Incentivizing data sharing

A local insider's perspective

Lucia Lötter

Sharing Rewards and Credit (SHARC): Towards recommendations for crediting the sharing in research - Addressing challenges within African Academic infrastructures

2th Plenary Meeting of the Research Data Alliance Infrastructures
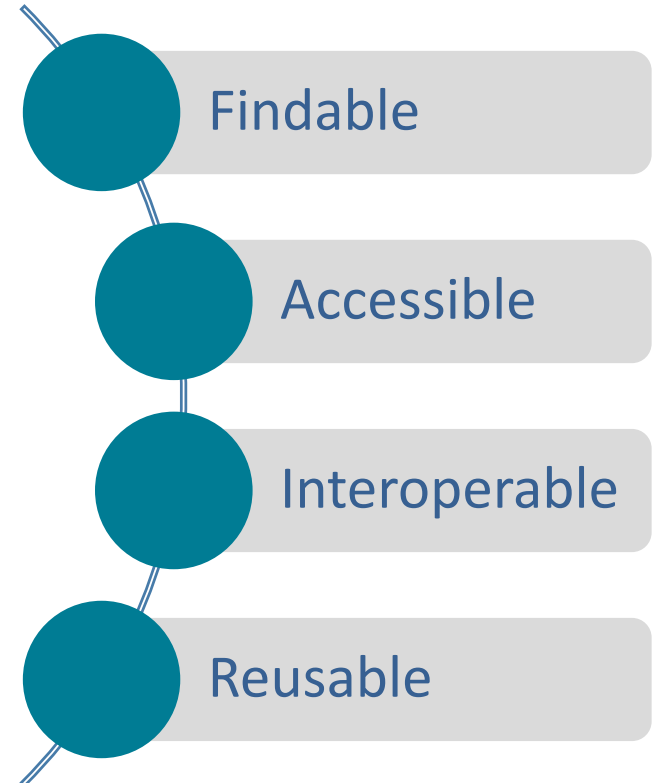International Data Week 2018 Gabarone, Botswana
8 November 2018

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Introductory thoughts

- Incentives
    - Removing barriers
    - Promoting
    - Facilitating
- Extrinsic and intrinsic motivation
    - Values
    - Rewards
    - Penalties

Findable

Accessible

Interoperable

Reusable

Making it happen

The principle: "If you build it, they will come"

So, what can we do on institutional level?

Mechanism	Success	
Data sharing as a Key Performance Area	Partially	• Perceived as an administrative burden to tick a box • Data sharing is not really appreciated as being important. Not really a Key Performance Area? • What will change the perception? • Demonstrate value – impact, career, reputation, funding?
Data related policies	Partially	• Partial compliance to ownership and consent requirements • Not all data is curated and not within the required time
Promote recognition through citation	Not much	Lack of a data citation culture What constitutes real impact?
Address data sharing as a contractual obligation	Partially	Some funders are not pro-sharing. Researchers can't afford to resist.

So, what can we do?

Mechanism	Success	
Treating data as a valuable research output through extensive curation	Partially	• Data remains the orphaned cousin to publications • Is the data really so important? What is the evidence? • Many data sets are not being used at all. How to select?
Require project budgets to provide for curation	Unsuccessful	• Abandoned strategy because of lack of funding, highly contested
Promote responsible use of data	Partially	Terms and conditions are not adhered to
Research Data Management planning is mandatory	Partially	• Partial uptake of review recommendations • Researchers are not aware of and do not take funder requirements seriously. Consequences?

So, what can we do?

Mechanism	Success	
Build data curation infrastructure	Partially	• Is it sustainable?
Obtain external recognition (NSTF Research Data Award)	Partially	Only an incentive to the converted. What is the benefit?

Making it happen

The principle: "If you build it, they will come", but will they?

We achieved much, but …

Implications of an unfunded mandate

- Downscaling because of a lack of funding

- Focus on a limited number of large multi-year surveys and only those where there is a specific requirement for sharing or where funders are prepared to pay for curation

- Reduce the level of curation to the minimum

Is it all about funding?

- Lack of funding is the main barrier. Sufficient funding is necessary to
  - follow best practices in research and curation
  - raise awareness, build capacity and facilitate compliance
- Open science presupposes sufficient and equitable funding for those who share and those benefitting

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Something to try …

- Funder requirements
    - Dedicated additional funding for data management, curation, promotion of data and to facilitate use
    - Evaluation criteria
        - Proof that primary data collection is necessary
        - Preference for research using secondary data if possible
        - Demonstrated prior data sharing is necessary – also on an individual level
        - Collaborative research and data sharing
        - Beneficiation – primary researchers and community
- Funding availability for curation projects, projects using and promoting secondary data, projects to determine the impact of data
- Journal publishers and funders to make data citation mandatory
- Promote Responsible Conduct of Research with a focus on the values of Open Science and ethical conduct
- Programme to promote executive custody

Data sharing in low and middle income settings

Inequalities between higher and lower income settings

"A lack of resources for appropriate data sharing has
been identified as a hindrance in high income settings,
and a very significant barrier in low and middle
income settings."

Aim:

Ensure equitable and sustainable open science

(Bull 2016)

References and additional resources

Bull, S. (2016) *Ensuring global equity in open research.* Wellcome Trust. https://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.4055181

Spencer G. D., Silaigwana, B, Wassenaar, D., Bull, S. & Parker M. (2015) Developing Ethical Practices for Public Health Research Data Sharing in South Africa: The Views and Experiences From a Diverse Sample of Research Stakeholders. *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics.* Vol. 10(3) 290–301.

Thank you

Lucia Lötter

Manager Digital Curation

eResearch Knowledge Centre

Human Sciences Research Council

South Africa

llotter@hsrc.ac.za

http://datacuration.hsrc.ac.za