

Leibniz Science 2.0

Sharing Research Data in Academia

Results From An Empirical Survey Among Researchers

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Is Academia a Reputation Economy?

- Data Sharing: Preached but not practised
 - 76% agree that other researchers should publish their data;
 - Only 13 % have shared data publicly
- But:
 - 82% state, that making data available to other researchers benefits scientific progress;
 - 88% would use secondary data for pursuing their own original research
- By a wide margin, the main barrier is that “other researchers could publish before me” (80%); “to publish before sharing” (78%) is the second highest motivator
- Only 12 % are concerned about falsification
- 79% of the respondents say that data citation would motivate them to share

Let's get in touch

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

What Drives Academic Data Sharing?

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Abstract

Despite widespread support from policy makers, funding agencies, and scientific journals, academic researchers rarely make their research data available to others. At the same time, data sharing in research is attributed a vast potential for scientific progress. It allows the reproducibility of study results and the reuse of old data for new research questions. Based on a systematic review of 98 scholarly papers and an empirical survey among 603 secondary data users, we develop a conceptual framework that explains the process of data sharing from the primary researcher's point of view. We show that this process can be divided into six descriptive categories: Data donor, research organization, research community, norms, data infrastructure, and data recipients. Drawing from our findings, we discuss theoretical implications regarding knowledge creation and dissemination as well as research policy measures to foster academic collaboration. We conclude that research data cannot be regarded as knowledge commons, but research policies that better incentivize data sharing are needed to improve the quality of research results and foster scientific progress.

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