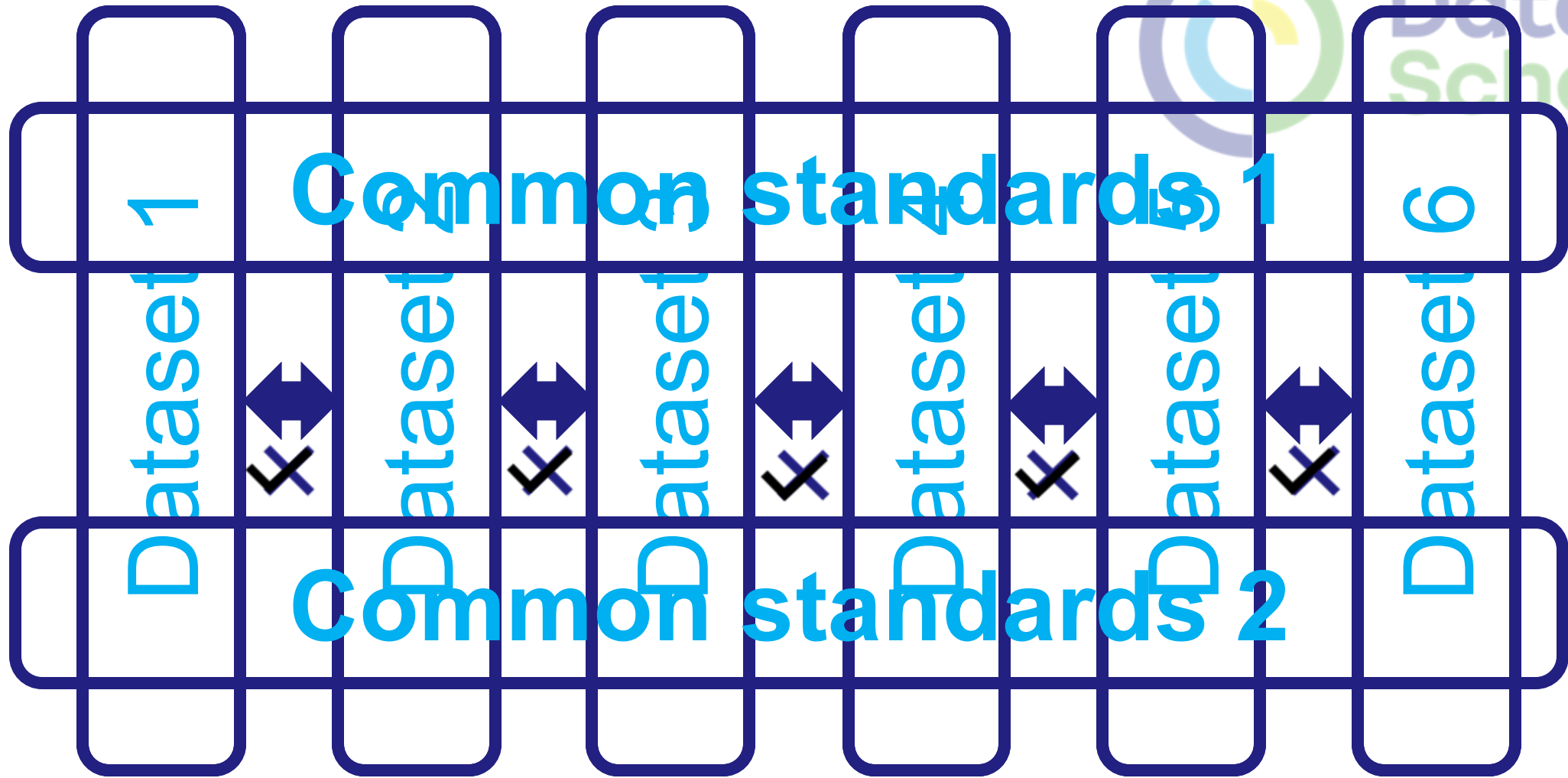
Set of goals outlined by the United Nations





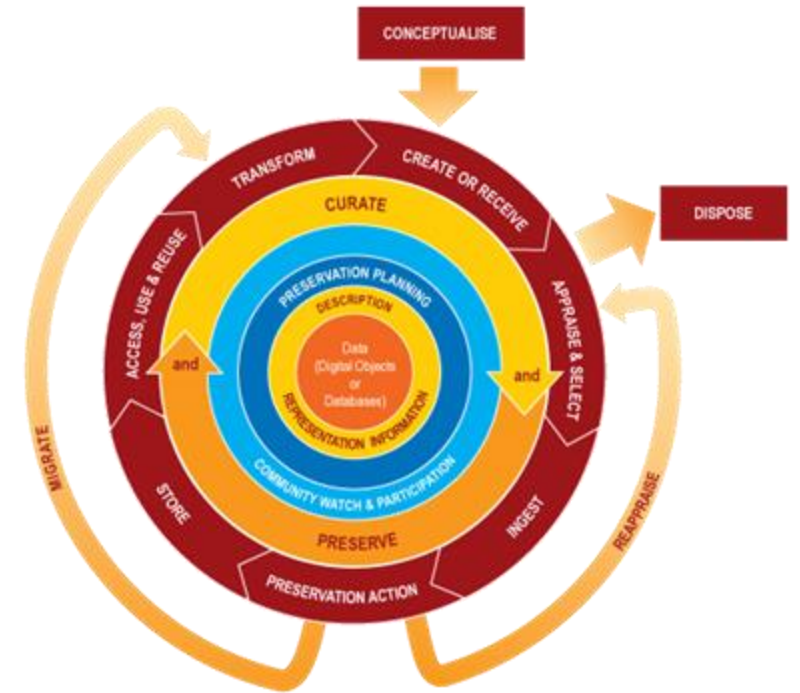
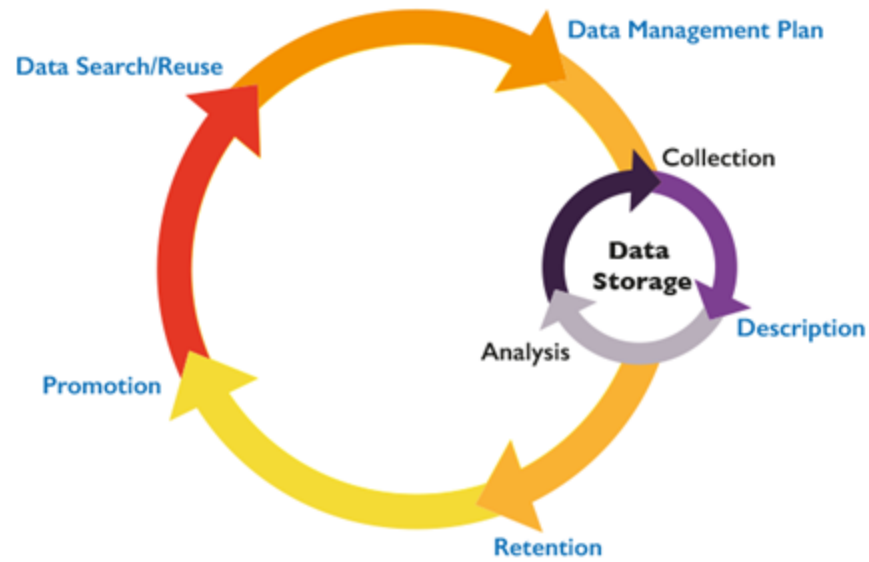
Data
Schools

RDM & the Data Lifecycle



Data silos

RDM lifecycles



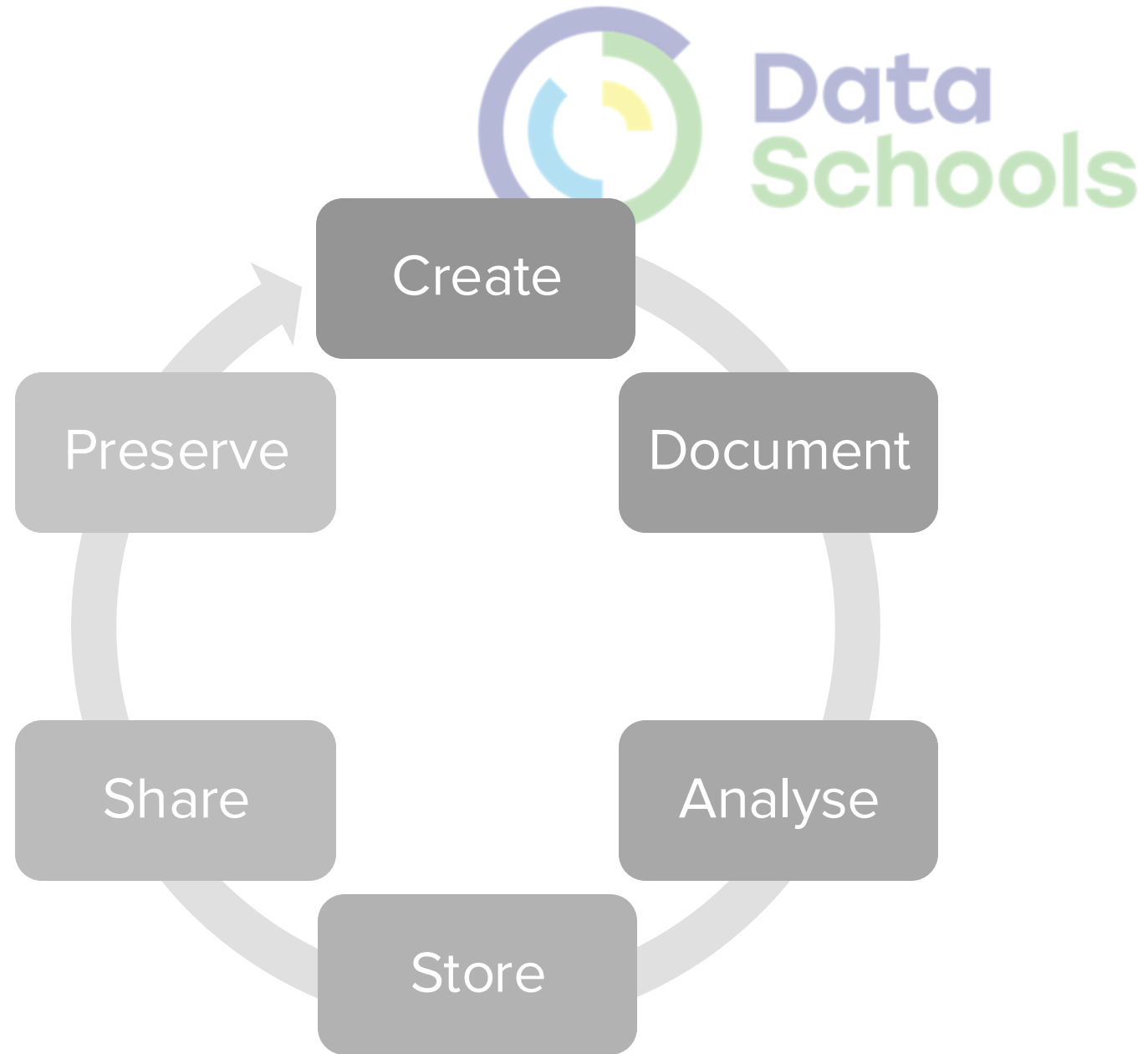
The curation lifecycle



What is Research Data Management?

“the active management and appraisal of data over the lifecycle of scholarly and scientific interest”

Data management is part of good research practice.



Data creation tips

- Ensure consent forms, licences and agreements don't restrict opportunities to share data.
- Choose appropriate formats.
- Adopt a file naming convention.
- Create metadata and documentation as you go.



Ask for consent for data sharing

If not, data centres won't be able to accept the data – regardless of any conditions on the original grant.

SAMPLE CONSENT STATEMENT FOR QUANTITATIVE SURVEYS

Thank you very much for agreeing to participate in this survey.

The information provided by you in this questionnaire will be used for research purposes. It will not be used in any manner which would allow identification of your individual responses.

Anonymised research data will be archived at in order to make them available to other researchers in line with current data sharing practices.

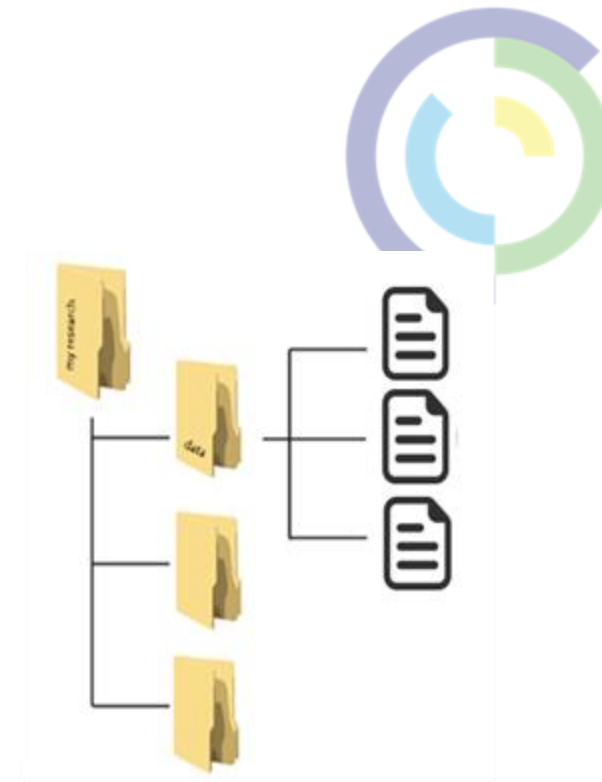
Choose appropriate file formats

- Different formats are good for different things.
 - *open, lossless* formats are more sustainable e.g. rtf, xml, tif, wav.
 - proprietary and/or compressed formats are less preservable but are often in widespread use e.g. doc, jpg, mp3.
 - One format for analysis then convert to a standard format.
 - Data centres may suggest preferred formats for deposit.
-

Type of data	Recommended formats	Acceptable formats
Tabular data with extensive metadata variable labels, code labels, and defined missing values	SPSS portable format (.por) delimited text and command ('setup') file (SPSS, Stata, SAS, etc.) structured text or mark-up file of metadata information, e.g. DDI XML file	proprietary formats of statistical packages: SPSS (.sav), Stata (.dta), MS Access (.mdb/.accdb)
Tabular data with minimal metadata column headings, variable names	comma-separated values (.csv) tab-delimited file (.tab) delimited text with SQL data definition statements	delimited text (.txt) with characters not present in data used as delimiters widely-used formats: MS Excel (.xls/.xlsx), MS Access (.mdb/.accdb), dBase (.dbf), OpenDocument Spreadsheet (.ods)
Geospatial data vector and raster data	ESRI Shapefile (.shp, .shx, .dbf, .prj, .sbx, .sbn optional) geo-referenced TIFF (.tif, .tiff) CAD data (.dwg) tabular GIS attribute data Geography Markup Language (.gml)	ESRI Geodatabase format (.mdb) MapInfo Interchange Format (.mif) for vector data Keyhole Mark-up Language (.kml) Adobe Illustrator (.ai), CAD data (.dxf or .svg) binary formats of GIS and CAD packages
Textual data	Rich Text Format (.rtf) plain text, ASCII (.txt) eXtensible Mark-up Language (.xml) text according to an appropriate Document Type Definition (DTD) or schema	Hypertext Mark-up Language (.html) widely-used formats: MS Word (.doc/.docx) some software-specific formats: NUD*IST, NVivo and ATLAS.ti
Image data	TIFF 6.0 uncompressed (.tif)	JPEG (.jpeg, .jpg, .jp2) if original created in this format GIF (.gif) TIFF other versions (.tif, .tiff) RAW image format (.raw) Photoshop files (.psd) BMP (.bmp) PNG (.png) Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF/A, PDF) (.pdf)
Audio data	Free Lossless Audio Codec (FLAC) (.flac)	MPEG-1 Audio Layer 3 (.mp3) if original created in this format Audio Interchange File Format (.aif) Waveform Audio Format (.wav)
Video data	MPEG-4 (.mp4) OGG video (.ogv, .ogg) motion JPEG 2000 (.mj2)	AVCHD video (.avchd)
Documentation and scripts	Rich Text Format (.rtf) PDF/UA, PDF/A or PDF (.pdf) XHTML or HTML (.xhtml, .htm) OpenDocument Text (.odt)	plain text (.txt) widely-used formats: MS Word (.doc/.docx), MS Excel (.xls/.xlsx) XML marked-up text (.xml) according to an appropriate DTD or schema, e.g. XHTML 1.0

How will you organise your data?

- Keep file and folder names short, but meaningful.
- Agree a method for versioning.
- Include dates in a set format e.g. YYYYMMDD.
- Avoid using non-alphanumeric characters in file names.
- Use hyphens or underscores not spaces e.g. day-sheet, day sheet.
- Order the elements in the most appropriate way to retrieve the record.
- Also consider data cleaning!

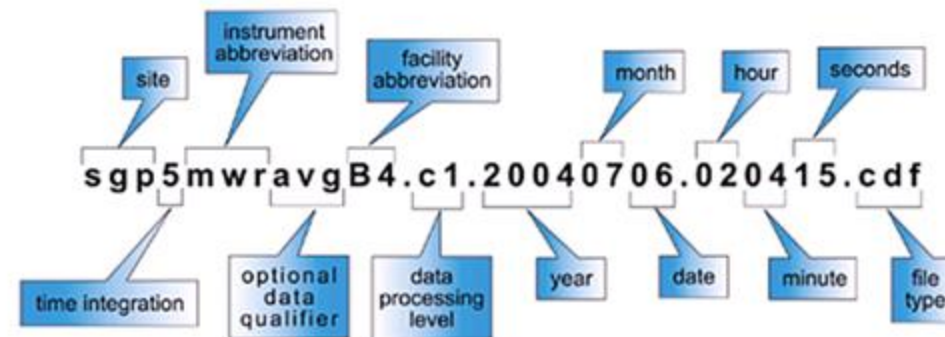


Data
Schools



OpenRefine

An example netCDF data file name is depicted below:



Example from ARM Climate Research Facility www.arm.gov/data/docs/plan

Documentation

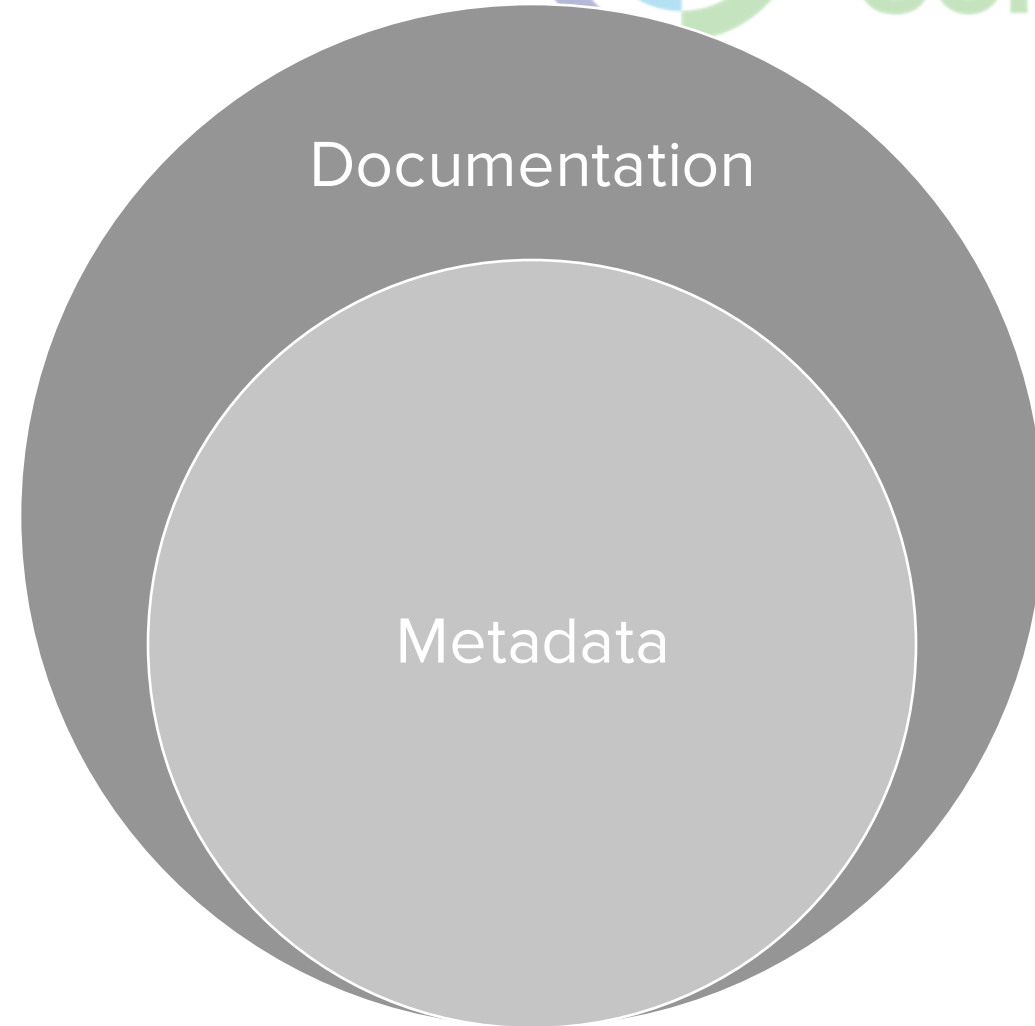
Think about what is needed in order to evaluate, understand, and reuse the data.

- Why was the data created?
- Have you documented what you did and how?
- Did you develop code to run analyses? If so, this should be kept and shared too.
- Important to provide wider context for trust.



What are metadata?

- Metadata
 - Standardised
 - Structured
 - Machine and human readable
- Metadata helps to cite and disambiguate data.
- Documentation aids reuse.



Metadata standards

These can be general – such as Dublin Core

Or discipline specific

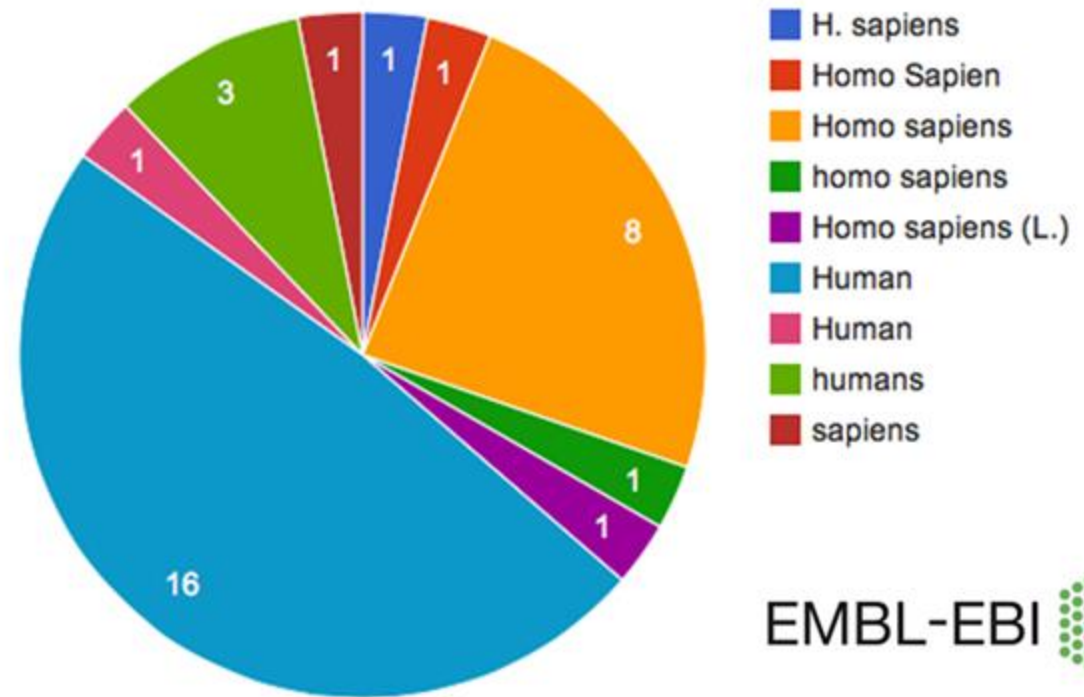
- Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) – social science
- Ecological Metadata Language (EML) - ecology
- Flexible Image Transport System (FITS) – astronomy

Search for standards in catalogues like:

- <http://rd-alliance.github.io/metadata-directory/>
 - <https://rdamsc.dcc.ac.uk/>
 - <http://www.fairsharing.org>
-

Controlled vocabularies

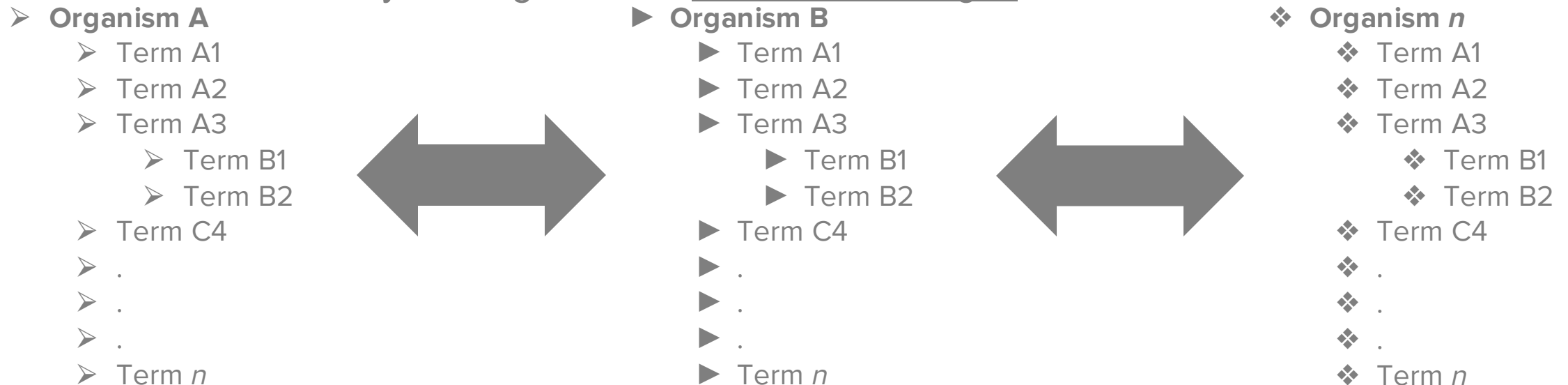
*“MTBLS1: A metabolomic
study of urinary changes
in type 2 diabetes in.....”*



EMBL-EBI 

...and ontologies?

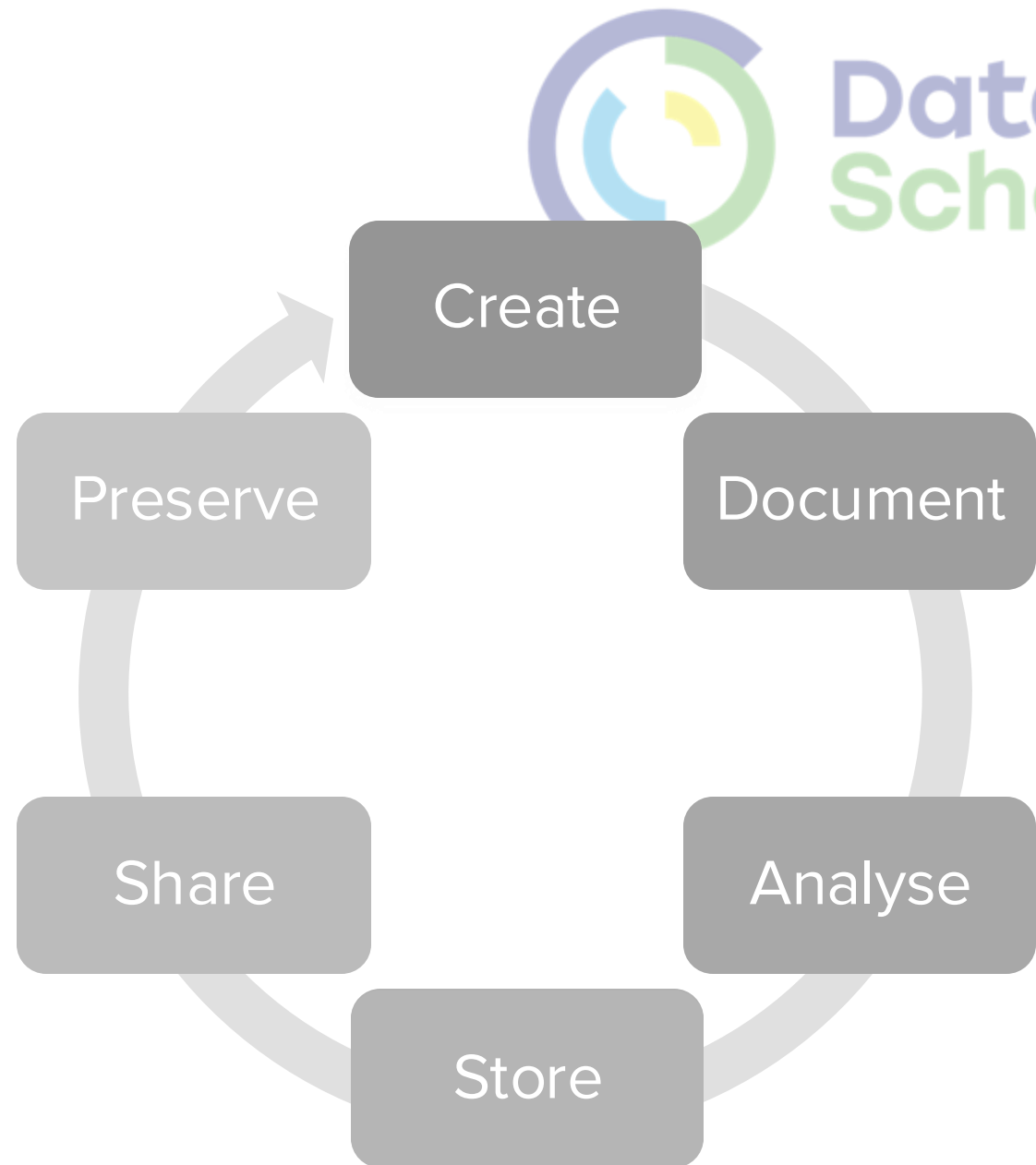
- e.g. SNOMED CT (clinical terms) or MeSH
 - Defined terms + taxonomy.
- Useful for selecting keywords to tag datasets.
- You can find many ontologies in the BARTOC catalogue and elsewhere.



Where will you store the data?

- Your own device (laptop, flash drive, server etc.)
 - And if you lose it? Or it breaks?
- Departmental drives or university servers.
- “Cloud” storage.
- Do they care as much about your data?

The decision will be based on how sensitive your data are, how robust you need the storage to be, and who needs access to the data and when.



Collaborative platforms e.g. OSF

Open platform for sharing data in active phase with fellow researchers and others in secure environment.



Open Science Framework
A scholarly commons to connect the entire research cycle

The banner features a central graphic of eight white circles arranged in a ring, each containing a blue dot, connected by thin lines. Below the banner, a list of features is presented with icons and text:

- Structured projects**
Keep all your files, data, and protocols in **one centralized location**. No more trawling emails to find files or scrambling to recover from lost data. **SECURE CLOUD**
- Control access**
You control which parts of your project are **public or private** making it easy to collaborate with the worldwide community or just your team. **PROJECT-LEVEL PERMISSIONS**
- Respect for your workflow**
Connect your favorite **third party services** directly to the Open Science Framework. **3RD PARTY INTEGRATIONS**

<https://osf.io>

Third-party tools for collaboration

Dropbox, Google Drive, OneDrive and other cloud services

- Commercial
- Who owns your data?



ownCloud

- Open source product with Dropbox-like functionality.
- Used by many universities and service providers to offer 'approved' solution.



<https://owncloud.org>

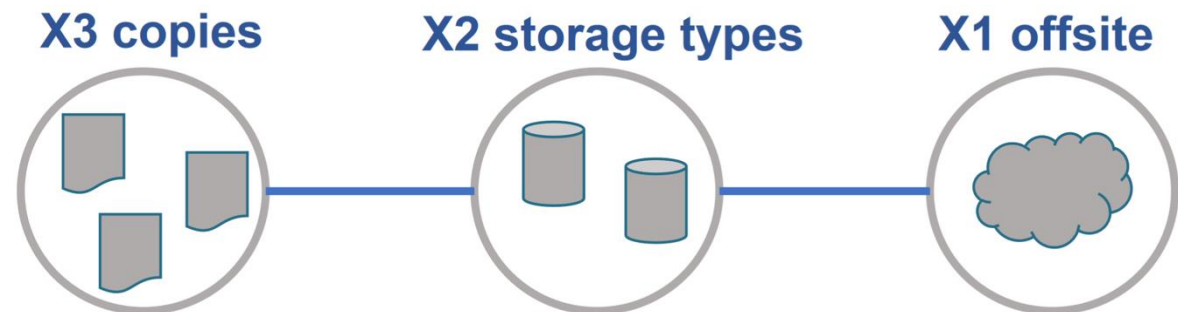
Backup and preservation – not the same thing!

Backups

- Used to take periodic snapshots of data in case the current version is destroyed or lost.
- Backups are copies of files stored for short or near-long-term.
- Often performed on a somewhat frequent schedule.

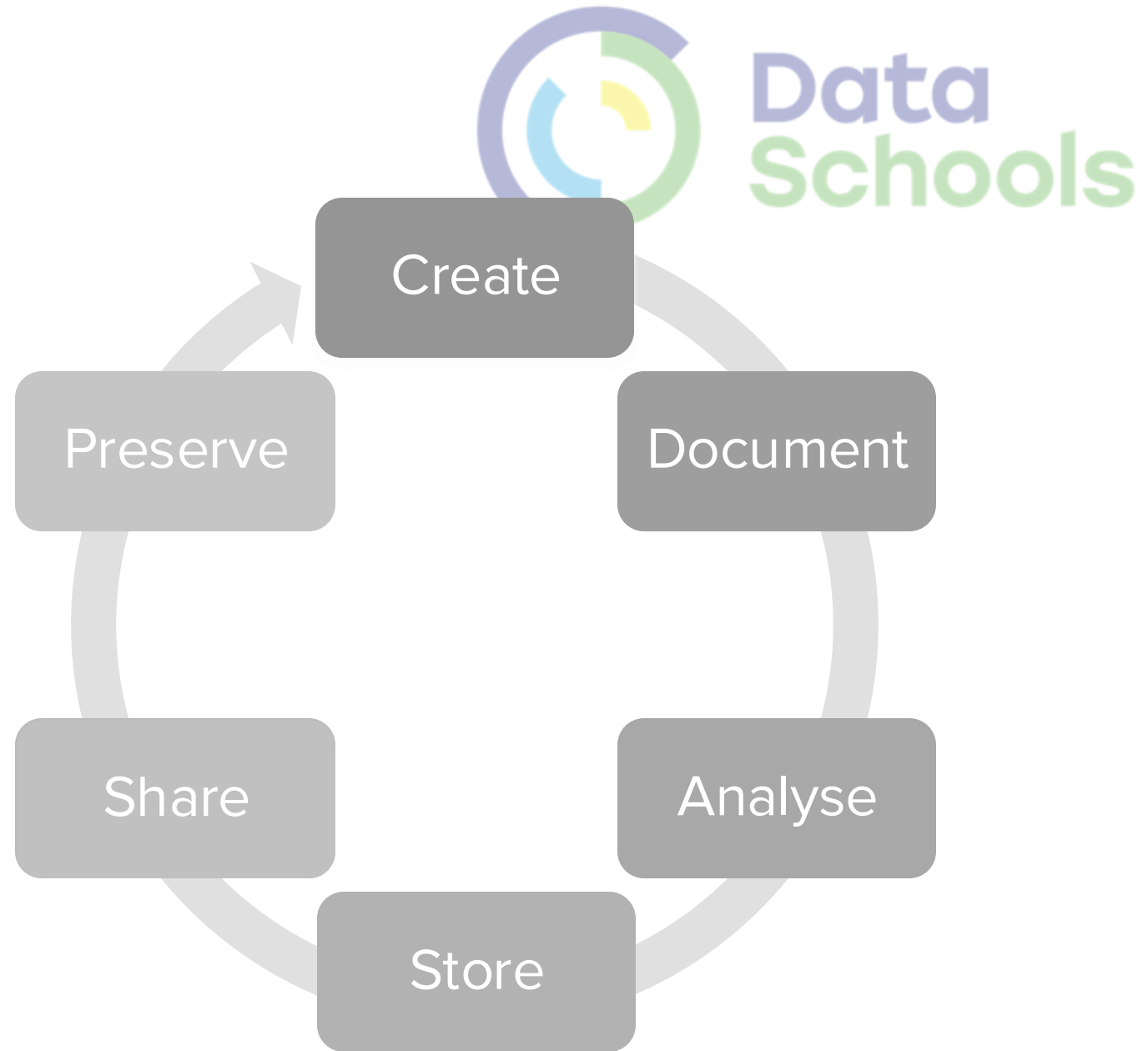
Archiving

- Used to preserve data for historical reference or potentially during disasters.
- Archives are usually the final version, stored for long-term, and generally not copied over.
- Often performed at the end of a project or during major milestones.

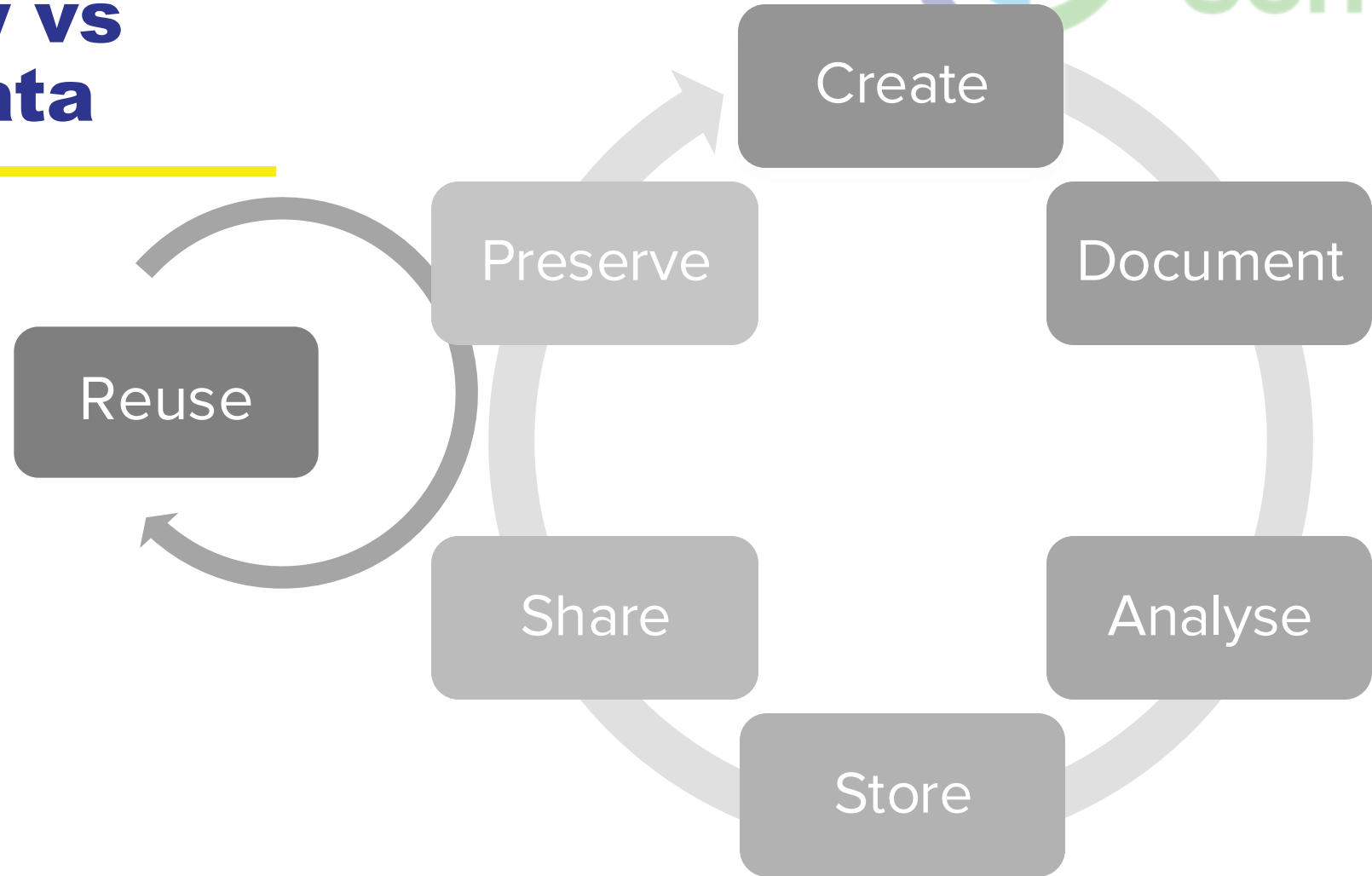


How will you allow others to use your data?

Apply licences to disambiguate reuse restrictions.
















Secondary vs primary data





License research data openly


- For research data, the most common licence that is used is Creative Commons.
- For more detailed explanations, see the descriptions on the [Creative Commons website](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/).
- See also [GNU licences](https://www.gnu.org/licenses/) for software and [ODbL](https://opendatacommons.org/licenses/) for repos.


CREATIVE COMMONS LICENSES		 COPY & PUBLISH	 ATTRIBUTION REQUIRED	 COMMERCIAL USE	 MODIFY & ADAPT	 CHANGE LICENSE
	PUBLIC DOMAIN	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
	CC BY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	CC BY-SA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
	CC BY-ND	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
	CC BY-NC	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
	CC BY-NC-SA	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
	CC BY-NC-ND	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗

 You can redistribute (copy, publish, display, communicate, etc.)

 You have to attribute the original work

 You can use the work commercially

 You can modify and adapt the original work

 You can choose license type for your adaptations of the work.



Tools to decide which license to choose

Choose a license for your data

Check other researchers' license to
know how to re-use their work

<https://chooser-beta.creativecommons.org/>

SELECT YOUR LICENSE

Follow the steps to select the appropriate license for your work.

1 Do you know which license you need?

- ☐ Yes. I know which license I need.
- ☐ No. I need help selecting a license.

NEXT STEP

2 Attribution

3 Commercial Use

4 Derivative Works

5 Sharing Requirements

6 Attribution Details



Deposit in a data repository

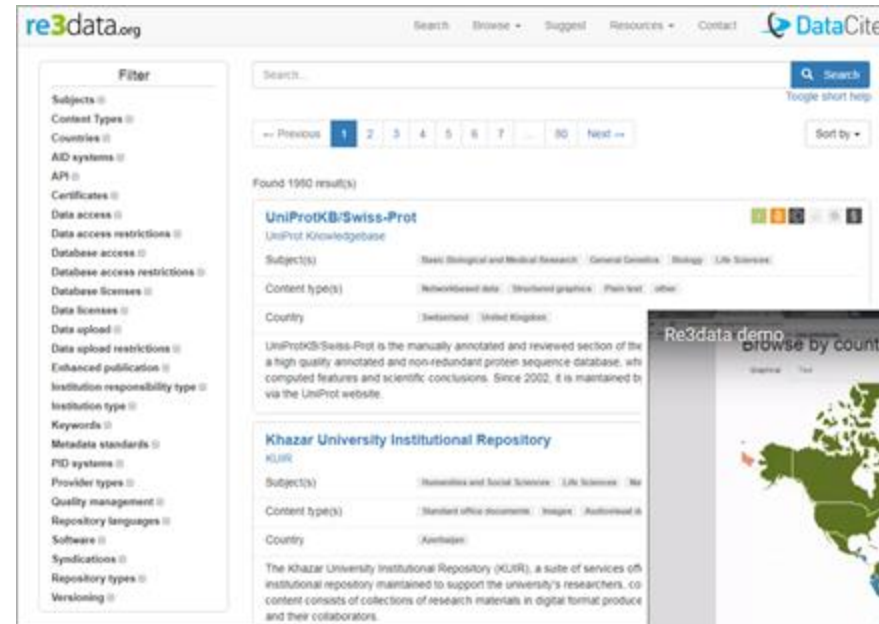
Long-term
preservation of data.



Deposit in a data repository

The Re3data catalogue can be searched to find a home for data.

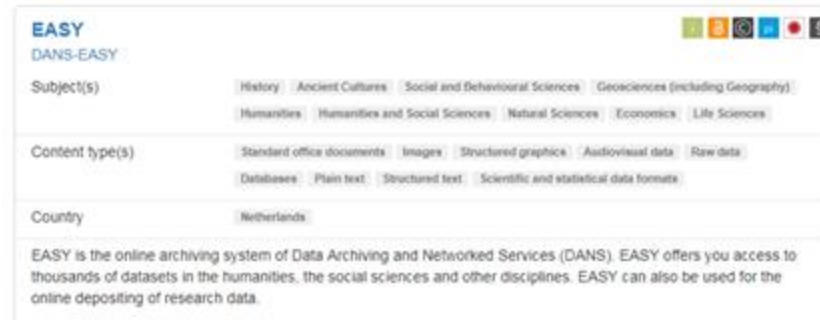
www.fosteropenscience.eu/content/re3data-demo



www.re3data.org

Criteria for selecting a repository

- Better to use a domain specific repository if available.
- Check they match particular data needs e.g. formats accepted, mixture of Open and Restricted Access.
- Do they assign a persistent and globally unique identifier for sustainable citations and to links back to particular researchers and grants?
- Look for certification as a *'Trustworthy Digital Repository'* with an explicit ambition to keep the data available in long term.



Icons to note open access, licences, PIDs, certificates...

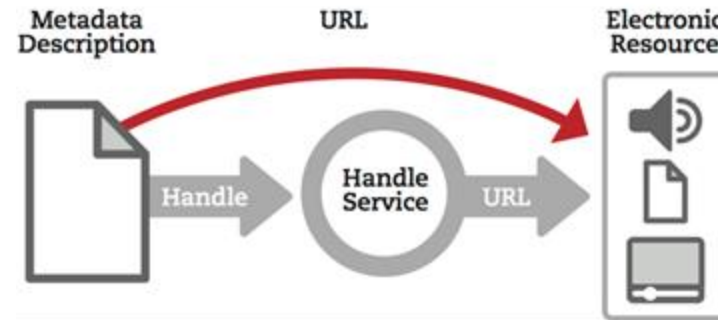
www.re3data.org



What is a Persistent Identifier (PID)?

a long-lasting reference to a document, file or other object

- PIDs come in various forms e.g. ORCID, DOI, ISBN...
- Typically they're actionable i.e. type it into web browser to access.
- Many repositories will assign them on deposit.



www.re3data.org

Sensitive data

- Personal data (and metadata)
- Confidential data (trade secrets, investigations,...)
- Security data (passwords, financial information, national safety, military,...)
- Data protected by Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)
- Location Data/GPS/mobile phones
- Endangered (plant or animal) species, where their survival is dependent on the protection of their location data (biodiversity community)
- Combination of different datasets could lead to sensitive data?

- racial or ethnic origin
 - political opinions
 - religious or philosophical beliefs
 - trade union membership
 - genetic data, biometric data
 - physical or mental health
 - sex life or sexual orientation
 - criminal offences
-

Sensitive data best practices

- Access controls
passwords, firewall (viruses, hacking)
 - Anonymisation
removing or aggregating variables or reducing the precision or detailed textual meaning of a variable
 - Encryption
encoded digital information
 - Share in a secure place
no cloud drives
 - Store in an isolated machine
server not connected to Internet
 - Secure disposal
no data recovery is possible (uninstall)
-

Exercise - 25 min (+ 20 min discussion)



Data
Schools

Imagine you are a biologist who is doing microscopy experiments imaging tissue specimens. The data captured by the imaging is 100s of GB in size and is then cleaned and analysed to produce derivatives of the original captured data. Some of these derivatives may eventually be published. In preparation for publication, the data will also be segmented and annotated using standard ontologies. Documentation will also include metadata standards that will sufficiently describe the experimental procedure to allow reproducibility. Publication of the data is mandatory due to funder policy and must be deposited in a repository within 3 years of data production and must use an open licence without restrictions on reuse.

Now...please split into groups and see if you can answer the following questions using the tools and guidelines that have been described:

- What **file format(s)** should data be captured/preserved in?
- Which **metadata standard(s)** should be used?
- What **ontology(ies)** should be used?
- Which **licence(s)** should be used?
- Which **repository** would be the best fit for these data?
- Do you foresee any problems with the data?
- (Hint: not all the questions can be answered definitively! – but why not?)



Data
Schools

Data sharing and openness

Give us back our crown jewels

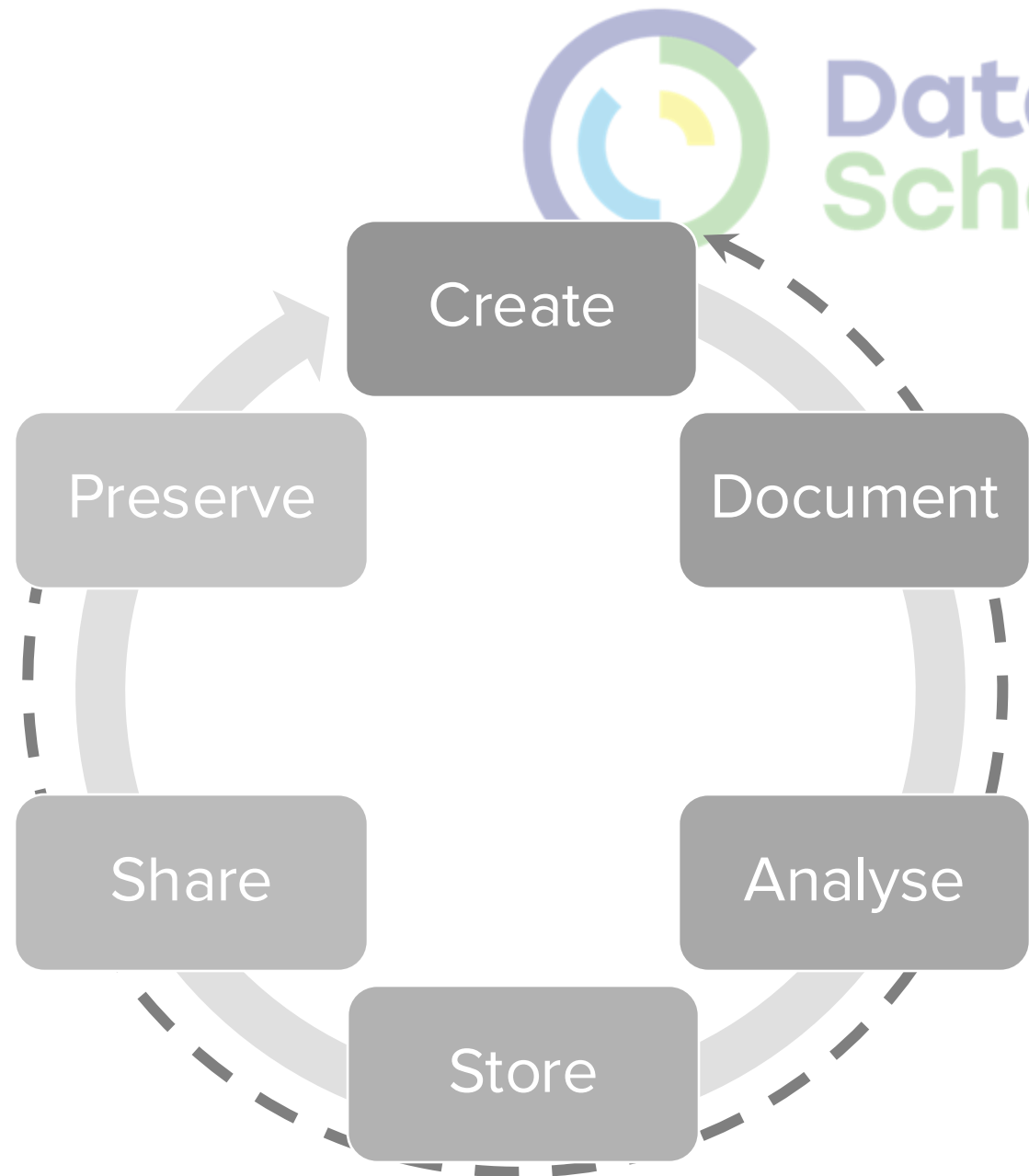
Our taxes fund the collection of public data - yet we pay again to access it. Make the data freely available to stimulate innovation, argue Charles Arthur and Michael Cross

[Charles Arthur](#) and [Michael Cross](#)
The Guardian, Thursday 9 March 2006
[Article history](#)



And open research...

- Change the typical lifecycle.
- Publish earlier and release more.
- Papers + Data + Methods + Code...
- Support reproducibility.





Why make data available?

"It was **never** acceptable to publish papers without making data available."

- Ewan Birney

#OpenData
#OpenScience



Original image via doi:10.1038/461145a. "Research cannot flourish if data are not preserved and made accessible. Data management should be woven into every course in science." - *Nature* 461, 145

The Old Weather Project

Data for research, not from research

[illegible]

Increased use and economic benefit



The case of NASA Landsat satellite imagery of the Earth's surface

Up to 2008	Since 2009
------------	------------

- Sold through the US Geological Survey for US\$600 per scene
- Sales of 19,000 scenes per year
- Annual revenue of \$11.4 million



- Freely available over the internet.
- Google Earth now uses the images.
- Transmission of 2,100,000 scenes per year.
- Estimated to have created value for the environmental management industry of \$935 million, with direct benefit of more than \$100 million per year to the US economy.
- Has stimulated the development of applications from a large number of companies worldwide.
- <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=83394&src=ve>

Validation of results

“It was a mistake in a spreadsheet that could have been easily overlooked: a few rows left out of an equation to average the values in a column.

The spreadsheet was used to draw the conclusion of an influential 2010 economics paper: that public debt of more than 90% of GDP slows down growth. This conclusion was later cited by the International Monetary Fund and the UK Treasury to justify programmes of austerity that have arguably led to riots, poverty and lost jobs.”

The error that could subvert George Osborne's austerity programme

The theories on which the chancellor based his cuts policies have been shown to be based on an embarrassing mistake

Charles Arthur and Phillip Inman

The Guardian, Thursday 18 April 2013 21.10 BST



George Osborne says that Ken Rogoff, the man whose economic error has been uncovered, has strongly influenced his thinking. Photograph: Stefan Wermuth/PA

Cut down on academic fraud

Stapel – 55 publications –
“fictitious data”



nature International weekly journal of science

nature news home | news archive | specials | opinion | features | news blog | nature journal

Published online 1 November 2011 | Nature **479**, 15 (2011) | doi:10.1038/479015a
Updated online: 1 November 2011
Updated online: 8 December 2011

News

Report finds massive fraud at Dutch universities

Investigation claims dozens of social-psychology papers contain faked data.

Even Callaway

When colleagues called the work of Dutch psychologist Diederik Stapel too good to be true, they meant it as a compliment. But a preliminary investigative report (go.nature.com/tqmp5c) released on 31 October gives literal meaning to the phrase, detailing years of data manipulation and blatant fabrication by the prominent Tilburg University researcher.

"We have some 30 papers in peer-reviewed journals where we are actually sure that they are fake, and there are more to come," says Pim Levelt, chair of the committee that investigated Stapel's work at the university.

Stapel's eye-catching studies on aspects of social behaviour such as power and stereotyping garnered wide press coverage. For example, in a recent *Science* paper (which the investigation has not identified as fraudulent), Stapel reported that untidy environments encouraged discrimination (*Science* **332**, 251–253; 2011).


Dutch psychologist Diederik Stapel.
Persbureau van Eindhoven

Related stories

- Seven days: 9–15 September 2011
14 September 2011
- Chaos promotes stereotyping
07 April 2011

Naturejobs

Tenure-Track Faculty Positions (Assistant / Associate / Full Professor) Yale University, Department of Genetics
Yale University School of Medicine

Assistant Professor
Harvard Medical School

- More science jobs
- Post a job for free

Resources

- PDF Format
- Send to a Friend
- Reprints & Permissions
- RSS Feeds

external links

- Tilburg University
- Interim investigation report

Stories by subject

- Brain and behaviour
- Lab life

Stories by keywords

- Diederik Stapel
- Tilburg University
- Academic fraud
- Retractions
- Social psychology

This article elsewhere

Blogs linking to this article

- Add to Digg
- Add to Facebook
- Add to Newsvine
- Add to Delicious
- Add to Twitter

Sharing leads to breakthroughs!

...and increases the speed of discovery

“It was unbelievable. Its not science the way most of us have practiced in our careers. But we all realised that we would never get biomarkers unless all of us parked our egos and intellectual property noses outside the door and agreed that all of our data would be public immediately.”

Dr John Trojanowski, University of Pennsylvania

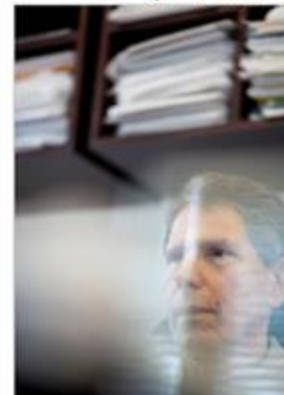
http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/13/health/research/13alzheimer.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

Sharing of Data Leads to Progress on Alzheimer's

By GINA KOLATA
Published: August 12, 2010

In 2003, a group of scientists and executives from the [National Institutes of Health](#), the [Food and Drug Administration](#), the drug and medical-imaging industries, universities and nonprofit groups joined in a project that experts say had no precedent: a collaborative effort to find the biological markers that show the progression of [Alzheimer's disease](#) in the human brain.

[Enlarge This Image](#)



Now, the effort is bearing fruit with a wealth of recent scientific papers on the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's using methods like PET scans and tests of spinal fluid. More than 100 studies are under way to test drugs that might slow or stop the disease.

And the collaboration is already serving as a model for similar efforts against [Parkinson's disease](#). A \$40 million project to look for biomarkers for Parkinson's, sponsored by the [Michael J. Fox Foundation](#), plans to enroll 600 study subjects in the United States and Europe.

How do you share data effectively?

- Use appropriate repositories, this catalogue is a good place to start:
<http://www.re3data.org>
- Document and describe it enough for others to understand, use and cite:
<http://www.dcc.ac.uk/resources/how-guides/cite-datasets>
- License it so others can reuse:
www.dcc.ac.uk/resources/how-guides/license-research-data



Data
Schools



Who has heard of this before...?

Findable **A**ccessible **I**nteroperable **R**eusable

- Metadata
- PIDs
- Repositories

- Metadata
- Open file formats and software

- Metadata
- Ontologies
- Repositories

- Metadata
 - Licences
-

European perspective...



What FAIR means: 15 principles

Findable:

- F1.** (meta)data are assigned a globally unique and persistent identifier;
- F2.** data are described with rich metadata;
- F3.** metadata clearly and explicitly include the identifier of the data it describes;
- F4.** (meta)data are registered or indexed in a searchable resource;

Interoperable:

- I1.** (meta)data use a formal, accessible, shared, and broadly applicable language for knowledge representation.
- I2.** (meta)data use vocabularies that follow FAIR principles;
- I3.** (meta)data include qualified references to other (meta)data;

Accessible:

- A1.** (meta)data are retrievable by their identifier using a standardized communications protocol;
 - A1.1** the protocol is open, free, and universally implementable;
 - A1.2.** the protocol allows for an authentication and authorization procedure, where necessary;
- A2.** metadata are accessible, even when the data are no longer available;

Reusable:

- R1.** meta(data) are richly described with a plurality of accurate and relevant attributes;
 - R1.1.** (meta)data are released with a clear and accessible data usage license;
 - R1.2.** (meta)data are associated with detailed provenance;
 - R1.3.** (meta)data meet domain-relevant community standards;

doi: 10.1038/sdata.2016.18

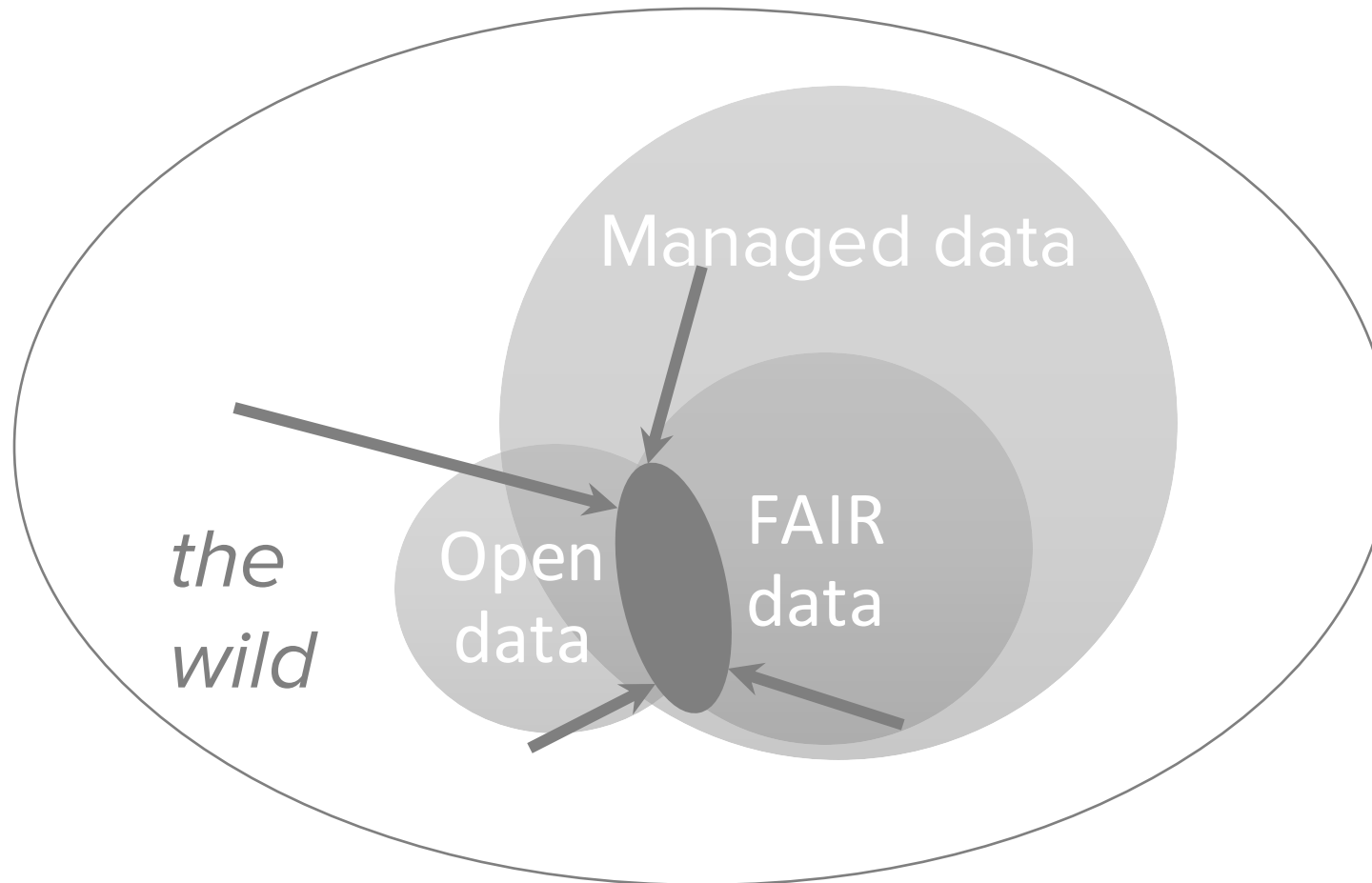
Slide CC-BY by Erik Schultes, Leiden UMC

Comprehensive descriptions can be found at <https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/>

Common misconceptions

- FAIR data does not have to be open.
 - The principles do not specify particular technologies or implementations e.g. semantic web.
 - FAIR is not a standard to be followed or strict criteria – it's a spectrum/continuum.
 - It doesn't only apply to the life sciences.
-

Increasing that which is **FAIR & open**



Adapted from [DCC](#).

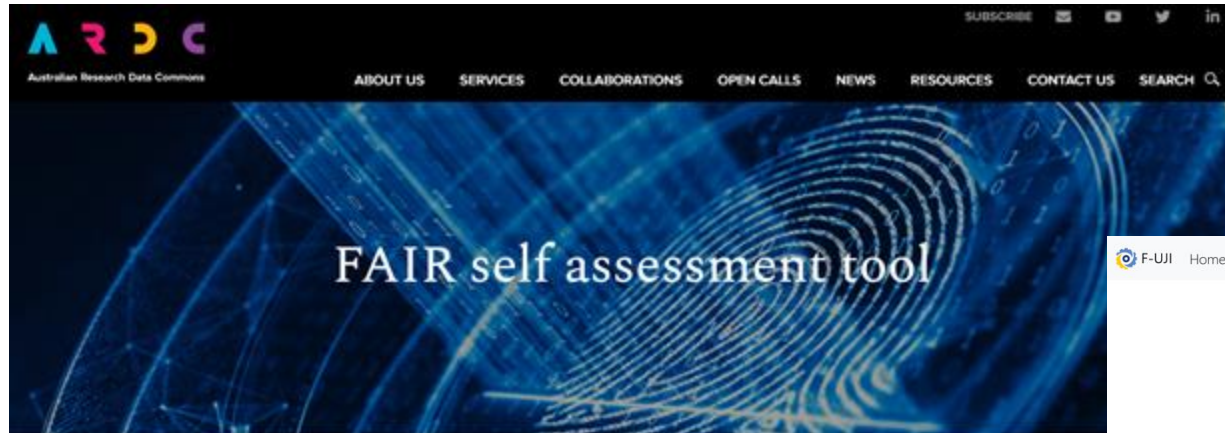
FAIR \neq Open

as open as
possible, as
closed as
necessary



Image: 'Balancing rocks' by Viewminder CC-BY-SA-ND www.flickr.com/photos/light_seeker/7780857224

Check how FAIR is your data



Welcome to the Australian Research Data Commons' **FAIR** data self assessment tool. Using this tool you will be able to assess the 'FAIRness' of a dataset and determine how to enhance its FAIRness (where applicable).

You will be asked questions related to the principles underpinning Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR). Once you have answered all the questions in each section you will be given a "green bar" indicator based on your answers in that section, and when all sections are completed, an overall "FAIRness" indicator is provided.



F-UJI Home Assess About Methods Docs Code



F-UJI is a web service to programmatically assess FAIRness of research data objects at the dataset level based on the FAIRsFAIR Data Object Assessment Metrics ∞

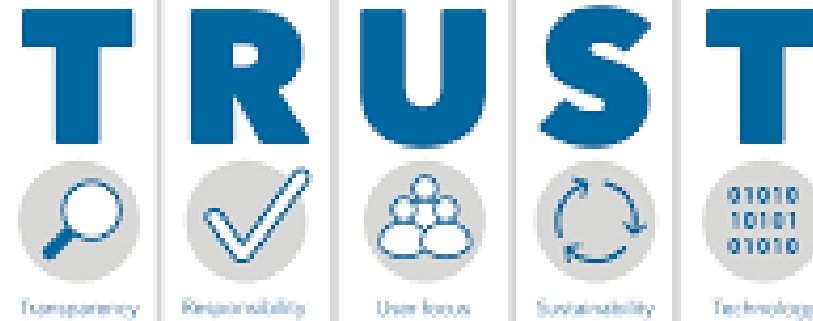
[Click here to assess a dataset](#)

F-UJI was developed by Anusuriya Devaraju & Robert Huber (PANGAEA) under the umbrella of the FAIRsFAIR project.

[About](#) [Feedback](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Legal Notice](#)

<https://ardc.edu.au/resources/working-with-data/fair-data/fair-self-assessment-tool/>
<https://www.f-uji.net/>

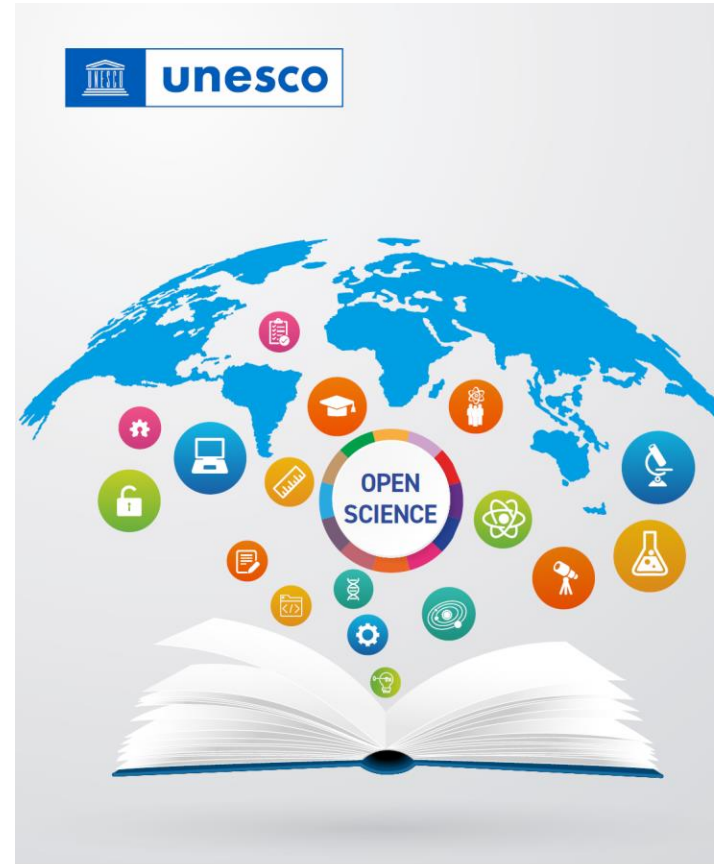
FAIR isn't the only consideration...



New(ish) frontiers...

- Collaboration
- Reproducibility
- Transparency
- Trust

“Open science practices are on the rise but access to, participation in and sharing of the benefits from open science are uneven across the world.”



**UNESCO Recommendation
on Open Science**



Open Science Outlook 1

Status and trends around the world



New(ish) frontiers...

- Support is not making its way to those who need it**
 Almost three-quarters of respondents had never received support with making their data openly available.
- One size does not fit all**
 Variations in responses from different subject expertise and geographies highlight a need for a more nuanced approach to research data management support globally.
- Challenging stereotypes**
 Are later career academics really opposed to progress? The results of the 2023 survey indicate that career stage is not a significant factor in open data awareness or support levels.
- Credit is an ongoing issue**
 For eight years running, our survey has revealed a recurring concern among researchers: the perception that they don't receive sufficient recognition for openly sharing their data.
- AI awareness hasn't translated to action**
 For the first time, this year we asked survey respondents to indicate if they were using ChatGPT or similar AI tools for data collection, processing and metadata creation.

A Digital Science Report

The State of Open Data

The longest-running longitudinal survey

With opening remarks from Springer Nature's CPO, Harriet
 Authors Mark Hahnel, Graham Smith, Niki Scaplehorn,



DIGITAL science

SPRINGER NATURE

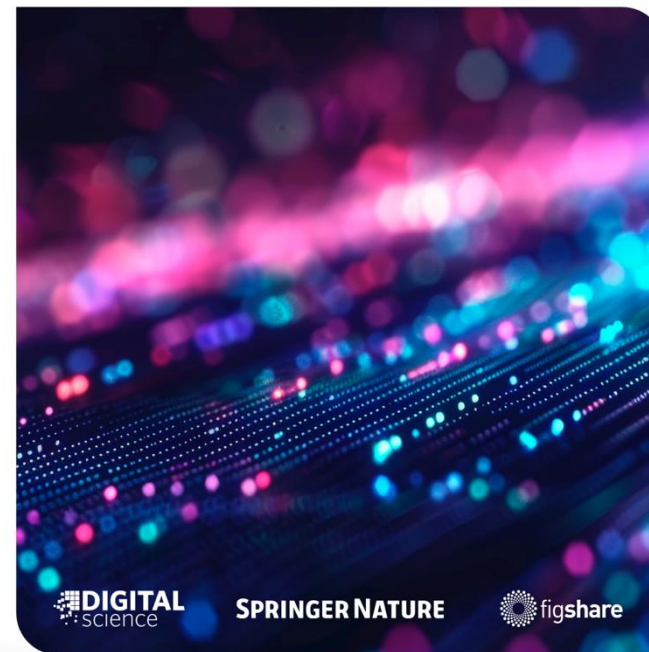
The State of Open Data 2024: Special Report

December 2024

Bridging policy and practice in data sharing

An investigation into what is driving successful data sharing in repositories

Mark Hahnel, Digital Science, Graham Smith, Springer Nature, Ann Campbell, Digital Science



DIGITAL science

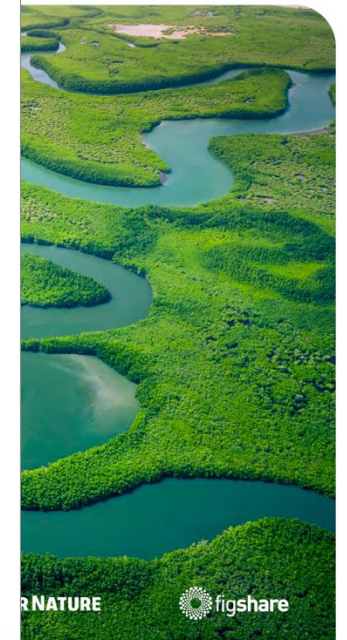
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April 2024

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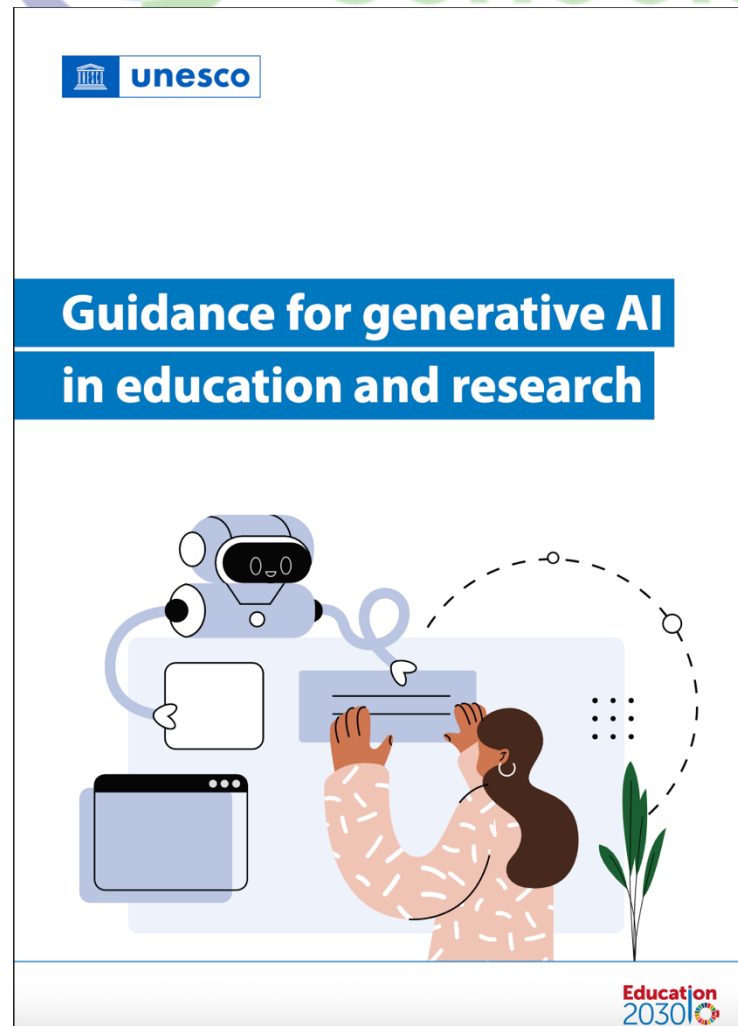
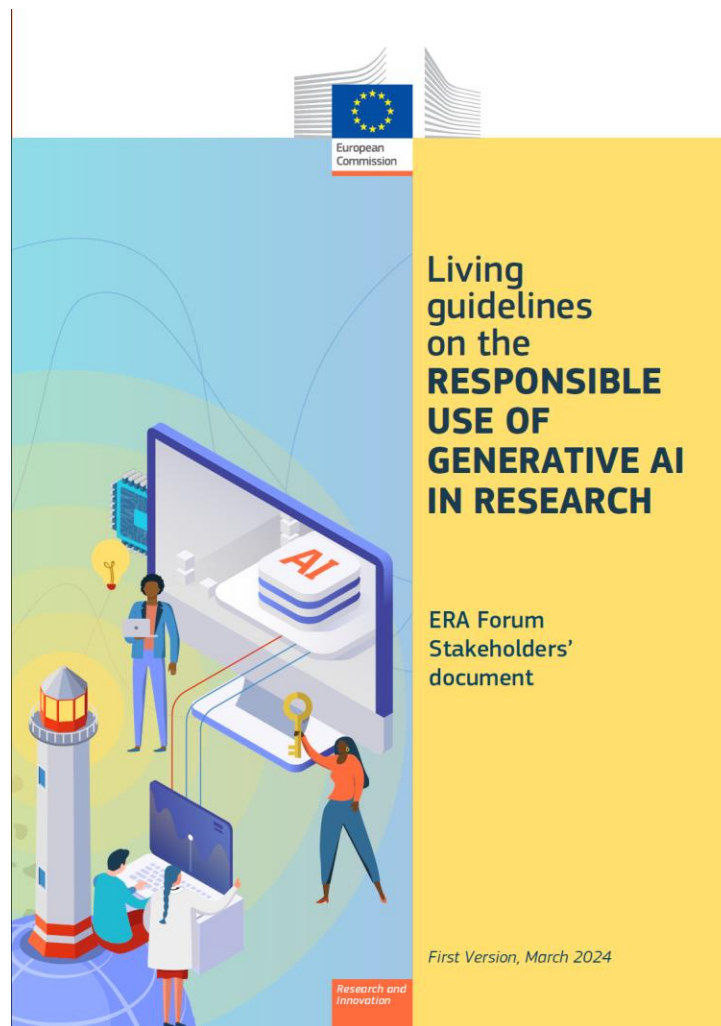
ces in
open data



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figshare

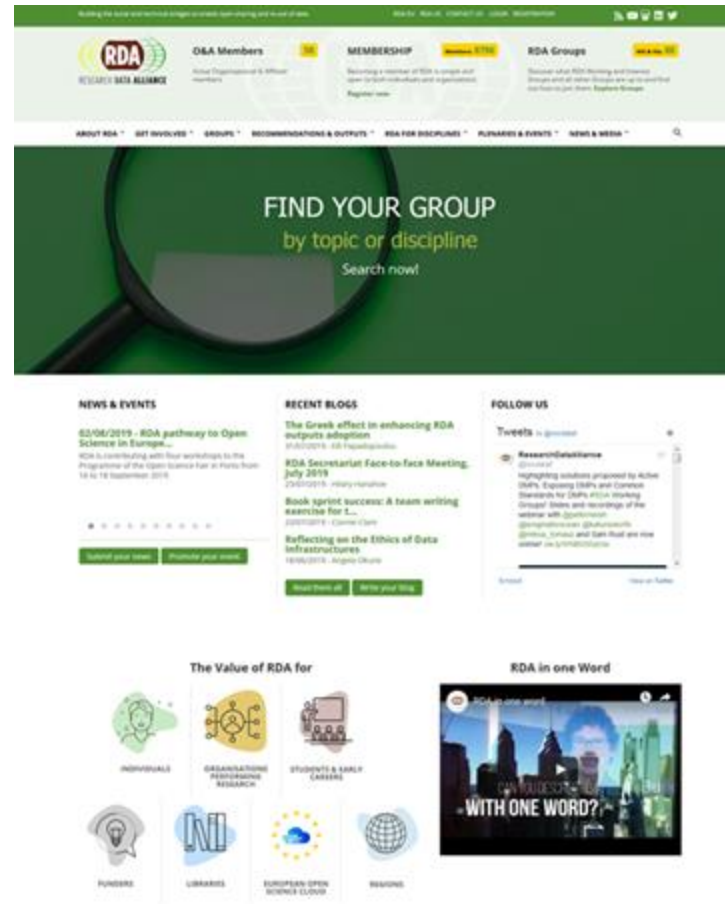
New(ish) frontiers...



FOSTER Open Science

What is Open Science?	Best Practice in Open Research	Open Access Publishing	Open Peer Review	Sharing Preprints
				
Data Protection & Ethics	Open Source Software & Workflows	Managing & Sharing Research Data	Open Science & Innovation	Open Licensing
				

Research Data Alliance



<https://www.rd-alliance.org>



Data
Schools

Data Management Plans

Bringing together what you've learnt

- Make informed decisions to anticipate and avoid problems.
- Avoid duplication, data loss and security breaches.
- Develop procedures early on for consistency.
- Ensure data are accurate, complete, reliable and secure.
- Save time and effort to make your life easier!
- Useful both to researchers and institutions



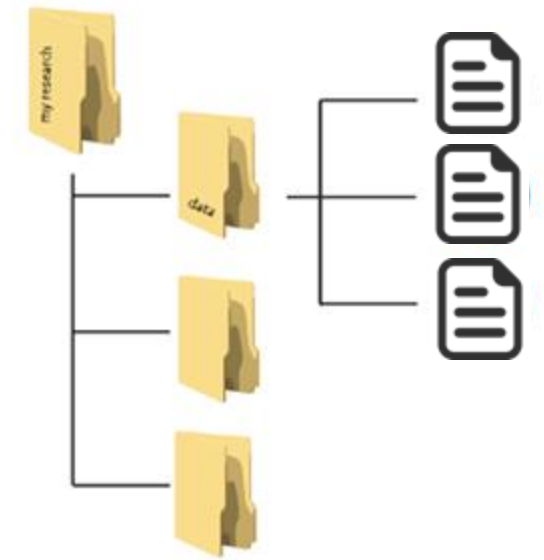
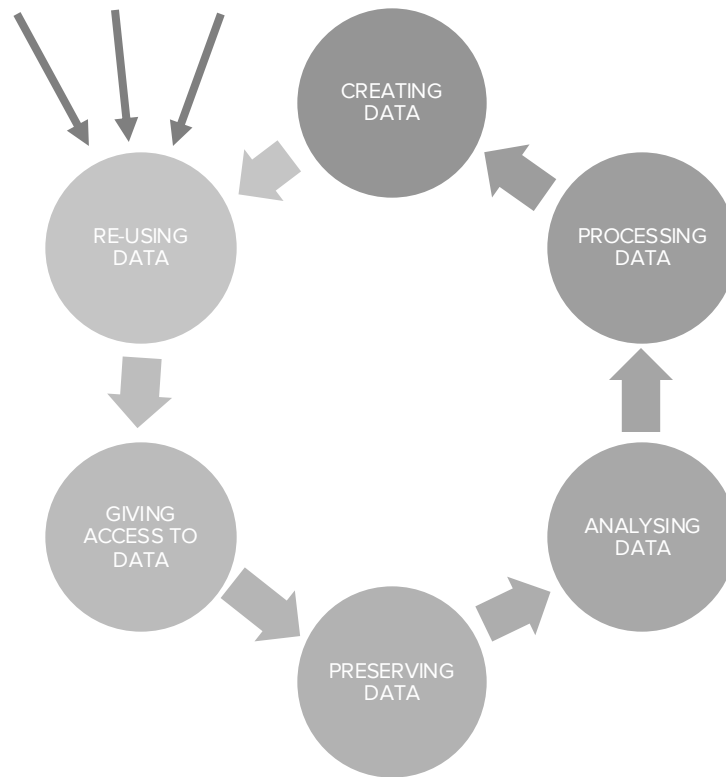
Schiemeier, Q. "Data management made simple" *Nature* 555, 403-405 (2018).
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-03071-1>
doi: 10.1038/d41586-018-03071-1

Common themes in DMPs

1. Description of data to be collected / created (i.e. content, type, format, volume...).
 2. Standards/methodologies for data collection & management.
 3. Ethics and Intellectual Property (highlight any restrictions on data sharing e.g. embargoes, confidentiality).
 4. Plans for data sharing and access (i.e. how, when, to whom).
 5. Strategy for long-term preservation.
-

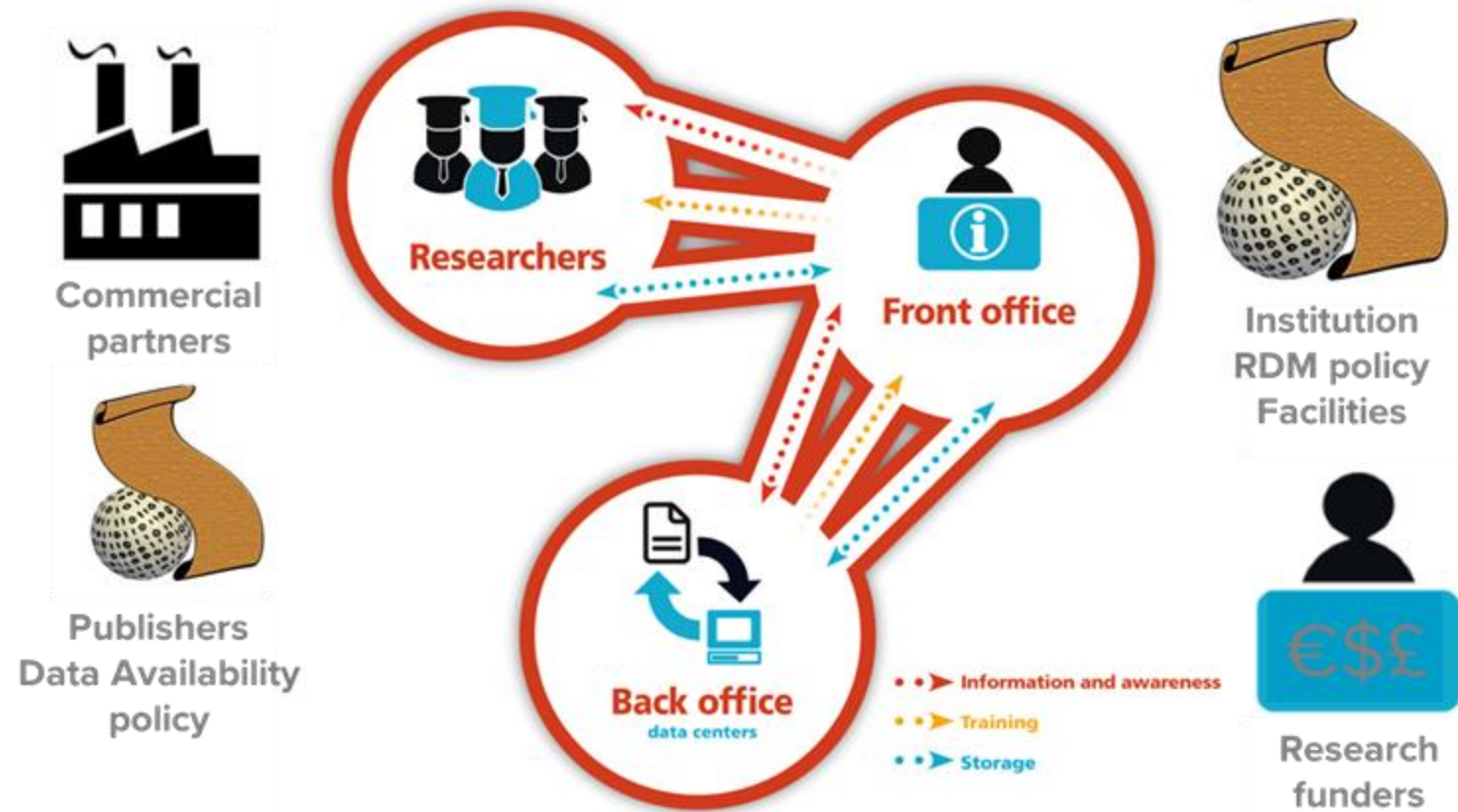
Planning trick 1: think backwards

What data organisation would a re-user like?



Design how you will organise data in the project (folder structure, file naming convention, ...)

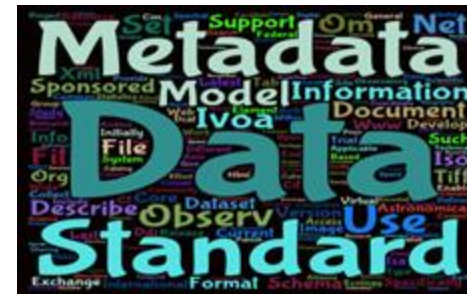
Planning trick 2: include RDM stakeholders



Planning trick 3: ground your plan in reality



Base plans on available skills, support and good practice for the field – show it's feasible to implement.



What makes a good DMP?

- Clear, detailed information that is relevant to the science:
 - adopting recognised standards.
 - practices in line with norms for that field.
 - use of support services e.g. university storage, subject repositories...
 - Realistic approach that is feasible to implement.
 - Evidence of consultation and seeking advice.
 - Proper justification of restrictions and costs.
 - **Have you taken time to reflect on what to do?**
-

Is the information specific enough?



Data
Schools

“we will use suitable formats to ensure that our data can be preserved and sustained over the long term”

- Which standards? Name them!
 - Show that you know which are suitable.
 - Does your chosen repository have preferences?
-

Are decisions justified?

“data will be made available upon request to bona fide medieval historians”

- Why is it restricted?
 - Could other communities not reuse the data?
 - Will the research team be around to handle access requests in the future?
-

A better response...

“We will provide MP3 audio files for online dissemination. While this is not an open format, it is well-established and the most widely supported. High-resolution WAV files will be used for the archival master recordings.”

- Be clear, specific and detailed.
 - Justify decisions.
-

Example plans

- Plans from several funders and disciplines via DCC
www.dcc.ac.uk/resources/data-management-plans/guidance-examples
 - Scientific DMPs submitted to the NSF (USA) provided by DataOne
<https://www.dataone.org/data-management-planning>
 - DMPs published in RIO journal
http://riojournal.com/browse_user_collection_documents.php?collection_id=3&journal_id=17
 - Share yours! - www.dcc.ac.uk/share-DMPs
-

DCC Checklist for a DMP

- The DCC assessed existing funder requirements, DMP templates and other best practice to see what should be included in plans. This was synthesised down into common themes and questions.
- 13 questions on what's asked across the board.
- Prompts/pointers to help researchers get started.
- Guidance on how to answer.



Thank you!

Questions?

(Please get in
touch!)

