

Open and shut (or not): Conversations about data, access and openness

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Open and shut (or not)

Conversations about data, access and openness

Never Stand Still

eResearch Australasia 2011, Melbourne, Australia

Overview

1. Introduction
2. eResearch intermediaries & conversations about research data
3. Perspectives on research data, access & openness
4. Observations by UNSW researchers
5. Discussion forum



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Focusing on research data



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Conversations about data, access and openness



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Roles for eResearch intermediaries



Image Credit: 'OK...we won't make you wear them anymore. Today.'
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Advocacy

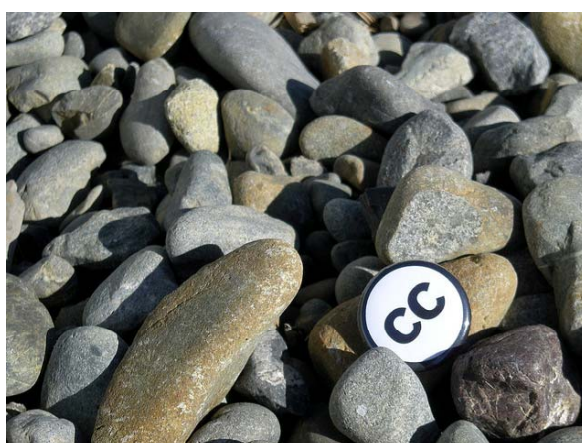


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Data management services



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Developing research data management services



Image Credit: "Which Came First, The Chicken or The Egg?" by puben alexander licensed under CC BY 2.0 Generic.



Looking at data sharing and reuse practices



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Incentives

- Increased research impact & visibility
- Accelerates research, discovery & innovation
- Fosters new opportunities for collaboration
- Minimises duplicate data collection
- Increased transparency
- Encourages validation

Constraints

- Time required to document data
- Concerns that data will be misused or misinterpreted
- Issues related to copyright, IP, ethics, privacy & confidentiality
- Concerns related to priority disputes or 'scooping'
- Fear of discovery of errors
- Desire to fully exploit data before sharing



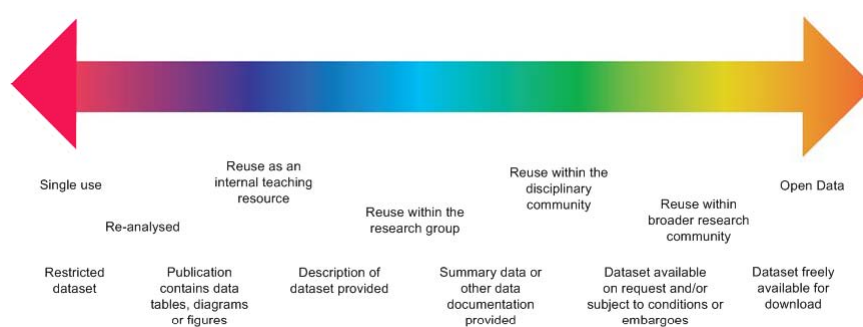
Open data



Image Credit: 'UNLOCKED...!' by [ModulRai](#) licensed under [CC BY-NC 2.0 Generic](#).



Spectrum of access and reuse



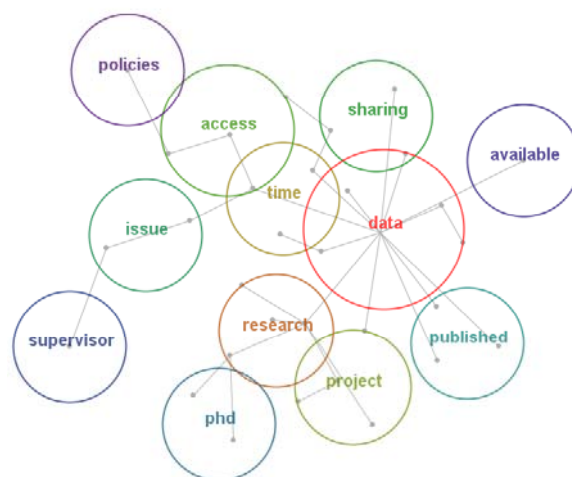
Recognising different approaches



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R^{squared} project findings



Observations by UNSW researchers...

"On the whole, communities are recognising that the scale of our problem is so enormous that you can't do it in isolated silos and everybody gains with relatively free and open access to both the software and the data"

-- Researcher, Climate Change Research Centre



"We cannot allow somebody else in to actually look at the raw dataset. It would breach all ethics and confidentiality. So we then have... agreements with people who want to use the data that we will, in fact, do the data draw for them."

-- Researcher, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences



“If somebody wants to use my code for their own purpose, they'll have to be very kind to me and ask me to have some degree of involvement in their work because it is the product of hours and hours and years of expertise that you just don't give away for nothing.”

-- Researcher, Faculty of Engineering



“There are, of course, risks. In my particular research field, there've been people who've gone and got the data and intentionally misrepresented it for political purposes in the climate skeptics community and that can be very damaging.”

-- Researcher, Climate Change Research Centre



“Sharing data is kind of taboo amongst some researchers. I like sharing data because I like using other people's data. It's helpful and means you don't have to generate as much data. But traditionally, it's not looked upon particularly favourably.”

-- Researcher, Faculty of Engineering



“I think now we're realising that there's this wealth of information that would be useful. And the question is how to get it out there to people who would want to use it. Publishers are now willing to allow us to put supplementary material in with our papers... But I think we're going to go very quickly to much more open access, open science kind of publishing where we will just say ‘This is our data. If anybody can do anything better than us, then jolly good luck to you.’”

-- Researcher, Faculty of Science



Starting the conversation...



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For researchers, what can you add to the views shown today about attitudes and practices with respect to research data, access and openness?



For eResearch
intermediaries, what
approaches have you taken
to start the conversation at
your organisation? What has
worked and what hasn't?

Concluding comments

share permission conversations discussion commons materials trust openness perspective open reuse intermediary data discovery creative eResearch access research

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