Original Article

Open Access to Research Data: Sharing Data for Efficient Research

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Abstract

The research is becoming more data intensive today not only because data intensive research has more acceptances today but also data driven research facilitate quality research and show pathways for new fields of research. Research data can be generated for different purposes and through different processes i.e., field survey, laboratory experimentation, may be captured through sophisticated technologies and can be divided into different categories. Each category may require a different type of data management plan. The advantages of sharing research data are many to the individual researchers and to the research community as a whole. The library can play a vital role in facilitating research data service by closely associating with the researchers in planning, managing, preserving and sharing the research data. By creating awareness among the researchers and proving necessary training efficient research data service can be provided to the research community.

Keywords: Research data service; Open data; Data curation; Data sharing.

Introduction

Research cannot flourish if data are not preserved and made accessible (Nature, 2009). One of the next big things for the research libraries are going to be the research data management service. Large scale data is being generated now during the research process and it is expensive and time consuming. Considering this now funding agency are making it mandatory for a data management plan along with the open access to scholarly communication. Research organizations need to provide not only structure and policies for research data preservation, but services to support and educate researchers on concepts of data management and promote the sharing of data sets that can often be vital for the continuation of research.

Data is one of the basic inputs for any research and at the end of the research it is one of the important content of the output as well. Huge investment is required to gather, process and bring the data to a usable form. The recent development in information infrastructure, investment on data and the open access movement has compel the researchers, the funders to rack in more return on investment from the research data. It is only when the research data managed properly and shared openly among the research community the true value of the research data will be realised. The sharing of research data and reusing the same data for further research has been supported by both the science and social science research community. The research funding agencies make sure that the data generated from the high value research project be made public and further research should be allowed to carry on with the same datasets.

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