

The Belmont Forum, Open Data and ‘Human Dimensions’: Lessons learned, ongoing investigations and developing recommendations for the future

Fiona Murphy and Vicky Lucas
University of Reading

The Belmont Forum is a group of the world’s major and emerging funders of global environmental change research committed to enabling and supporting international, cross-disciplinary research in response to the ‘Belmont Challenge’ (a range of high-priority international environmental and societal challenges). Critical conditions for fulfilling this remit are to provide (1) a functional research e-infrastructure (2) coherent principles and data policies and (3) ensure that researchers are sufficiently equipped with the necessary digital research and data management skills to leverage these facilities.

In January 2016, the Belmont announced the agreement and adoption of an Open Data Policy and Principles. The result of widespread consultation amongst the community, these principles were also benchmarked against existing work being conducted by other groups, such as the Research Data Alliance and national and international funders, in order to provide a coherent framework for stakeholders.

Having achieved this consensus, the Belmont is now concentrating on four Action Themes: building coordination internally, developing e-infrastructures, rolling out data management policy and plans, and equipping the ‘human dimensions’ to be able to exploit these opportunities. This presentation’s authors are leading the human dimensions theme and are keen to share progress to date.

A survey and skills gap analysis has already been undertaken and results will be shared during this presentation. In order to further develop understanding and plan for recommendations to be made on training requirements, a curricula scoping workshop is being held during EGU. This presentation unpacks the successes already achieved by the Belmont Forum, discusses works in progress and outlines the questions that remain open.