Guidelines, Policies and Procedures for Data Publication from the PREPARDE project

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Data publication is often proposed as a method for ensuring the proper management and curation of research data, while at the same time rewarding the data creator for their efforts in doing so. It takes advantage of the processes already in place to publish research in academic journals, but needs to build on these to take into account the fact that data are vastly more varied in structure, size and complexity than scholarly articles.

Peer REview for Publication & Accreditation of Research Data in the Earth sciences (PREPARDE) was a JISC- and NERC-funded project which investigated the policies and procedures required for the formal publication of research data, using as a particular case study connections with, and papers in, Geoscience Data Journal. The focus of the project was in producing outputs that would be of direct use to the editors of Geoscience Data Journal, and which would be generalisable to other scientific domains beyond the geosciences. Several of these outputs have since been taken on and developed further by the Publishing Data Interest Group of the Research Data Alliance, along with other journals such as F1000Research and Scientific Data.

In this presentation we will describe key results and conclusions from the PREPARDE project, including guidelines for recommending data repositories as partners in data publication, guidance for reviewers of Geoscience Data Journal who are reviewing datasets as well as data papers, and recommendations for standardisation of cross-linking methods to ensure that the link between the dataset and its citing paper does not become broken. The sustainability of data journals in the stable of other academic journals will also be addressed.

The PREPARDE deliverables can be found on-line at http://proj.badc.rl.ac.uk/preparde/wiki/DeliverablesList