Keeping up with the Pride:
New LIS Roles Supporting Researchers with Proficient Research Data Management

Maria Cotera, Partnerships Development Manager, Figshare

KLISC Conference, Nakuru, Kenya, 22 May 2024

Methodology

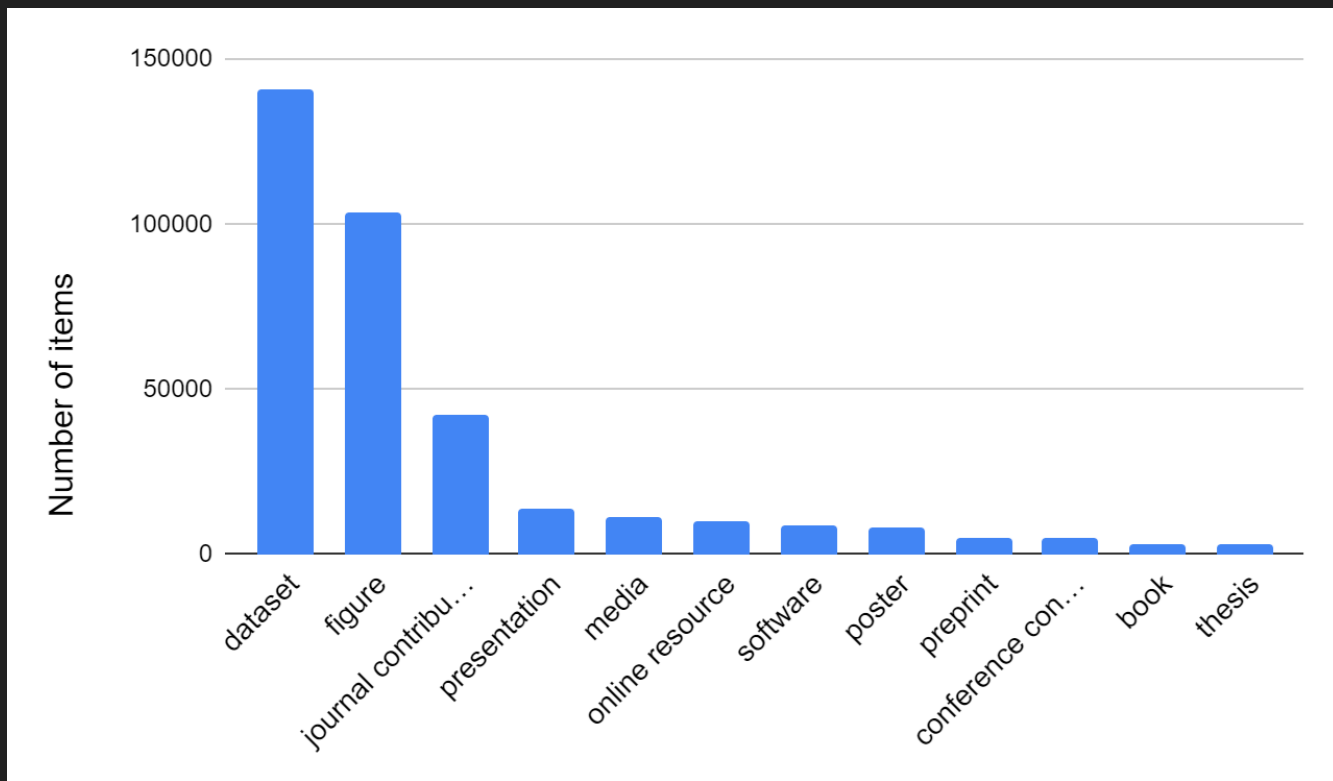Information gathering through

- pre-sales discovery questions
- the sales cycle
- technical implementation phase

Data collection by item types

State of Open Data Report 2023

Item types shared on Figshare

FAIR

- **F**indable - DOIs, metadata, discoverable
- **A**ccessible - No paywall, standard access methods
- **I**nteroperable - metadata and linking
- **R**eusable - License, metadata provides context

Open Access | Published: 15 March 2016

The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship

Mark D. Wilkinson, Michel Dumontier, … Barend Mons ✉   + Show authors

Scientific Data **3**, Article number: 160018 (2016) | Cite this article

415k Accesses **3544** Citations **1937** Altmetric | Metrics

ℹ️ An Addendum to this article was published on 19 March 2019

Abstract

There is an urgent need to improve the infrastructure supporting the reuse of scholarly data. A diverse set of stakeholders—representing academia, industry, funding agencies, and scholarly publishers—have come together to design and jointly endorse a concise and measureable set of principles that we refer to as the FAIR Data Principles. The intent is that these may act as a guideline for those wishing to enhance the reusability of their data holdings. Distinct from

https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2016.18

FAIR

A good repository makes these simple

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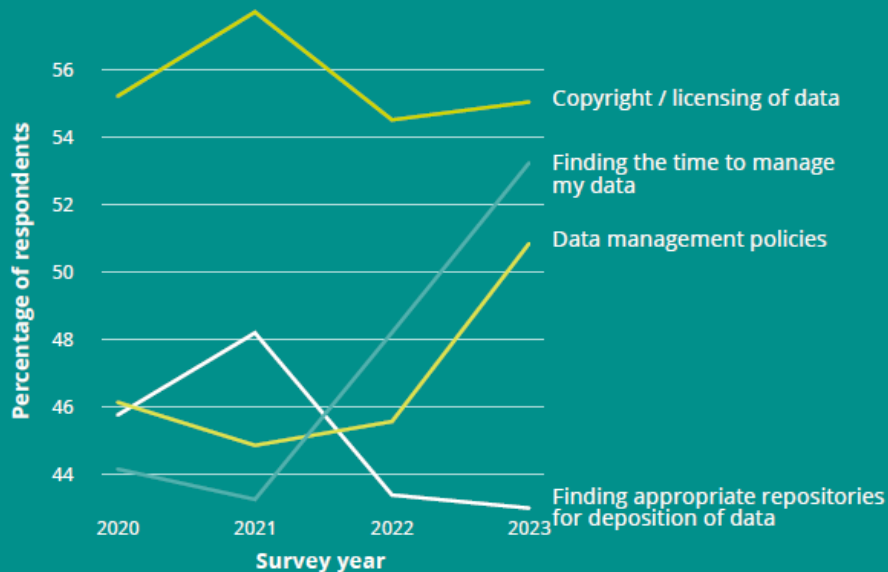
This is where researchers need help

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The State of Open Data

What areas, if any, do you feel you need help with in regard to making your research data openly available?

Copyright / licensing of data

Finding the time to manage my data

Data management policies

Finding appropriate repositories for deposition of data

(Percentage of respondents vs Survey year, 2020–2023)

Graph showing longitudinal data of what areas respondents feel they need help with in regard to making their research data openly available.

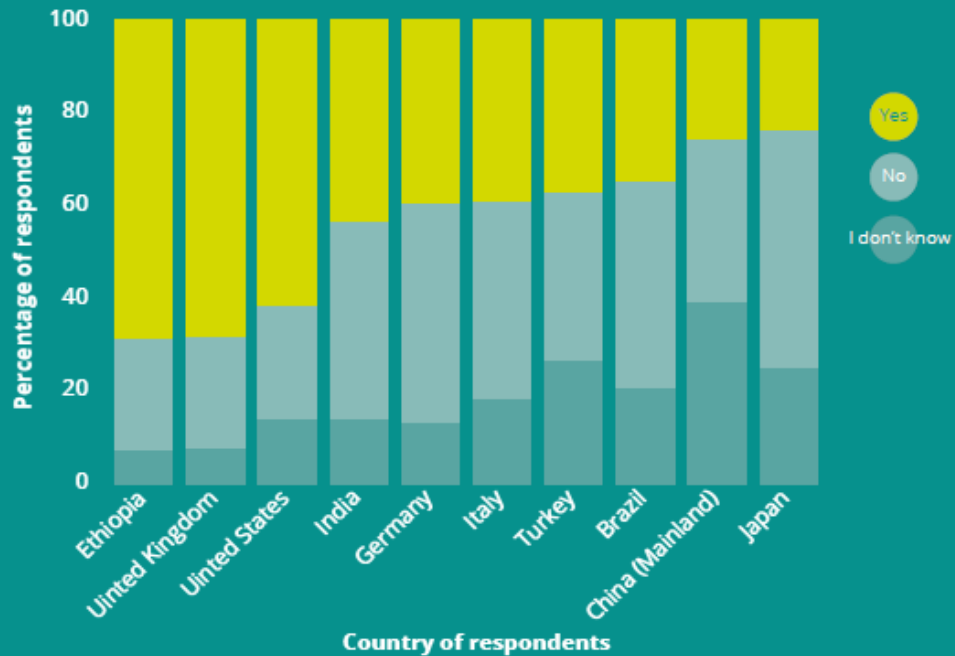Do you have access to support from specialist data managers?

No
Yes, based in my department
Yes, based in my lab
Yes, based in my library
Don't know
Other, please give details

40
150
220
781
326
429

Graph showing the responses to the question 'Do you have access to support from specialist data managers?' This question was only asked if respondents stated that they were aware of the concept of a data management plan. This graph shows the number of respondents for each answer.

Awareness of DMP by country (top 10 countries)

Awareness levels of the concept of a data management plan broken down by countries. This graphic highlights the awareness levels from the ten countries from which we saw most respondents.

A good, next generation data / full institutional repository is one piece of the puzzle

Direct research data management (RDM) help for researchers is another.

Enter the
Research Data Management Librarian

Research Data Management (RDM) Librarian

A key success factor in

- building engagement from researchers
- successfully managing and growing data / institutional repositories

Roles and Expertise

- Understand funder / publisher / institutional data sharing policies; how their repository does / does not meet them
- Guide researchers on selecting licences for shared data
- Support researchers to use the repository
  - assist with data sharing policy compliance
  - when publishing associated data in with a paper
  - for storage and publication of sensitive data

Conclusion

Some publishers and most funders are now implementing some type of data sharing policy.

The RDM librarian should be aware of what the policies expect from the researchers, and able to manage the data repository holding the shared data.

Recommendations

- African LIS professionals should embrace the RDM librarian role and become prepared
- African LIS educators, library schools and employers should provide courses and professional development tools
- African governments should draft and implement policies that support and invest in institutional, country and regional open access infrastructures to maintain African research outputs

Thank You

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