The State of Open Data 2022

Open science is key to advancing discovery and furthering scientists' progress for an accelerated and more effective research system. As proactive partners driving the transition to open science, Springer Nature and Figshare believe that research data should be open, accessible, and reusable, to help speed up the pace of discovery and benefit society.

To better understand the current landscape, Springer Nature, Digital Science, and Figshare published the 2022 State of Open Data report, based on over 5,000 responses from the global research community about motivations, challenges, perceptions, and behaviors toward open data.

The 2022 report features contributions from key stakeholders in the current open data landscape, including funders and policy makers at the NIH and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), as well as open science implementers and influencers from publishers and universities around the world.

The Government and the research institutions, at present, are the two primary policy makers for open data in China. They have a leading role in the construction of an open data environment, including legislative works, specific practices, and culture building.

Yuanhuan Zhou and Liu Jiang
Chinese Academy of Sciences

“The NIH has a vision of making NIH funded research data more discoverable, usable, and citable.

NIH is also aware that not just technological advancement, but behavioral change is also necessary to advance data science goals.”

Sunita Chaudhary, Tasraon Paine, Amy Haertel and Susan Greiglick

“The development of an open data strategy for the sharing of data that is informed by Data for Good principles.”

Samuel Simanga
Glenalmond College

As publishers, libraries and institutions themselves are also the subjects of the aforementioned top down initiatives and mandates, they have an essential responsibility and role to play in the progression and increased adoption of open data practices and principles.

Laura Day, Publisher
Greg Gooday, Director Nature

“As publishers, we are committed to supporting researchers in the handling and sharing of their research data, and ensuring they get appropriate reward and credit for their work.”

Matthew Caven, Taylor & Francis
Dr. Rebecca Grant (Elsevier)
Kate Metcalf (Springer)

“The goals of open data and more broadly open research are noble. They are essential for a more equitable society and level playing field for all. This does, however, mean a more administrative process for researchers in making their outputs open.”

Mark Habif, Figshare

The full report is available now!
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72% of researchers said they would rely on open data sharing as an internal resource for helping in managing or making their data openly available.

70% of researchers said they were required to share a copy of their data in data sharing for their most recent piece of research.

75% of researchers said they receive too little credit for sharing their data openly.

4/5 respondents are in favor of research data being made openly available as common practice.

36% of researchers are seeking more help on how to comply with funder policies.

67% of researchers said that it would be citation of their research papers that would motivate them to share their data.