

FAIR and Open Data

Silvio Peroni

silvio.peroni@unibo.it – <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0530-4305> – [@essepuntato](#)

Open Science (A.Y. 2022/2023)

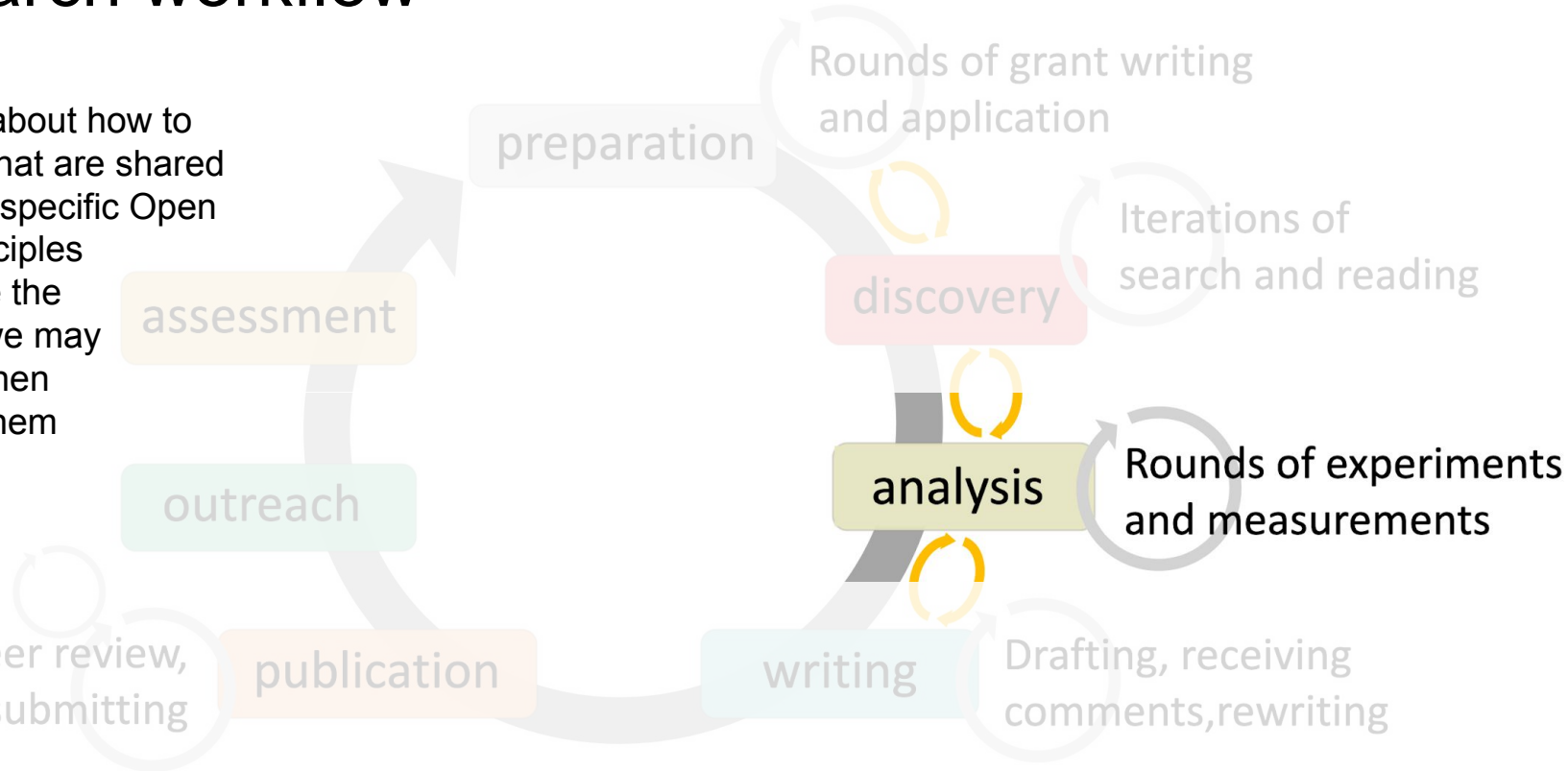
Second Cycle Degree in Digital Humanities and Digital Knowledge

Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna



Research workflow

We discuss about how to create data that are shared according to specific Open Science principles and what are the Issues that we may encounter when processing them



What are the data?

Metadata about the publication

PeerJ

The state of OA: a large-scale analysis of the prevalence and impact of Open Access articles

Heather Piwowar^{1,2}, Jason Priem³, Vincent Larivière^{4,5}, Juan Pablo Alperin^{6,7}, Lisa Matthias⁸, Bree Norlander^{9,10}, Ashley Farley¹¹, Jevin West¹² and Stefanie Haustein¹³*

¹Impartec, Sanford, NC, USA
²École de Bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information, Université de Montréal, Montréal, QC, Canada
³Observatoire des Sciences et des Technologies (OST), Centre Interuniversitaire de Recherche sur la Science et la Technologie (CIRST), Université de Québec à Montréal, Montréal, QC, Canada
⁴Canadian Institutes for Studies in Publishing, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC, Canada
⁵Public Knowledge Project, Canada
⁶Scholarly Communications Lab, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada
⁷Information School, University of Washington, Seattle, USA
⁸FloridaOAI, USA
⁹School of Information Studies, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada
¹⁰These authors contributed equally to this work.

ABSTRACT

Despite growing interest in Open Access (OA) to scholarly literature, there is an unmet need for large-scale, up-to-date, and reproducible studies assessing the prevalence and characteristics of OA. We address this need using oAid, an open online service that determines OA status for 67 million articles. We use three samples, each of 100,000 articles, to investigate OA in three populations: (1) all journal articles assigned a Creative Commons DOI, (2) recent journal articles indexed in Web of Science, and (3) articles viewed by users of Unpaywall, an open-source browser extension that lets users find OA articles using oAid. We estimate that at least 38% of the scholarly literature is OA (19% in total) and that this proportion is growing, driven particularly by growth in Gold and Hybrid. The most recent year analyzed (2015) also has the highest percentage of OA (48%). Because of this growth, and the fact that readers disproportionately access newer articles, we find that Unpaywall users encounter OA quite frequently: 47% of articles they view are OA. Notably, the most common mechanism for OA is not Gold, Green, or Hybrid OA, but rather an under-discussed category we dub *Browser*: articles made free-to-read on the publisher website, without an explicit Open license. We also examine the citation impact of OA articles, corroborating the so-called open-access citation advantage: accounting for age and discipline, OA articles receive 18% more citations than average, an effect driven primarily by Green and Hybrid OA. We encourage further research using the free oAid service, as a way to inform OA policy and practice.

Submitted 9 August 2017
Accepted 25 January 2018
Published 13 February 2018

Corresponding authors:
Heather Piwowar,
hpiwowar@impartec.org
Jason Priem, japiem@sfu.ca

Academic editor:
Robert McDonald

Additional Information and
Declarations can be found on
page 19

DOI 10.7717/peerj.4375

© Copyright
2018 Piwowar et al.,
distributed under
Creative Commons CC-BY 4.0

OPEN ACCESS

Subjects: Legal Issues, Science Policy, Data Science
Keywords: Open access, Open science, Scientometrics, Publishing, Libraries, Scholarly communication, Bibliometrics, Science policy

How to cite this article: Piwowar et al. (2018), The state of OA: a large-scale analysis of the prevalence and impact of Open Access articles. PeerJ 6(2):4375. DOI 10.7717/peerj.4375

PeerJ

INTRODUCTION

The movement to provide open access (OA) to all research literature is now over fifteen years old. In the last few years, several developments suggest that after years of work, a sea change is imminent in OA. First, funding institutions are increasingly mandating OA publishing for grantees. In addition to the US National Institutes of Health, which mandated OA in 2008 (<https://publicaccess.nih.gov/odas.htm>), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/How-We-Work/General-Information/Open-Access-Policy>), the European Commission (http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/generic_publications_publications/2020-h2020-h2020-pilot-guide_en.pdf), the US National Science Foundation (<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2015/nfs15052/nfs15052.pdf>), and the Wellcome Trust (<https://wellcome.ac.uk/policies/wellcome-trust-requirements-to-open-access-policy>), among others, have made OA diffusion mandatory for grantees. Second, several tools have sprung up to build value atop the growing OA corpus. These include discovery platforms like ScienceOpen and iScience, and browser-based extensions like the Open Access Button, Canary Hat, and Unpaywall. Third, Sci-Hub (a website offering pirate access to full-text articles) has built an enormous user base, provoking newly intense conversation around the ethics and efficiency of paywall publishing (Behavmon, 2016; Greisdorf, 2017). Academic social networks like ResearchGate and Academia.edu now offer authors an increasingly popular but controversial solution to author self-archiving (Bjork, 2010a; Bjork, 2010b). Finally, the increasing growth in the cost of toll-access subscriptions, particularly via so-called "Big Deals" from publishers, has begun to force libraries and other institutions to initiate large-scale subscription cancellations; recent examples include Gale, the University of Maryland, University of Konstanz, Université de Montréal, and the national systems of Peru (Université de Montréal, 2017; Schriener & Mays, 2017; Anderson, 2017a; Université Konstanz, 2014). As the toll-access status quo becomes increasingly unfavorable, institutions are looking to OA as a part of their "Plan B" to maintain access to essential literature (Anderson, 2017). Open access is thus providing a new surge of investment, controversy, and relevance across a wide group of stakeholders. We may be approaching a moment of great importance in the development of OA, the heart of the scholarly communication system. However, despite the recent flurry of development and conversation around OA, there is a need for large-scale, high-quality data on the growth and composition of the OA literature itself. In particular, there is a need for a data-driven "state of OA" overview that is (a) large-scale, (b) up-to-date, and (c) reproducible. This paper attempts to provide such an overview, using a new open web service called oAid that finds links to legally-available OA scholarly articles.¹ Building on data provided by the oAid service, we answer the following questions:

1. What percentage of the scholarly literature is OA, and how does this percentage vary according to publisher, discipline, and publication year?
2. Are OA papers more highly-cited than their toll-access counterparts?

The next section provides a brief review of the background literature for this paper, followed by a description of the datasets and methods used, as well as details on the

Metadata about the data

| Random 100,000 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|------------|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--|--|
| oa_color | Papers with | Percentage | Average relative citations | | | | | | | |
| closed | 63,933 | 63.9% | 0.90 | | | | | | | |
| all open | 36,067 | 36.1% | 1.18 | | | | | | | |
| bronze | 12,939 | 12.9% | 1.22 | | | | | | | |
| hybrid | 4,314 | 4.3% | 1.31 | | | | | | | |
| gold | 7,351 | 7.4% | 0.83 | | | | | | | |
| green only | 11,463 | 11.5% | 1.33 | | | | | | | |
| all papers | 100,000 | 100.0% | 1.00 | | | | | | | |
| Access per year | | | | | | | | | | |
| oa_color | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2009-2015 | | |
| closed | 7,949 | 8,322 | 8,825 | 9,375 | 9,959 | 9,080 | 10,423 | 63,933 | | |
| all open | 3,982 | 4,381 | 4,753 | 5,241 | 5,825 | 5,442 | 6,343 | 36,067 | | |
| bronze | 1,757 | 1,792 | 1,886 | 2,092 | 1,916 | 1,686 | 1,810 | 12,939 | | |
| hybrid | 417 | 483 | 541 | 539 | 660 | 759 | 915 | 4,314 | | |
| gold | 381 | 527 | 705 | 1,031 | 1,455 | 1,370 | 1,882 | 7,351 | | |
| green only | 1,427 | 1,579 | 1,621 | 1,679 | 1,794 | 1,627 | 1,736 | 11,463 | | |
| all papers | 11,931 | 12,703 | 13,578 | 14,716 | 15,784 | 14,522 | 16,766 | 100,000 | | |
| Impact of access per year | | | | | | | | | | |
| oa_color | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2009-2015 | | |
| closed | 66.6% | 65.5% | 65.0% | 63.7% | 63.1% | 62.5% | 62.2% | 63.9% | | |
| all open | 33.4% | 34.5% | 35.0% | 36.3% | 36.9% | 37.5% | 37.8% | 36.1% | | |
| bronze | 14.7% | 14.1% | 13.9% | 14.2% | 12.1% | 11.6% | 10.8% | 12.9% | | |
| hybrid | 3.5% | 3.8% | 4.0% | 3.7% | 4.2% | 5.2% | 5.5% | 4.3% | | |
| gold | 3.2% | 4.1% | 5.2% | 7.0% | 9.2% | 9.4% | 11.2% | 7.4% | | |
| green only | 12.0% | 12.4% | 11.9% | 11.4% | 11.4% | 11.2% | 10.4% | 11.5% | | |
| all papers | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | | |
| Impact of access per year | | | | | | | | | | |
| oa_color | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2009-2015 | | |
| closed | 0.86 | 0.87 | 0.88 | 0.91 | 0.93 | 0.93 | 0.93 | 0.90 | | |
| all open | 1.19 | 1.22 | 1.21 | 1.17 | 1.19 | 1.15 | 1.17 | 1.18 | | |
| bronze | 1.12 | 1.20 | 1.20 | 1.16 | 1.12 | 1.16 | 1.46 | 1.22 | | |
| hybrid | 1.18 | 1.23 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.30 | 1.33 | 1.39 | 1.31 | | |
| gold | 1.04 | 0.90 | 0.95 | 0.86 | 0.89 | 0.82 | 0.66 | 0.83 | | |
| green only | 1.32 | 1.33 | 1.30 | 1.34 | 1.33 | 1.37 | 1.32 | 1.33 | | |
| all papers | 0.97 | 0.89 | 1.01 | 0.99 | 1.01 | 1.01 | 1.02 | 1.00 | | |

A publication (<https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.4375>)
accepted in a journal

The related data on which the entire publication is
based on

FAIR data principles

Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability: these [four principles](#), proposed by the [FORCE11 community](#), serve to guide data producers and publishers for helping them to maximize the added-value gained by contemporary, formal scholarly digital publishing

They represent goals and desiderata of good data management and stewardship

Even if they have been devised originally for data, they have been proposed considering **all scholarly digital research objects** in mind, since all components of the research process must be available to ensure transparency, reproducibility, and reusability

Findable

F1. (Meta)data are assigned a globally unique and persistent identifier

F2. Data are described with rich metadata (see also R1)

F3. Metadata clearly and explicitly include the identifier of the data they describe

F4. (Meta)data are registered or indexed in a searchable resource

Accessible

A1. (Meta)data are retrievable by their identifier using a standardised communications protocol

A1.1 The protocol is open, free, and universally implementable

A1.2 The protocol allows for an authentication and authorisation procedure, where necessary

A2. Metadata are accessible, even when the data are no longer available

Interoperable

I1. (Meta)data use a formal, accessible, shared, and broadly applicable language for knowledge representation

I2. (Meta)data use vocabularies that follow FAIR principles

I3. (Meta)data include qualified references to other (meta)data

Reusable

R1. (Meta)data are richly described with a plurality of accurate and relevant attributes

R1.1. (Meta)data are released with a clear and accessible data usage license

R1.2. (Meta)data are associated with detailed provenance

R1.3. (Meta)data meet domain-relevant community standards

Different types of data

The agnosticism of generic principles like FAIR requires the various communities' specificities (i.e. proper to Informatics, Humanities, Medicine, Statistics, etc.) to be taken into account

General rule: within the FAIR framework, **everything is data**

Data should be “intended to be as universal as possible, including datasets, publications, software, etc.”

Some examples: what is data in Informatics?

A number of research communities and groups have been considering how to apply aspects of FAIR to **research software** since 2017

The adoption of FAIR principles enables the transparency, reproducibility, and reusability of research – and part of this story applies also to software that needs to be **well-described (i.e. metadata), inspectable, documented and appropriately structured** so that it can be executed, replicated, built-upon, combined, reinterpreted, reimplemented, and/or used in different settings

| |
|---|
| F: Software, and its associated metadata, is easy for both humans and machines to find. |
| F1. Software is assigned a globally unique and persistent identifier. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• F1.1. Components of the software representing levels of granularity are assigned distinct identifiers.• F1.2. Different versions of the software are assigned distinct identifiers. F2. Software is described with rich metadata. F3. Metadata clearly and explicitly include the identifier of the software they describe. F4. Metadata are FAIR, searchable and indexable. |
| A: Software, and its metadata, is retrievable via standardized protocols. |
| A1. Software is retrievable by its identifier using a standardized communications protocol. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A1.1. The protocol is open, free, and universally implementable.• A1.2. The protocol allows for an authentication and authorization procedure, where necessary. A2. Metadata are accessible, even when the software is no longer available. |
| I: Software interoperates with other software by exchanging data and/or metadata, and/or through interaction via application programming interfaces (APIs), described through standards. |
| I1. Software reads, writes and exchanges data in a way that meets domain-relevant community standards. I2. Software includes qualified references to other objects. |
| R: Software is both usable (can be executed) and reusable (can be understood, modified, built upon, or incorporated into other software). |
| R1. Software is described with a plurality of accurate and relevant attributes. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• R1.1. Software is given a clear and accessible license.• R1.2. Software is associated with detailed provenance. R2. Software includes qualified references to other software. R3. Software meets domain-relevant community standards. |

Some examples: what is data in the Humanities?

Humanities (at least, those related to studies in philology, literary criticism, language, linguistics, history of art and archival and library studies) uses and/or produces several kinds of data

Probably, one of the most surprisingly data types is **events**, meaning “any one-off gathering of people organised as a result of a research project, to share ideas, offer training, or present something to the public”, including:

- Conferences
- Exhibitions
- Webinars
- Guided tours
- Teacher training

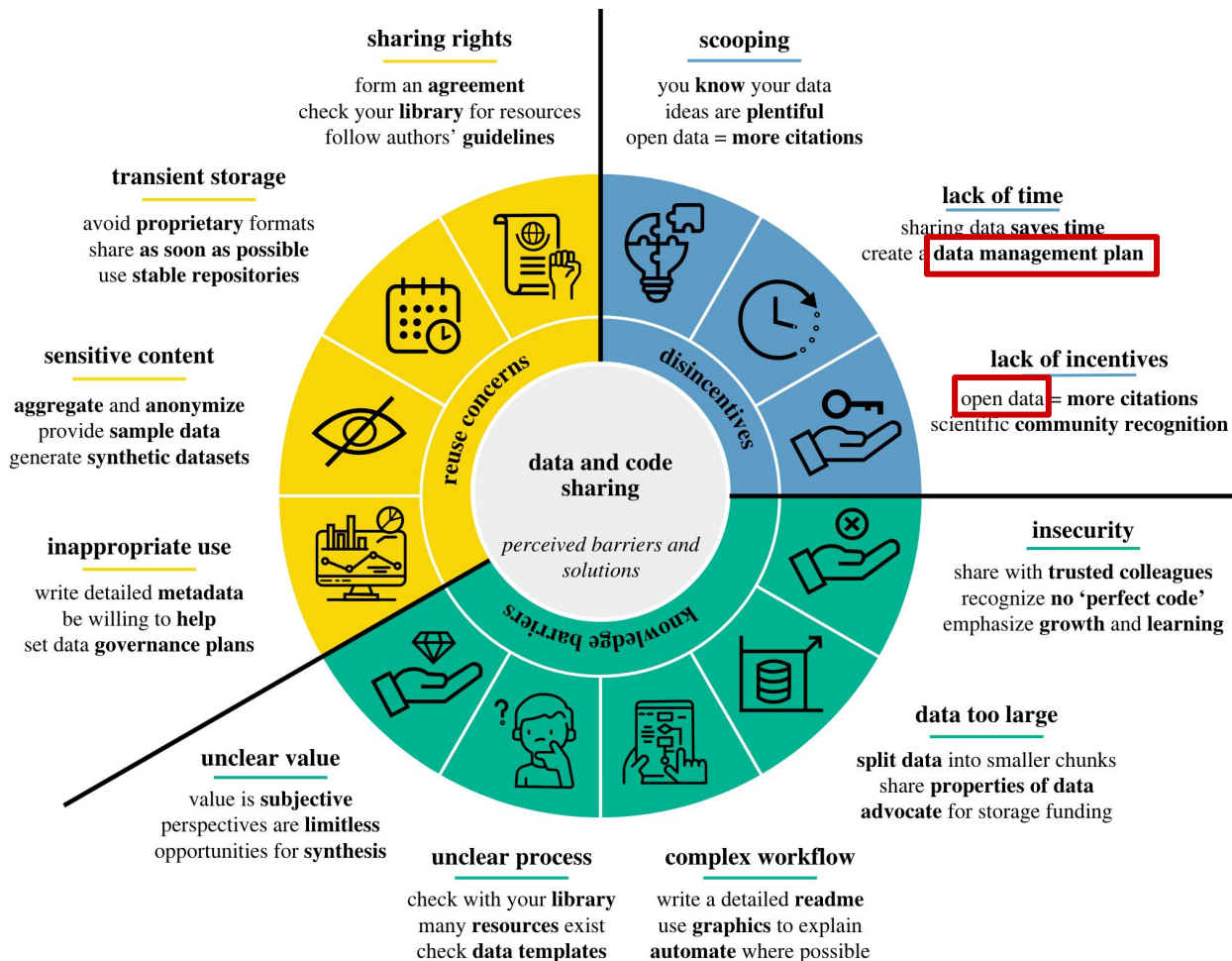
| No. | Data types | Produced by (tot. 19) | Used by (tot. 19) |
|------|---|--------------------------|----------------------|
| i | Publications | 18 | 15 |
| ii | Other primary sources (e.g. manuscripts and artworks) | 0 | 18 |
| iii | Digital representation of cultural objects (e.g. facsimiles and photos) | 4 | 8 |
| iv | Catalogues, databases and other search tools | 2 | 9 |
| v | Events (e.g. conferences and exhibitions) | 6 | 0 |
| vi | Websites | 4 | 0 |
| vii | Software | 2 | 2 |
| viii | Documentation | 3 | 0 |
| ix | Digital infrastructures (e.g. mobile apps and web platforms) | 3 | 0 |
| x | Personal data | 2 | 0 |
| xi | Corpora | 2 | 0 |
| xii | Standards | 0 | 2 |
| xiii | Born-digital artefacts (e.g. tags, associations and texts) | 1 | 1 |

Sharing: some guidelines

Many researchers do not share their data simply because they do not know **how**

Data should be published alongside **detailed metadata**

Data sharing will increase opportunities for **collaboration**



What about Open?

Warning: FAIR data **does not imply** Open Data

Open as defined in the Open Definition:

“Open means anyone can **freely access, use, modify, and share for any purpose** (subject, at most, to requirements that preserve provenance and openness)”

| License | Attribution (i.e. preserving provenance) | Forcing openness |
|---|--|------------------|
| Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) | yes | no |
| Creative Commons Attribution - Share-Alike (CC-BY-SA) | yes | yes |
| Creative Commons CCZero (CC0) | no | no |
| Open Data Commons Public Domain Dedication and Licence (PDDL) | no | no |
| Open Data Commons Attribution License (ODC-BY) | yes | no |
| Open Data Commons Open Database License (ODbL) | yes | yes |

Issues to the path towards the Open: personal data

GDPR is a regulation in **EU law** which concerns data protection and privacy, with particular regard to the gathering and processing of personal data of individuals

As stated in the Article 4 of the GDPR, **personal data** is any information that enable the identification of a natural person (i.e. the data subject), in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, etc.

Personal data can be gathered under specific conditions and **cannot be published** as Open Data – derogation to the this rule may exist, e.g. personal data in bibliographic information (authors' names, ORCIDs, etc.)

Note: the principles of data protection do not apply to **anonymous** information

Anonymisation and pseudonymisation

It is **possible to publish** personal data if they are somehow changed in a way that do not allow the identification of a natural person anymore

Two ways:

1. **Anonymisation** – rendering personal data anonymous in such a manner that the data subject is not or no longer identifiable (there exists tools that try to semi-automate this activity, such as [OpenAIRE Amnesia](#))
2. **Pseudonymisation** – rendering personal data in such a manner that they can no longer be attributed to a specific data subject without the use of additional information, provided that such additional information is kept separately and is subject to technical and organisational measures to ensure that the personal data are not attributed to an identified or identifiable natural person

Applying one of these approaches **enable one to publish Open Data** also when the original gathering of such data included personal data

How to publish data

Generally speaking, data should be published **as open as possible, as closed as necessary**

In choosing the license, in particular if considering or not the attribution clause, one has to think about the final goal to reach – that, within the Open Science ecosystem, should be fostering maximum reuse

Recently, the European Union has provided a [clear guideline](#) to follow for what it concerns the publication of data:

“raw data, metadata or other documents of comparable nature may alternatively be distributed under the provisions of the Creative Commons Universal Public Domain Dedication deed (CC0 1.0)”

The (senseless) scholars' fear

Misconception: *I want to share my data, but it is important to me that I'm cited when people use it. I prefer CC BY to CC0 because this kind of attribution is what I care about most*

If the issue is to be cited and acknowledged for a work, problem solved: citation practices **are built around ethical norms**, not around legal requirements

Using and not citing and acknowledging an existing work relates to **plagiarism**, and this act has a legal consequence independently from the license used to protect the data

Thus, the general rule for sharing data compliantly with Open Science practices is to use CC0 license instead of CC BY to foster maximum reuse

Trustworthy data

Provenance is a record that describes the **people, institutions, entities, and activities** involved in producing, influencing, or delivering data, and it is crucial in deciding whether information is to be **trusted**, how it should be **integrated with other** diverse information sources, and how to **give credit to its originators** when reusing it

Provenance can help to **make trust judgements** about a piece of data, since it , which can be used to form assessments about its **quality, reliability** or **trustworthiness**

Minimal provenance information:

- When a piece of data has been created and/or invalidated
- Who created a piece of data
- What is the source that has been used to create a piece of data

Trustworthy long-term preservation of data

Guaranteeing that the data one publish are reusable by humans and machines, i.e. FAIR, is not enough, since a good part of the story concerns also to think ways to **trustworthily preserve** such data in the long term

You should take into consideration such digital repositories which are compliant with the **TRUST principles**:

- **Transparency** – repository services and data holdings are publicly verifiable
- **Responsibility** – authenticity+integrity of data and reliability+persistence of services
- **User Focus** – meet norms and expectations of target user communities
- **Sustainability** – preserve data and services for the long-term
- **Technology** – support secure, persistent, and reliable services

Data Management Plan

A data management plan (DMP) is the tool one has to use to ensure that all the aspects introduced in the previous slides will be addressed appropriately – i.e. before one starts to gather the data

A DMP **is a document** that describes how you will treat your data during a project and what happens with the data after the project ends

What it is covered in a DMP:

- data discovery, collection and organization
- quality assurance/quality control
- documentation
- data preservation and sharing

End

FAIR and Open Data

Silvio Peroni

silvio.peroni@unibo.it – <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0530-4305> – [@essepuntato](#)

Open Science (A.Y. 2022/2023)

Second Cycle Degree in Digital Humanities and Digital Knowledge

Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna

