Child Data Centre of Alberta (CDCA)

Helping Researchers Share Data

April 07, 2016

Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research

Our mission is to develop and integrate evidence to inform, identify and promote effective policy and service delivery to improve the well-being of children, families and communities in Alberta, Canada and Internationally.

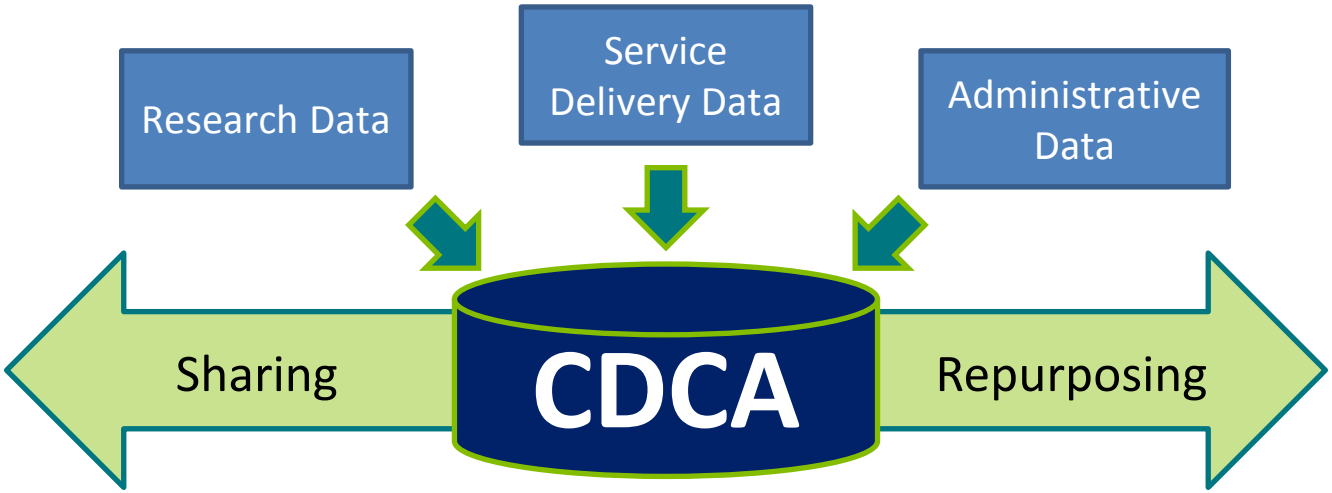
What we do

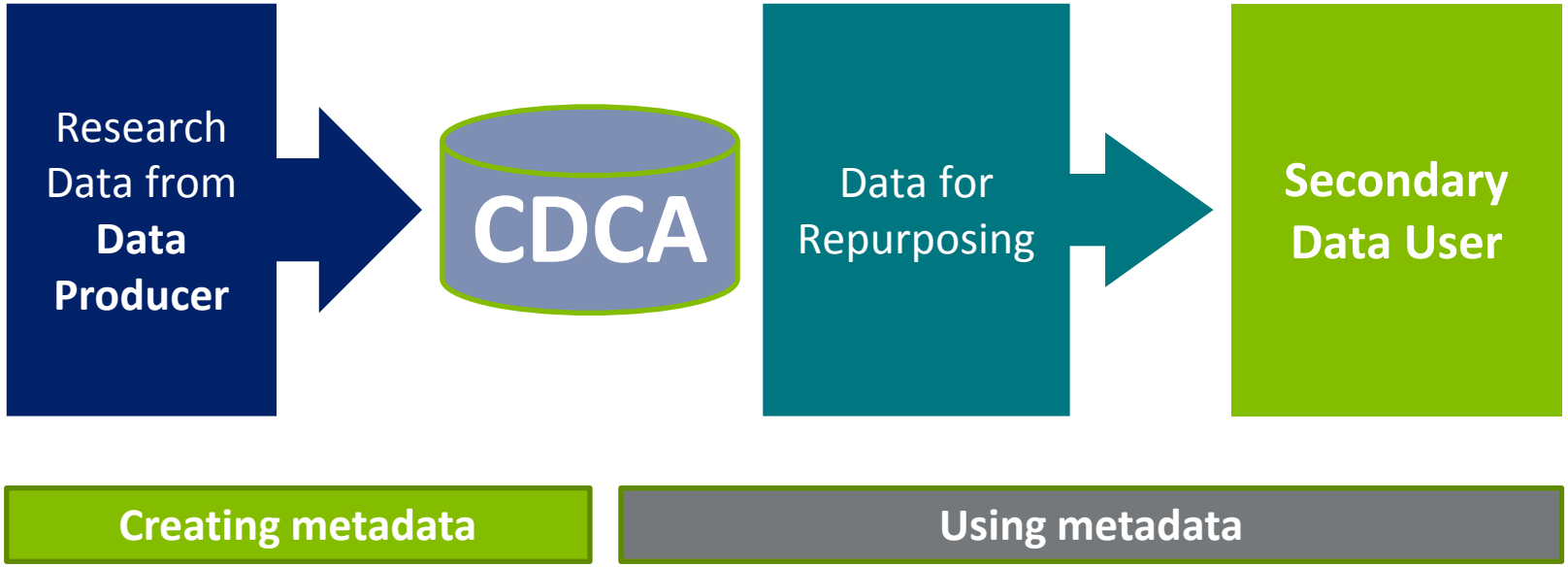
- Fund Research
- Generate Evidence
- Mobilize Knowledge
- **Build Data Capacity**
- Measure Impact

What we do

- Child and Youth Data Laboratory – research on government administrative data

- Child Data Centre of Alberta – new platform to support data sharing
  - Initial focus on research data
  - Data related to child and youth development, health and well-being


Research Data
Service Delivery Data
Administrative Data
Sharing
CDCA
Repurposing


Research Data from **Data Producer**
CDCA
Data for Repurposing
Secondary Data User
Creating metadata
Using metadata

Data Sharing

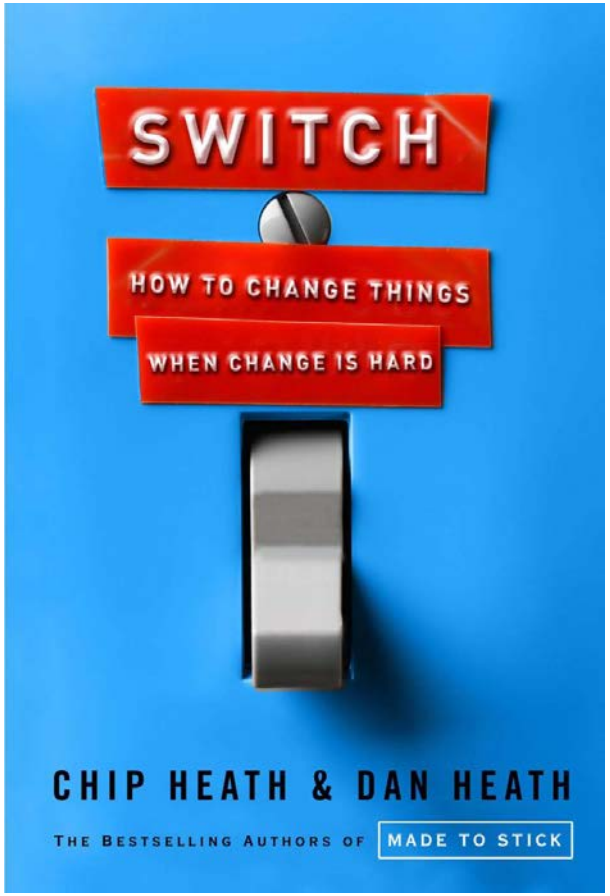
- Maximize value from research investments
- Increase research output
- Encourage collaboration
- Support study replication

Research Data Management

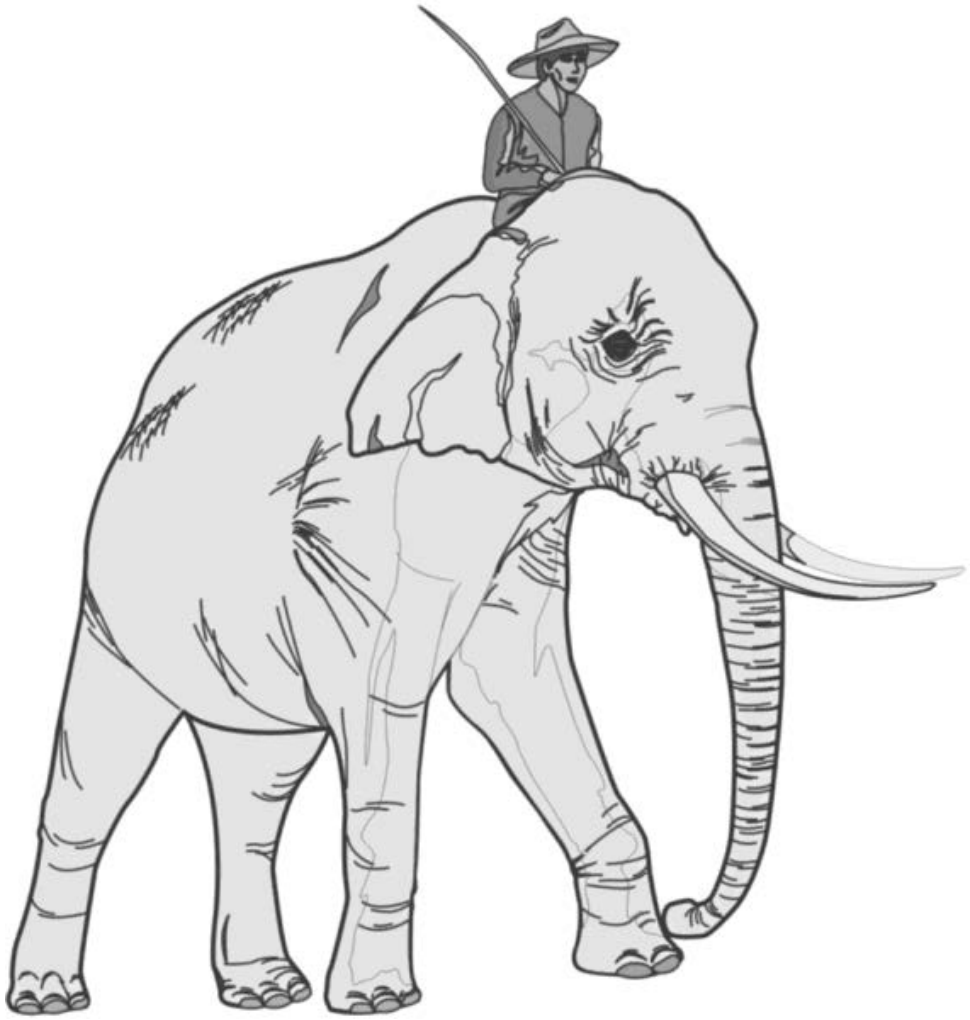
- Highly variable formats
- Highly variable complexity
- Highly variable quality
- Highly variable controls
  - Personal/health information
  - Ownership
- Highly variable metadata

Developing Metadata

- Data discovery and marketing
  - Focus on researcher needs
- Internal data management
- Interoperability
- Nothing new to this audience



sustainable behavior change

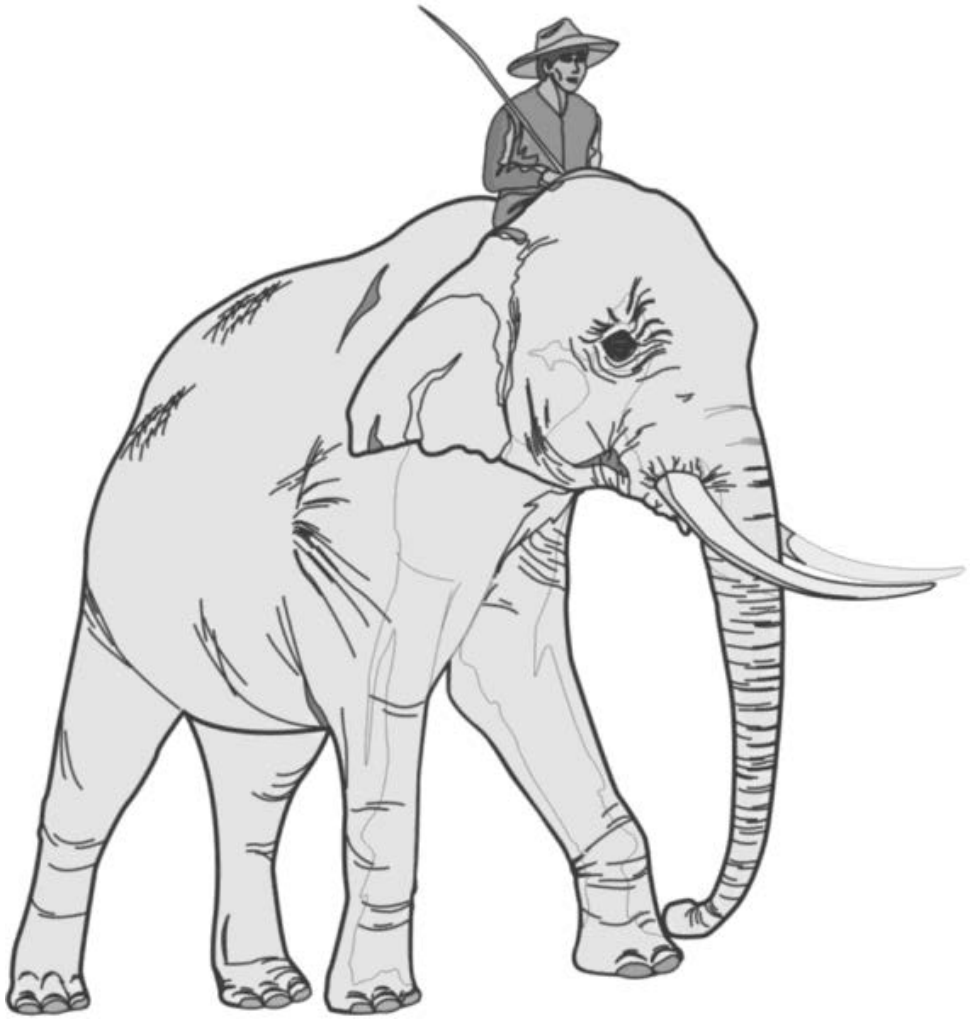


Rider: intellect, rational

- Seeking new ways, trying to improve

Elephant: autonomic, instinctual

- Momentum of status quo



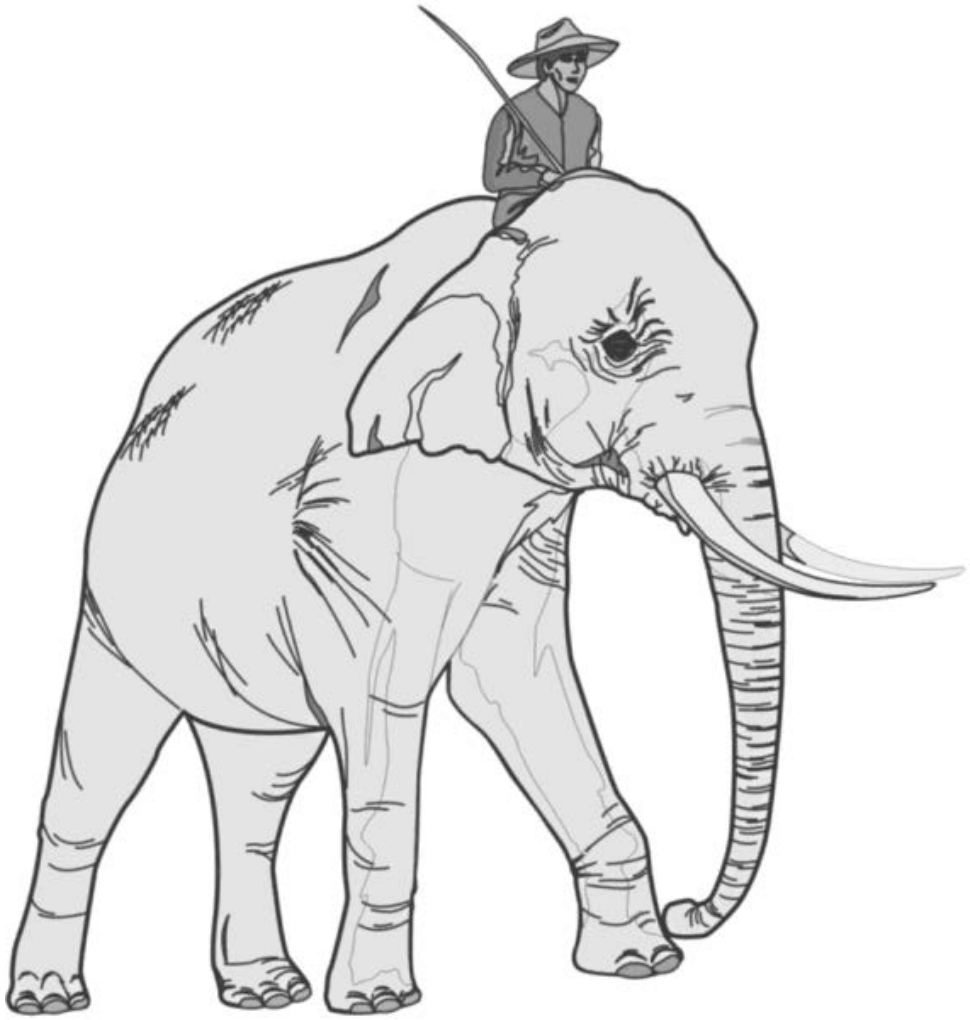
Personal

Rider: intellect, rational

- I should eat a salad

Elephant: autonomic, instinct

- Salad takes work
- That donut is so close and so sweet



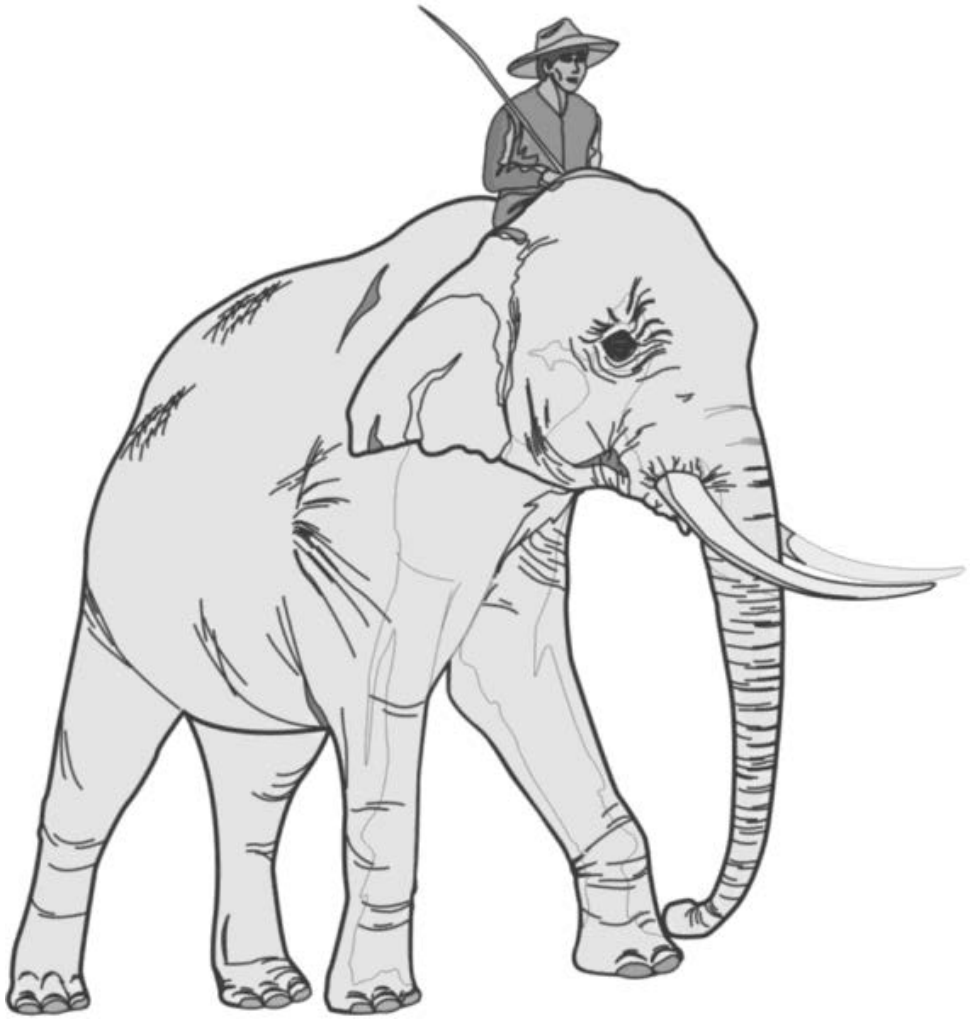
Data Sharing

Rider: intellect, rational

- Data sharing important, good for all
- Not sure my data is useful to others

Elephant: autonomic, instinct

- Ambivalence
- I don’t know how, I don’t have resources, I want to hoard my data, …



Metadata

Rider: intellect, rational

- Necessary for best data management practice

Elephant: autonomic, instinct

- I don’t know how, I don’t have resources, …

Appeal to the Rider

- Value of data sharing and metadata
  - Adhering to best practices
  - Compliance with funders
  - **Build examples with early adopters**
- Centre's existing expertise and partnerships
  - Data analytics and secure IT infrastructure
  - Knowledge mobilization
  - Relationship with users of information

Motivate the Elephant

- Legacy and data preservation
- Recognition
- **Collaborations (marketing)**
- Increase research output
- Increase impact
- **Data producer in control**
- **Peer pressure - culture change**

Shape the Path

- **Focus on user experience –** Data producer and Secondary data user
- What are their worries? What are they missing? → Upcoming surveys of needs.
- Metadata and data management usually afterthought. → Try to engage early on in research process, make it second nature.

Shape the Path

- Helping with the administrative burden. → Staff to work closely with each Data Producer.
- Make it easy as pie. → Templates
- Working with Hidden Collections
  - Harvesting data where possible
- **Accept imperfection.** → Focus on user needs: data discovery

Shape the Path

- Data discovery → TBD
  - Centre website – high level metadata
  - DataVerse – interoperable standard
  - Others?
  - Marketing key.
  - Secondary use of data new to audience.
- Focus on what Secondary Data Users want to see
  - “How many participants meet my criteria?”

Key lessons

- Current state can be… wanting
  - Large variation in readiness
- Three very different perspectives
  - Data Producer and Secondary Data User
  - Repository (us)
- Pareto principle
  - Prioritize what matters over perfection

ALBERTA CENTRE FOR
CHILD, FAMILY
& COMMUNITY
RESEARCH

Thank you for your time.

data@research4children.com