

Managing your research data



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Overview

1. What is research data?
2. Why managing your data can be useful to you and others?
3. Challenges
4. How to organise your data well

What is research data?

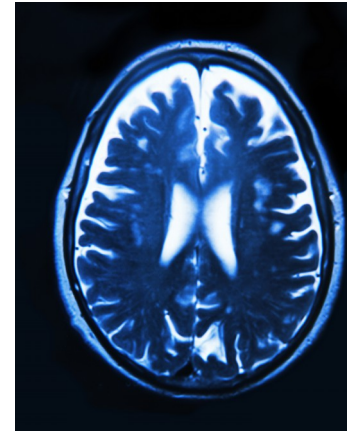
Pieces of information that are descriptive of the research object ... or are the object itself

- ✓ Raw/processed data produced at a research facility
- ✓ Published dataset

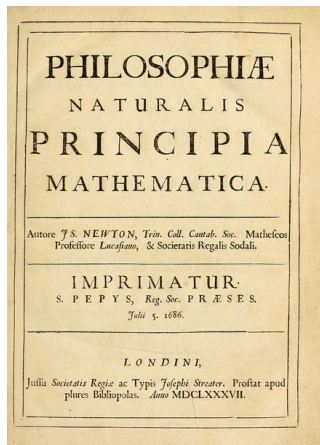
Necessary to validate research findings



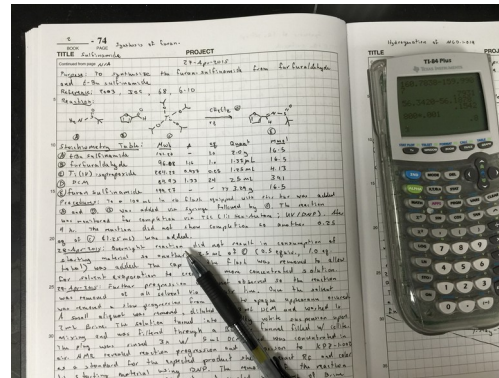
Experimental data



Images



Primary sources



Notebooks and diaries



Questionnaires and surveys



Databases



Email

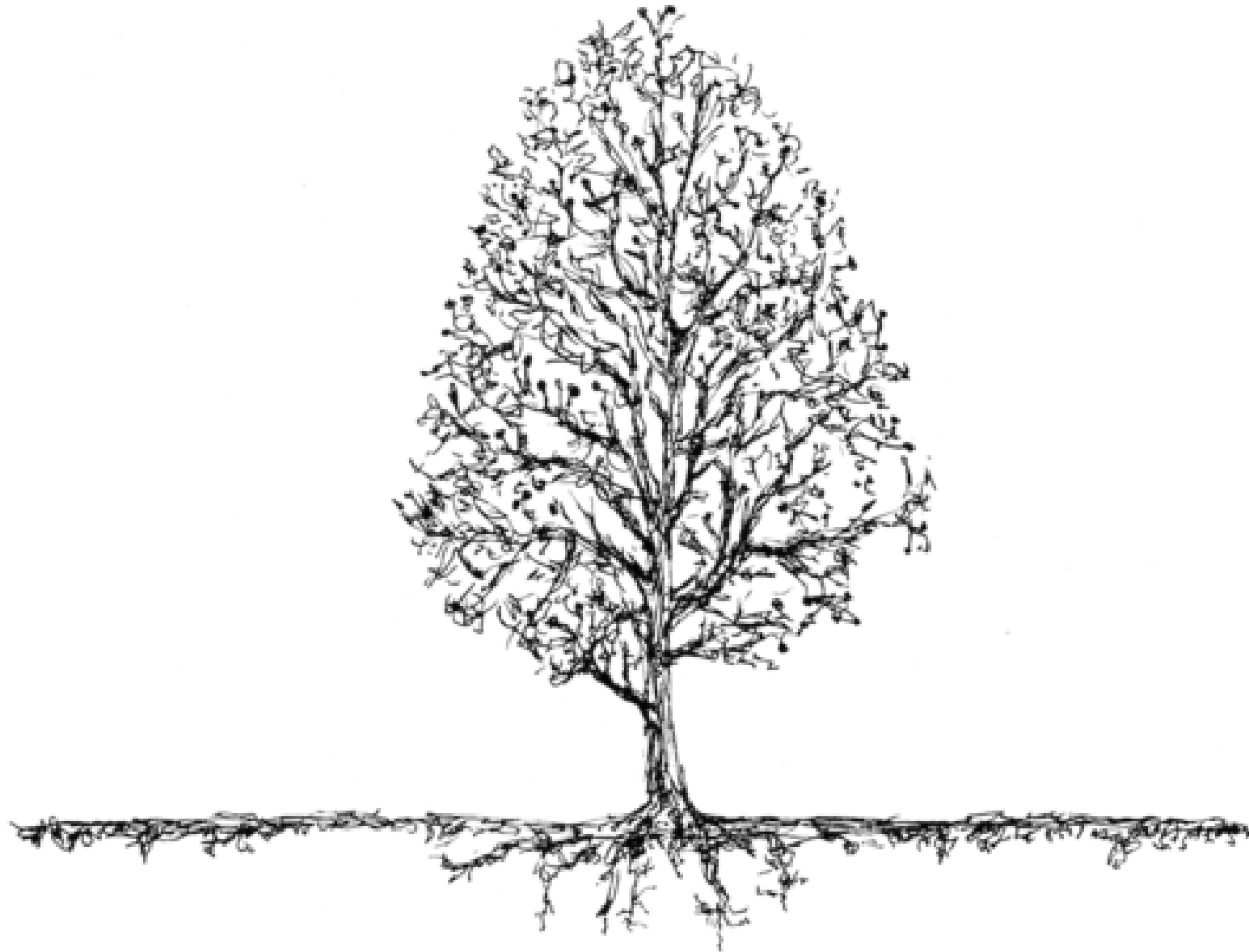


Audio

What is *your* research data?

5 min exchange


Research ...



To avoid data *disasters* ...

What would you do if you lose your data tomorrow?

CASH REWARD
for returning my lost backpack



- Black [AK] Burton Rucksack
- Lost on Friday 15. July at 8 pm in the Panton Arms pub 43, Panton St. Cambridge
- Containing a laptop (white MacBook), a black external hard drive and scientific research documents

The external hard drive is VERY important to me as it contains 5 years of research data which are crucial for my PhD thesis!!!

If you found it, I would be extremely grateful if you could return it to the Panton Arms or contact me on: ~~XXXXXX300XX~~
~~(01455) XXXXX~~ (01455) XXXXX (uk)

Thank you!!

What would you do if you lose your data tomorrow?



Cancer Research UK – University of Manchester – 27 April 2017

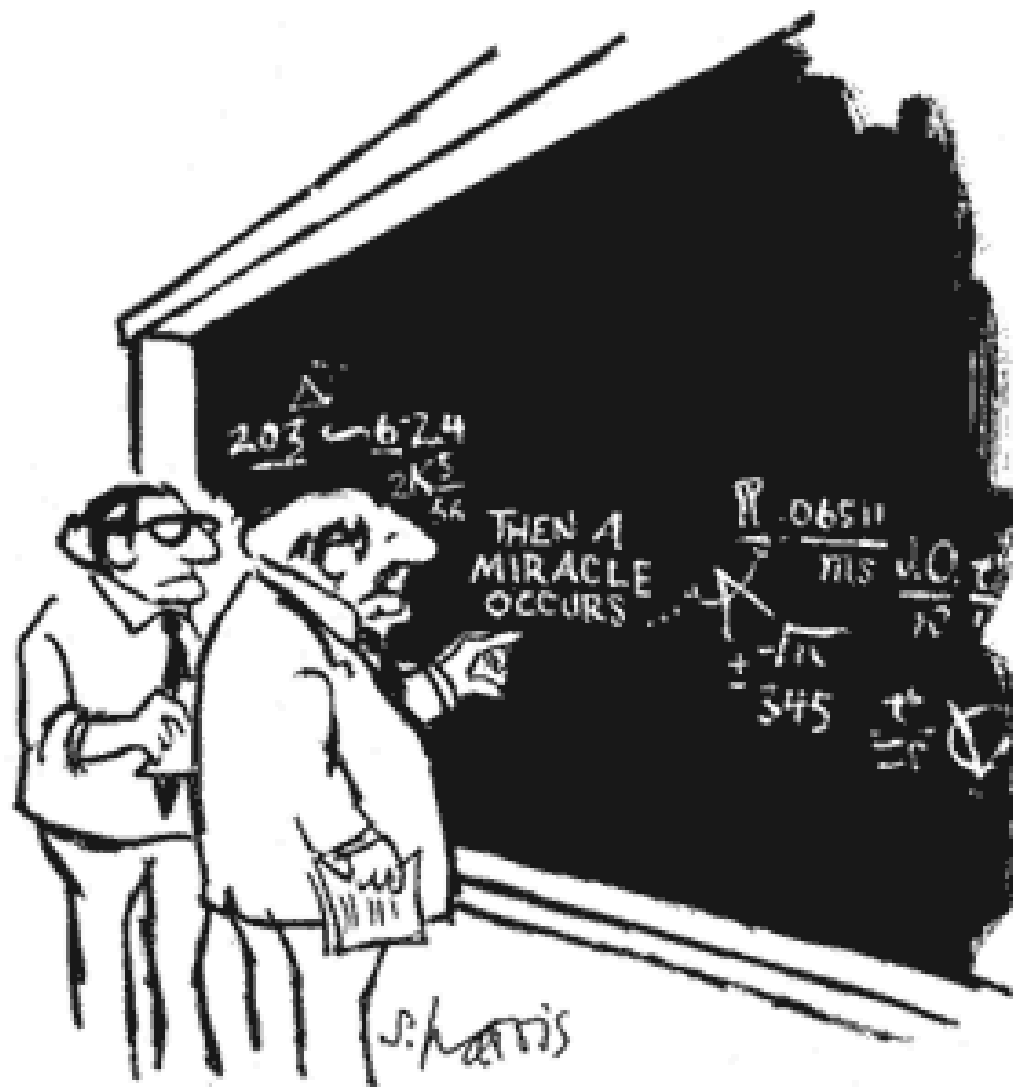
*To allow **continuity** of your work ...*

*“I obtained the data 6 months ago. I am too busy. Of course **I can’t remember** all the details of all my projects after such a long time”*

*“My supervisor said I should continue the project of a previous student, but that student is long gone and **hasn’t saved any data or documentation**”*

Makes it easier to ***write papers*** ...

Build your ***reputation*** ...



"I THINK YOU SHOULD BE MORE
EXPLICIT HERE IN STEP TWO."

*“My data **are spread** over so many hard drives and directories that it would just be too much work to collect them all in one place“*

*“Mind you own business! I **organise my data** the way I want ... “*

*“My field is very competitive and I can’t risk **wasting time** just like that, so I’d rather do **real** research than tidy up my data”*

*“I can always sort out all my data **after submission** anyway“*

When do I need to worry about managing my data?

Always!

- Before you start the project
- Before collecting the data
- While you do the analysis
- When you write/co-author a paper
- When you review a paper

The basics

- Keep your project organised
- Name your files and directories consistently in some informative way
- Start your data at a single backed-up location

How to manage research data?

Create

Organise

Access

Store

Share