



Stakeholder values and ecosystems in developing open access to research data.

Bridgette Wessels (1), Thordis Sveinsdottir (2), and Rod Smallwood (3)

(1) University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom (b.wessels@sheffield.ac.uk), (2) University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom (t.sveinsdottir@sheffield.ac.uk), (3) University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom (r.smallwood@sheffield.ac.uk)

One aspect of understanding how to develop open access to research data is to understand the values of stakeholders in the emerging open data ecosystem. The EU FP7 funded project Policy RECOmmendations for Open Access to Research Data in Europe (RECODE) (Grant Agreement No: 321463) undertook such research to identify stakeholder values and mapped the emerging ecosystem. In this paper we outline and discuss the findings of this research. We address three key objectives, which are: (a) the identification and mapping of the diverse range of stakeholder values in Open Access data and data dissemination and preservation; (b) mapping stakeholder values on to research ecosystems using case studies from different disciplinary perspectives; and (c) evaluate and identify good practice in addressing conflicting value chains and stakeholder fragmentation. The research was structured on three related actions: (a) an analysis of policy and related documents and protocols, in order to map the formal expression of values and motivations; (b) conducting five case studies in particle physics, health sciences, bioengineering, environmental research and archaeology. These explored issues of data size; quality control, ethics and data security; replication of large datasets; interoperability; and the preservation of diverse types of data; and (c) undertaking a validation and dissemination workshop that sought to better understand how to match policies with stakeholder drivers and motivations to increase their effectiveness in promoting Open Access to research data. The research findings include that there is clearly an overall drive for Open Data Access within the policy documents, which is part of a wider drive for open science in general. This is underpinned by the view of science as an open enterprise. Although there is a strong argument for publicly funded science to be made open to the public the details of how to make research data open as yet still unclear. Our research found that discussions of Open Data tend to refer to science as a single sector, leading to differences between disciplines being ignored in policy making. Each discipline has different methods for gathering and analysing data, some disciplines deal with sensitive data, and others deal with data that may have IPR or legal issues. We recommend that these differences are recognised, as they will inform the debate about subject specific requirements and common infrastructures for Open Data Access.