

Does closed data suppress innovation?

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, scientists at the Human Genome Project were trying to comprehensively sequence human DNA. Every gene they identified was plugged into a giant repository and made available to other researchers. Partway through the process, a company named Celera decided to start sequencing genes, too. However, Celera protected its data with gene patents. In 2013, Heidi Williams published a paper titled “[Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation: Evidence from the Human Genome](#)” that looked at the impact of this decision.

Read one of the reports assigned by the training leader and answer the questions below. You will be asked to summarize the issue discussed here and report your summary and answers to the question to the rest of the

<https://www.techdirt.com/articles/20130403/09501122561/public-domain-human-genome-project-generated-more-research-more-commercial-activity-than-proprietary-competitor.shtml>

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/gene-patents-suppressed-innovation-150007644--politics.html?ref=gs>

1. What benefit did the human genome project get by placing their data in the public domain?
2. Develop a hypothesis about why Celera’s closed data policy had negative effects.
3. What issues in general can be resolved by having an open data policy?