Data sharing in the Life Sciences
A study of researchers at
The Norwegian University of Life Sciences

Student presentation by Live Kvale kvalel@ub.uio.no
Why research data?
Method

Research question

What are the attitudes towards and experiences with sharing and reuse of scientific/research data among researchers in the Life Sciences in Norway

How

Questionnaire based on a study by PARSE.insight in 2009/2010

WHO

23% of researchers and PhD students at the university responded
Research question

What are the attitudes towards and experiences with sharing and reuse of scientific/research data among researchers in the Life Sciences in Norway
Questionnaire based on a study by PARSE.insight in 2009/2010
23% of researchers and PhD students at the university responded
Findings

Do you as a rule assign any additional information to your digital research data?

- No additional information
- Administrative information
- Both administrative and technical information
- Technical information

How do you locate and access digital research data?

- Via colleagues
- Via formal literature
- Via institutional databases and search facilities
- Via general search engines
- Via data-citation archives
- Do not use data from others
- Via social media
- Other

Sharing of research data would strengthen the research in my field

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
Do you as a rule assign any additional information to your digital research data?

- No additional information: 50%
- Administrative information: 14%
- Both administrative and technical information: 16%
- Technical information: 20%
How do you locate and access digital research data?

- Via colleagues: 60%
- Via formal literature: 41%
- Via institutional databases and search facilities: 40%
- Via general search engines: 31%
- Via data centers or archives: 21%
- I do not use data from others: 17%
- Via social media: 6%
- Other: 3%

Did you experience to need research data from others that was not available?

- Yes: 37%
- I don’t know: 28%
- No: 35%
Sharing of research data would strengthen the research in my field

- Strongly agree: 32%
- Agree: 50%
- Undecided: 16%
- Disagree: 1%
- Strongly disagree: 1%
Conclusion

- **current reuse of data**
  - There is a frequent reuse of data in the life sciences, and research data is primarily shared through colleagues.
  - For researchers who make their data openly available, the principles of open science are their primary reason to do so.
  - Most researchers have little or no understanding of the usage of metadata.

- **attitudes**
  - Exclusive rights for first publication and accreditation for reuse must be assured for researchers to be willing to share the data they collect.
  - The attitude among the researchers towards making data openly available depends much on where they work and their understanding of the principles.
  - Missing or legal issues are the problems most of the researchers expect to meet in the future.

- **issues particular to the life sciences**
  - Researchers in the life sciences believe that sharing of research data will have a much stronger impact on their field than researchers from other sciences.
  - The usage of journals and publishers' websites for making research data openly available is particular to the life sciences.
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Misuse or legal issues are the problems most of the researchers expect to meet in the future.
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Researchers in the life sciences believe that sharing of research data will have a much stronger impact on their field than researchers from other sciences.

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