The State of Open Data 2023

The State of Open Data is a global survey providing insights into researchers’ attitudes towards and experiences of open data. Now in its eighth year, it is the longest running longitudinal survey and analysis on open data. In 2023, the survey received 6,091 responses. This poster presents the key findings of the 2023 survey.

One size does not fit all
The variation in responses from different demographics clearly indicates that there are vast differences in the current approaches and attitudes towards data sharing around the world and across disciplines. It’s time for a more nuanced approach.

Who is offering support?
If respondents reported that they were aware of the concept of a data management plan, we then asked them if they had access to specialist research data managers in their research setting, 50% of them did.

Open data is important for researchers at all stages of their career
This year’s survey results indicate that the length of academics’ careers are not a significant factor in terms of awareness levels of concepts like a data management plan or support levels of research data being made openly available as a common practice.

The ongoing issue of credit
For eight years running, our survey has revealed a recurring concern among researchers: the perception that they don’t receive sufficient recognition for openly sharing their data. The survey results this year continue this trend, highlighting an ongoing issue within the research community that needs to be addressed in the future.

AI: friend or foe?
For the first time, this year, we asked survey respondents to indicate if they were using ChatGPT or similar AI tools for data collection, processing and metadata creation. The most common response to all three questions was ‘I’m aware of these tools but haven’t considered it.’

In The State of Open Data 2023 report, we are also providing some recommendations to different audiences in order to help move the space further, faster. May this call to action serve as a catalyst for informed discussions, strategic alliances, and innovative solutions in our collective journey towards a more open, inclusive, and data-driven future.

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