



Data publishing: minefield or opportunity?

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In recent years, data and datasets have become increasingly integral to primary research articles within earth science journals. Scientific publishers are consequently being faced with technical and operational challenges in order to service the needs of their key stakeholders – authors, readers, libraries, repositories and funding bodies. New business – and publishing – models need to be developed in order to adapt to these conditions and drive to evolve is taking place against a background of global economic austerity and squeezed academic budgets. Are publishers managing to find a way to negotiate this landscape? Is there a need to re-examine long-standing relationship dynamics between institutions and publishers, repositories and funders so as to ensure that future scientific progress is adequately supported by the primary literature?