

The State of Open

Data

2021

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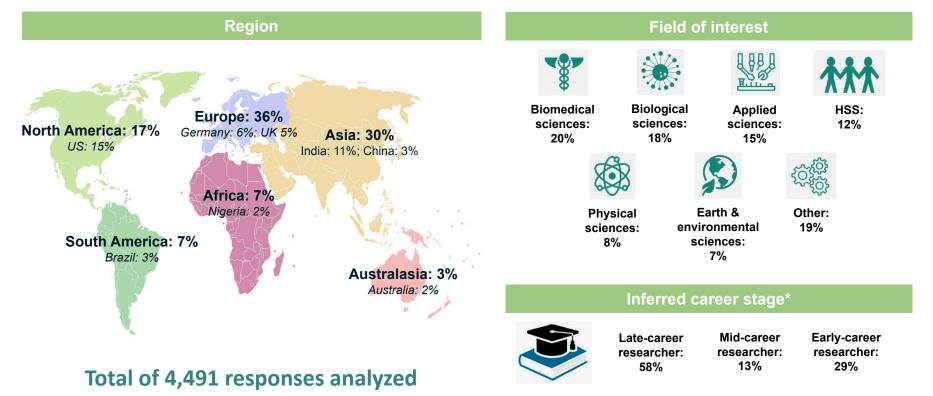
History of the State of Open Data

Been running for 6 years

Had over 21,000 respondents from 192 countries over that time

Provided us with a sustained look at the state of open data over time

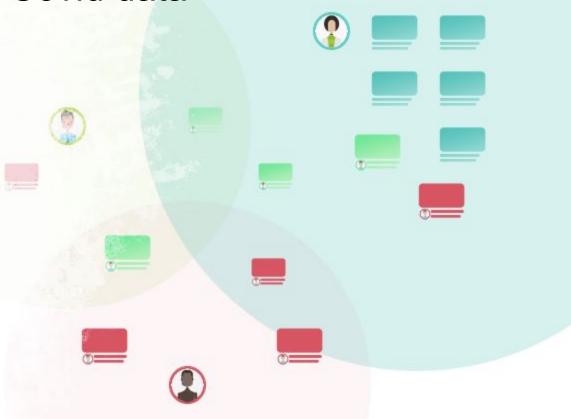
Demographics 2021 survey population



*Career staged inferred from year that the respondent first published a peer review article (LCR - >10 years ago; ECR - < 5 years ago) and tenure status where available

Sharing and reusing Covid data

About a third of respondents indicated that they have reused their own or someone else's openly accessible data more during the pandemic than before



3 key takeaways

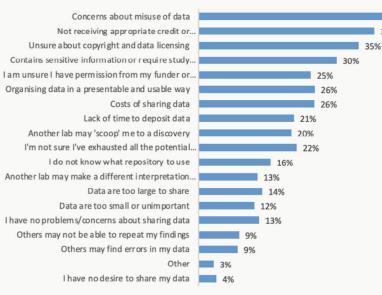
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There is more concern about sharing data than ever before

What problems/concerns, if any, do you have with sharing datasets?

43%

39%



Problems/concerns with sharing data

over the last 4 years

"The urgent need to better understand and treat the virus in 2020 brought unprecedented collective and collaborative action."

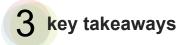
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Concerns about misuse of data	518	2082	1881	¹⁹²⁰
	36%	37%	38%	43%
Not receiving appropriate credit or acknowledgement	478	1834	¹⁵³¹	1739
	33%	32%	31%	39%
Unsure about copyright and data licensing	508	1858	1479	1585
	35%	33%	30%	35%
Contains sensitive information or requires consent	416	1274	1535	1366
	29%	22%	31%	30%
I am unsure I have permission from my funder or institute	458	¹⁴⁵⁴	1291	1110
	32%	26%	26%	25%
Organising data in a presentable and usable way	456	¹⁴³⁴	1137	1150
	32%	25%	23%	26%
Costs of sharing data	274	1497	1192	1147
	19%	26%	24%	26%
Lack of time to deposit data	300	1389	984	942
	21%	24%	20%	21%
Another lab may 'scoop' me to a discovery	0	0	0	⁹¹⁸ 20%
I'm not sure I've exhausted all the potential findings yet	0	Q	881 18%	971 22%
I do not know what repository to use	³³³	1124	861	713
	23%	20%	17%	16%
Another lab may make a different interpretation of my data	0	678 12%	694 14%	581 13%
Data are too large to share	191	674	571	630
	13%	12%	12%	14%
Data are too small or unimportant	²⁴⁵	626	513	550
	17%	11%	10%	12%
I have no problems/concerns about sharing data	28	661	589	600
	2%	12%	12%	13%
Others may not be able to repeat my findings	0	409 7%	379 8%	402 9%
Others may find errors in my data	0	416 7%	386 8%	387 9%
Other	100	224	¹³¹	¹⁵¹
	7%	4%	3%	3%
I have no desire to share my data	0	¹⁴⁵ 3%	97 2%	177 4%

2018

2019

2020

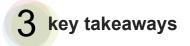
2021



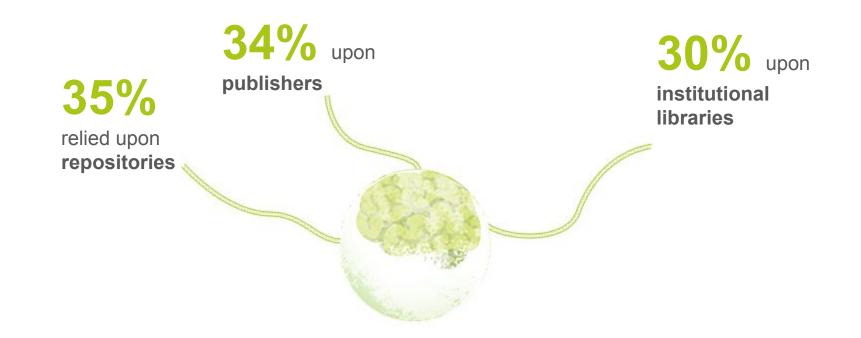
2 There is more familiarity and compliance with the FAIR data principles than ever before







3 Repositories, publishers, and institutional libraries have a key role to play in helping make data openly available



Key takeaways for institutions

30% of survey respondents said they would **rely upon their institutional library** for help making their research data openly available

Almost half of

respondents share their research data in an **institutional repository** for a public audience **58%** of respondents would like greater **guidance from their institution** on how to comply with their data sharing policies

Key takeaways for publishers

47% of survey respondents said they would be **motivated** to share their data if there was a **journal or publisher requirement** to do so

53% of survey respondents obtained research data collected by other research groups from within a published research article

53% of respondents said it was extremely important that data are available from a publicly available repository

Key takeaways for funders/government agencies

52% of survey respondents said funders should make the sharing of research data part of their requirements for awarding grants

48% of respondents said that **funding should be withheld** (or a penalty incurred) if researchers do not share their data when the funder has mandated that they do so at the grant application stage **73%** of survey respondents strongly or somewhat support the idea of a national mandate for making research data openly available

33% would like more **guidance** on how to comply with government policies on making research data openly available



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