The culture of open scholarship

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Slides: bit.ly/broman2023

These are slides for a 10-15 min talk on open scholarship for the Big 10 Academic Alliance libraries, in Jan 2023.

Slides (pdf): https://kbroman.org/Talk_Big10Libs/oa2023.pdf

Slides with notes (pdf): https://kbroman.org/Talk_Big10Libs/oa2023_notes.pdf

Source: https://github.com/kbroman/Talk_Big10Libs

open access

open educational resources

open source

open science

In thinking about Open Scholarship, I'm generally thinking of four things: open access publications, open educational resources, open source software, and open science (by which I mean open data, methods, and materials).

I'm going to focus mostly on Open Access publications, and on academic scientists.

Concerns in the humanities can be quite different, and I'm going to focus on what I know best, which is the situation in science.

About me

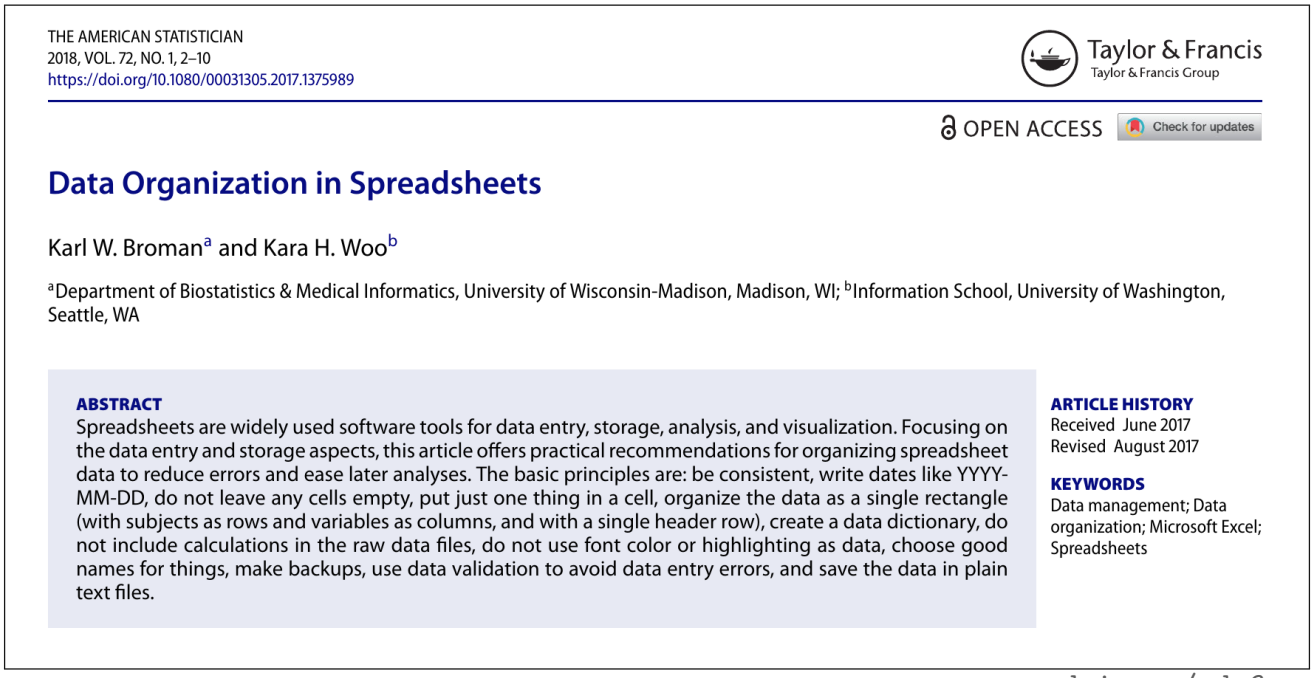
- Applied statistician working in genetics
- Co-author on 170 papers and 1 book
- Reviewer for 90 different journals
- Formerly
  - Associate Editor and Senior Editor at *Genetics*
  - Associate Editor at *Biostatistics*
  - Associate Editor at *Journal of the Americal Statistical Association*
  - Academic Editor at *PeerJ*
  - Editorial Board member of *BMC Biology*

`kbroman.org/broman_cv.pdf`

I thought I should say a bit about my experience with the publication process.

My research spans genetics and statistics, but the majority of my publications are in the genetics or biology literature; I only have a couple of papers in statistics journals.

I've reviewed for a lot of different journals, and I spent a decade as an editor for the society journal, Genetics.



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Data Organization in Spreadsheets

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ABSTRACT
Spreadsheets are widely used software tools for data entry, storage, analysis, and visualization. Focusing on the data entry and storage aspects, this article offers practical recommendations for organizing spreadsheet data to reduce errors and ease later analyses. The basic principles are: be consistent, write dates like YYYY-MM-DD, do not leave any cells empty, put just one thing in a cell, organize the data as a single rectangle (with subjects as rows and variables as columns, and with a single header row), create a data dictionary, do not include calculations in the raw data files, do not use font color or highlighting as data, choose good names for things, make backups, use data validation to avoid data entry errors, and save the data in plain text files.

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KEYWORDS
Data management; Data organization; Microsoft Excel; Spreadsheets

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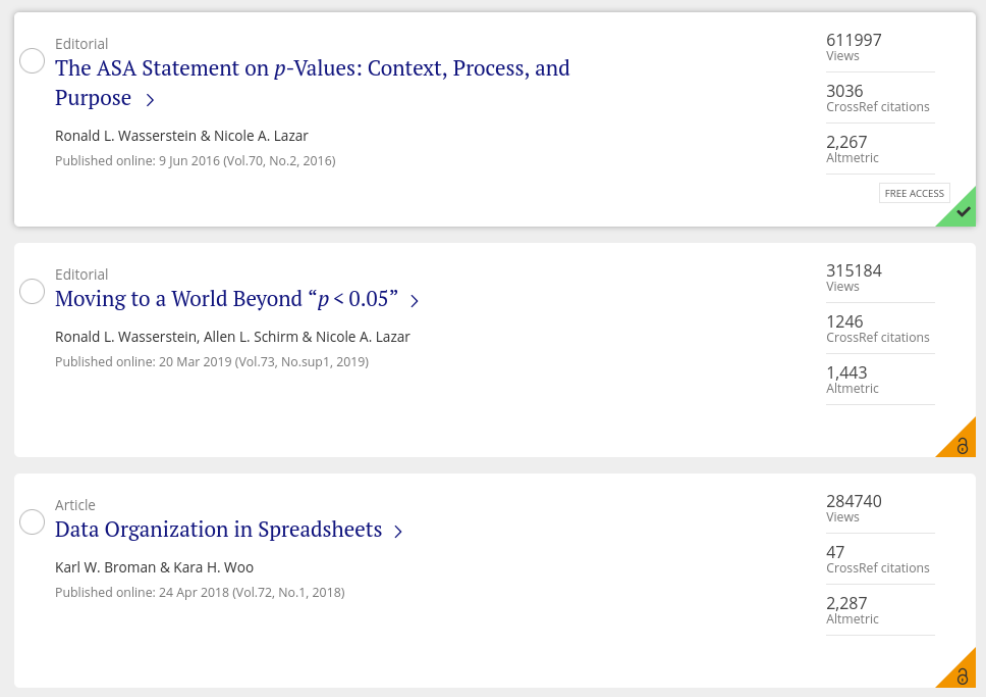
I thought I'd start with a story about the paper of mine.

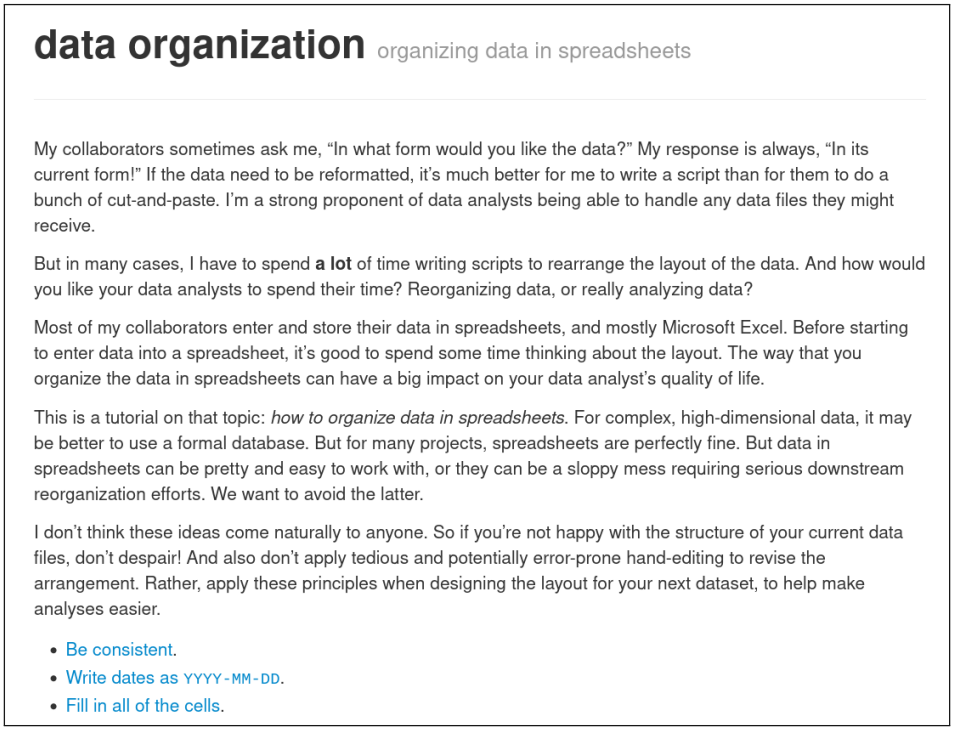
This isn't a typical research paper, but really more of a tutorial, or really a screed.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1							
2	Date	11/3/14					
3	Days on diet	126					
4	Mouse #	43					
5	sex	f					
6	experiment		values			mean	SD
7	control		0.186	0.191	1.081	0.49	0.52
8	treatment A		7.414	1.468	2.254	3.71	3.23
9	treatment B		9.811	9.259	11.296	10.12	1.05
10							
11	fold change		values			mean	SD
12	treatment A		15.26	3.02	4.64	7.64	6.65
13	treatment B		20.19	19.05	23.24	20.83	2.17

The paper concerns how to organize data in spreadsheets. And really that spreadsheets shouldn't be organized like this example, but rather as a rectangle with the columns being the measured variables and one row per subject, and a single header row.



It was published in the American Statistician, a society journal, and is third-most downloaded paper in that journal, after two papers about P-values.



data organization organizing data in spreadsheets

My collaborators sometimes ask me, “In what form would you like the data?” My response is always, “In its current form!” If the data need to be reformatted, it’s much better for me to write a script than for them to do a bunch of cut-and-paste. I’m a strong proponent of data analysts being able to handle any data files they might receive.

But in many cases, I have to spend **a lot** of time writing scripts to rearrange the layout of the data. And how would you like your data analysts to spend their time? Reorganizing data, or really analyzing data?

Most of my collaborators enter and store their data in spreadsheets, and mostly Microsoft Excel. Before starting to enter data into a spreadsheet, it’s good to spend some time thinking about the layout. The way that you organize the data in spreadsheets can have a big impact on your data analyst’s quality of life.

This is a tutorial on that topic: *how to organize data in spreadsheets*. For complex, high-dimensional data, it may be better to use a formal database. But for many projects, spreadsheets are perfectly fine. But data in spreadsheets can be pretty and easy to work with, or they can be a sloppy mess requiring serious downstream reorganization efforts. We want to avoid the latter.

I don’t think these ideas come naturally to anyone. So if you’re not happy with the structure of your current data files, don’t despair! And also don’t apply tedious and potentially error-prone hand-editing to revise the arrangement. Rather, apply these principles when designing the layout for your next dataset, to help make analyses easier.

- Be consistent.
- Write dates as `YYYY-MM-DD`.
- Fill in all of the cells.

kbroman.org/dataorg

7

Before it was a paper, it was just a website. It’s one of several short tutorials that I’ve written, about things related to reproducible research and open science.

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Data organization in spreadsheets

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September 11, 2018

Abstract

Spreadsheets are widely used software tools for data entry, storage, analysis, and visualization. Focusing on the data entry and storage aspects, this paper offers practical recommendations for organizing spreadsheet data to reduce errors and ease later analyses. The basic principles are: be consistent, write dates like YYYY-MM-DD, don't leave any cells empty, put just one thing in a cell, organize the data as a single rectangle (with subjects as rows and variables as columns, and with a single header

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Nevertheless, I paid nearly $3000 to have the published paper available open access.

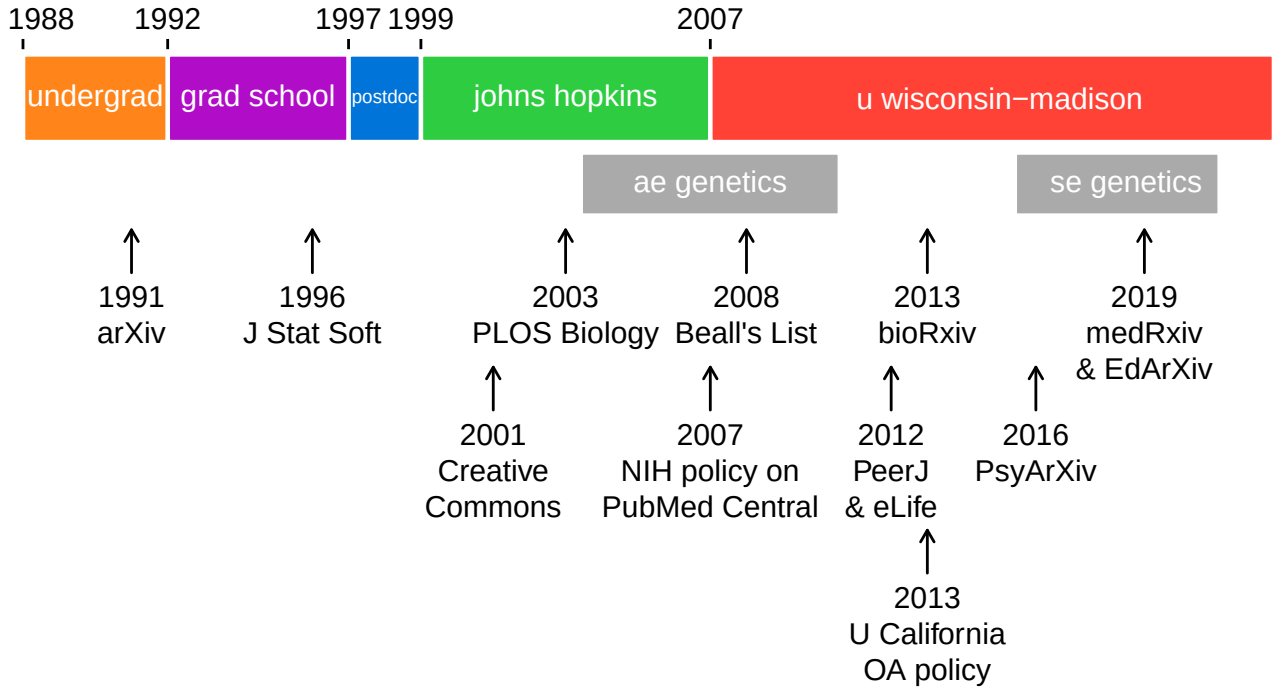
I struggled with the decision of whether to pay this fee. But I'm glad that I did.

I think audience for this paper was made much more widespread by being a formal paper (rather than a preprint, and before that basically a blog post).

bit.ly/3sIRtVY

If you want to more about this paper, see my twitter thread on 10 fun facts about the paper.

Personal timeline



What has changed?

- Rise of preprints in biology and medicine
- Rise of *Nature Communications*
- PubMed Central: expansion, with no embargo
- No longer stigma on OA
- Emphasis on computational reproducibility

What hasn't changed?

- Attachment to Impact Factor
- Attachment to Glam Journals
- Journal and conference spam
- The 20 open access enthusiasts on campus
- Researchers don't read much

The journal Genetics recently sent out a newsletter that included an announcement of new associate editors. The bio for one of them had "...including more than 30 articles in Nature, Science, Cell, and Nature Genetics."

Culture of open scholarship

- Community before individual
- Sharing makes better science
  - Data, methods, software, materials, manuscripts

Traditional scholarship

What's in it for me?

Barriers to OA

- Focus on glamour/prestige
- Most researches just don’t care
- Cost
- Funding of scientific societies

How to persuade?

- Moral arguments
- Advantages for the author
- Institution policies
- Government policies

Privilege

white, male, US-born full professor
in cargo shorts and a hoodie
whose father was a university professor

credentials seldom questioned

It bugs me to no end when senior faculty suggest solutions like ”just remove journal titles from our CVs” and ”stop sending papers to the big three journals” as these aren’t real solutions for most people. Journal titles are like the schools people attended; we can wish they don’t matter, but they do.

Questions

- How to relax reliance on journal prestige?
- How to support junior faculty to be open scholars?
- How to reorganize the way publishing is funded?
- How to persuade researchers to care?