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Recommended open research data repositories for psychology

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Abstract

Research data are factual records (numerical, textual data, images and sounds) used as primary source for scientific research. These complex digital resources require effective management and comprehensive descriptions to ensure their standardization, reusability and interoperability. This is achieved through metadata, which consists of structured information describing datasets, providing essential context, enabling retrieval, access, visibility and long-term preservation. The resources for research data are classified as open (freely accessible), mixed (open and restricted data) and complementary tools (not exclusively designed for academic research). Open research data (ORD) foster scientific collaboration and enrich research by giving it greater depth and transparency. Depositing research data in reliable data repositories creates opportunities for future use, extending beyond the initial use and purpose for which the data were originally collected. Scientific data repositories play a key role in science and should adopt systematic data management practices to guarantee the proper collection, curation, preservation, long-term availability, dissemination and accessibility of datasets. Selecting a research data repository is an important decision, both to save data from our research and to reuse data from other researches. In order to be able to reuse research data, researchers also should know the research data quality. Thus, the objective of this presentation was to identify the best ORD repositories (specialist and generalist) with the basic metadata for the description of the data on psychological sciences research. A systematic review was carried out blindly by two independent evaluators exploring two open data search engines (Google Dataset Search and Eudat B2FIND). Additionally, this research explored strategies for discovering publicly available data. Institutional open data were excluded. In order to assess research data quality, the Horizon 2020 Program's Guidelines on FAIR data management were used, referring to how research data should be treated so that they are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable. This work offers links to available dataset repositories in the field of psychological science research. Among the most interesting dataset repositories is the list compiled by the American Psychological Association, and the re3data.org project, which is a global registry of research data repositories. Moreover, academic journals such as Scientific Data or Data in Brief publish data papers, that is, articles focused exclusively on datasets, including their description, methodology and purpose. These journals follow a peer review process that guarantees the quality of the data, offering added value to the dataset. Publishing a data paper after depositing the data facilitates the citation, recognition, visibility and monitoring of the datasets. In conclusion, data sharing may determinate the quality of research data. Establishing a robust culture of data sharing requires the adoption of best practices in data documentation and management. Assessing the capabilities and services offered by data repositories provides opportunities for enhancing their functionality and realizing the full potential of data through new applications.

Keywords

open research data, scientific data,

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