Data Policy for Open Science

Abstract:

Open science requires open data. While that is a truism, it can lead us to consider more specific considerations around data policy. Data policy should serve the interests of the organisations sponsoring the data collection. With research data the sponsor is often governments so the interests should be those of the public, and it is the public that ultimately benefits from open science. As such, at a first level, data policy should require data to be as open as ethically possible, but policy needs to address others issues as well. These issues include data access requirements, data preservation and stewardship requirements, standards and compliance mechanisms, data security issues, privacy and ethical concerns, and potentially even specific collection protocols and defined data flows. It is also helpful to clarify and recognize specific roles in the data ecosystem. This talk will review some of these considerations, why they are necessary, and how community efforts such as the Research Data Alliance can inform and respond to effective policy.