Harmonising research data policy in scholarly publishing
Belmont Forum, London, June 2017
Iain Hrynaszkiewicz
Supporting compliance: Research funders and data access

- More than 40 research funders globally have policies or mandates that require data archiving as a condition of grants\(^{(1)}\) e.g.
  - National Science Foundation (NSF)
  - Wellcome Trust
  - Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
  - EU H2020 pilot
  - Research Councils UK (as part of open access policy)

- **Some of these require data to be linked to publications including:**
  - Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)

\(^{(1)}\) Hahnel, M: Global funders who require data archiving as a condition of grants. *figshare.*
Policy as an incentive and barrier to data sharing

- Funder policy motivates researchers to share data (88%)

But

- Complying with funder policies is a challenge for more than half of researchers (54%)

The evidence shows that the current research data policy ecosystem is in critical need of standardization and harmonization


Data source: Linda Naughton, JISC Journal Research Data Policy Bank project presentation (n = 250)

“The evidence shows that the current research data policy ecosystem is in critical need of standardization and harmonization”
Standardising and harmonising research data policy in scholarly publishing
Iain Hrynaszkiewicz, Aliaksandr Birukou, Mathias Astell, Sowmya Swaminathan, Amye Kenall, Varsha Khodiyar
bioRxiv 122929; doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/122929
All policy types:
- Preference **sharing of data via repositories** (rather than ESM/SI)
- **Allow citation of public datasets** in reference lists/bibliographies
- **Encourage use of publisher helpdesk** to ensure compliance with funder mandates

http://www.springernature.com/gp/authors/research-data-policy
Research Data Support helpdesk @Springer Nature

Support for editors:

- Identifying and implementing a data policy
- Identifying data repositories for their audience(s)
- Dealing with peer review of sensitive/human data
- Good practice for data-literature integration

Support for authors:

- Information on the data policy of their target journal(s)
- Identifying and using data repositories
- Compliance with funders’ and institutions’ data sharing policies
- Data reporting standards

http://www.springernature.com/gp/group/data-policy/helpdesk
Other resources for authors and editors include

- Recommended repositories list
  
  http://www.springernature.com/gp/group/data-policy/repositories

- Guidance on and published examples of data availability statements
  
  http://www.springernature.com/gp/group/data-policy/data-availability-statements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement type/description</th>
<th>Template/example text</th>
<th>Published example</th>
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<td>Data generated during the study are subject to a data sharing mandate and available in a public repository that does not issue datasets with DOIs</td>
<td>[Data type e.g. “Sequence”] data that support the findings of this study have been deposited in [repository name e.g. “GenBank”] with the [primary] accession codes [list accession codes with links e.g. “KP253039”]</td>
<td>BMC Biology, Nature Communications</td>
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<td>The [data type] data that support the findings of this study are available in</td>
<td>Nature Communications</td>
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Policy implementation progress – 19th June 2017

- More than 1,000 (~45%) Springer Nature journals have adopted a standard policy
- Includes all Nature and BioMed Central journals; Springer Research Group journals being added weekly
- Policies and recommended repository list released under CC BY (open access) to enable wider policy adoption and development
- Research Data Alliance Interest Group formed to explore policy standardisation across other publishers and stakeholders (co-chaired by Wiley)

https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/data-policy-standardisation-and-implementation
Community and stakeholder engagement via RDA

Co-chairs:

Natasha Simons (ANDS), Simone Taylor (Wiley), David Kernohan (Jisc), Iain Hrynaszkiewicz (Springer Nature)

Proposed group activities can build on and be informed by research carried by Jisc, ongoing activities of ANDS and work of Springer Nature on data policy

https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/data-policy-standardisation-and-implementation
(Proposed) Group objectives summary

• Define a common framework for research data policy, focusing on journals and publishers (first), then funders and other stakeholders
  • **Decision after RDAP9, Barcelona to focus on journal/publisher policy first and seek leaders for a future funder policy work-stream**

• Produce guidance on complying with and implementing research data policy for different stakeholders
• Facilitate greater understanding between stakeholders
• Increase adoption of research data policies in particular by journals and publishers
• Highlight examples of good/best practice
• Understanding the needs of researchers and research support staff

*Community calls planned for July 2017 to gather requirements for policies to feed into RDAP10 meeting in Montreal in September*
Lessons learned (so far)

• Start with a simple and achievable position
• Make the process easy for editors
• Consult with other stakeholders (e.g. librarians, funders)
• Don’t try and solve everything at once
• Acknowledge community and operational differences – one size doesn’t fit all
• Identify examples relevant to all research disciplines
• Work with early adopters/pilot titles
• Accommodate different platforms/websites
• Be prepared to get your hands dirty – journal-by-journal
• (Any kind of) Data policy can help a journal begin its data sharing journey
• **Tools, services & resources needed for stronger policies**
Questions?

Please contact:

iain.hrynaszkiewicz@nature.com