The Evolving Policy Environment for U.S. Research Data

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Open Data

2009: Open Government Directive

Broad, aspirational directive; laid out new expectations for openness and transparency in all government activities, and outputs – including information and data.

Agencies asked to release
3 "High-Value" Data Sets and
publish them online in an "open
format."

Despite some criticism, the Open Government Directive - and Data.gov - raised the bar on expectations for Open Data.

Enthusiasm - Check.
Needed clarity on what exactly to do next.

2013: Open Data Executive Order

Executive Order -- Making Open and Machine Readable the New Default for Government Information

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Barack Obama

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MAKING OPEN AND MACHINE READABLE THE NEW DEFAULT
FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. General Principles. Openness in government strengthens our democracy, promotes the delivery of efficient and effective services to the public, and contributes to economic growth. As one vital benefit of open

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And what about Research Data?
(No small matter:
U.S. funds $60 billion in publicly-funded research annually)

Also in 2013: White House OSTP Public Access Directive

the WHITE HOUSE   PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

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Expanding Public Access to the Results of Federally Funded Research

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Posted by Michael Stebbins on February 22, 2013 at 12:04 PM EDT

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The Obama Administration is committed to the proposition that citizens deserve easy access to the results of scientific research their tax dollars have paid for. That's why, in a policy memorandum released today, OSTP Director John Holdren has directed Federal agencies with more than $100M in R&D expenditures to develop plans to make the published results of federally funded research freely available to the public within one year of publication and requiring researchers to better account for and manage the digital data resulting from federally funded scientific research. OSTP has been looking into this issue for some time, soliciting broad public input on multiple occasions and convening an interagency working group to develop a policy. The final policy reflects substantial inputs from scientists and scientific organizations, publishers, members of Congress, and other members of the public—over 65 thousand of whom recently signed a We the People petition asking for expanded public access to the results of taxpayer-funded research.

To see the new policy memorandum, please

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WHITE HOUSE BLOGS

Required all U.S. federal science agencies to develop policies to ensure public access to and use of research articles and data.

(Fast) Forward 2 years…

2015:

Plans from 8 of the 19 Agencies have been released.

NASA PLAN: INCREASING ACCESS TO THE RESULTS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Digital Scientific Data and Peer-Reviewed Publications

Public Access Plan

U.S. Department of Energy
July 24, 2014

ENERGY.GOV

Implementation Plan to Increase Public Access to Results of USDA-funded Scientific Research

November 7, 2014

United States Department of Agriculture

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Public Access

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Public Access supports our Open Government goals by making the results of federally funded research, including peer-reviewed scientific publications and digital data, readily available to the public.

Secretary's Cover Letter

HHS Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell outlines the implementation of the HHS public access plans for federally funded research, which includes making publications and digital data resulting from HHS funded research freely available to the public.

- Letter from Secretary Burwell regarding the HHS public access plans

Background

On February 22, 2013, the Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), Dr. John Holdren, issued a memorandum to all agency and department heads entitled, "Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research." The memo directed federal agencies with more than $100 million in annual conduct of research and development to develop plans for increasing public access to peer-reviewed scientific publications and digital data resulting from federally funded research investments.

Agency Implementation Plans

Within HHS, four operating divisions meet this threshold: the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ). Additionally, the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) is voluntarily developing a public access plan for their portfolio of funded projects. Each of the operating divisions has developed its own public access implementation plan, in accordance with the Department's common approach.

- NIH's Public Access Plan
- FDA's Public Access Plan
- CDC's Public Access Plan
- AHRQ's Public Access Plan
- ASPR's Public Access Plan

So – what do we know about these emerging agency data policies?

Plans for policies first, final policies next (by end of 2015)

Research Data Policy Development: Evolutionary process, Community involvement.

NOT a "one-and-done" policy drafting process.

Plenty of commonalities among U.S. agency approaches to research data policies are emerging.

1. Setting the Default to Open

Mechanism: Requiring Data Management Plans
at funding proposal stage.

2. Supporting Reproducibility

There is the potential that data underlying articles may be required to be made public upon publication of article for purposes of validation/reproducibility.

3. Encouraging use of established public repositories

Leveraging existing infrastructure is an emerging priority

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4. Know Thy Data

Agencies will generate inventories of existing data sets.

5. Makin' A List:

Building on their inventories, agencies will be developing public-facing catalogues/indexes of data holdings.

6. Standardize

Agencies will be developing standards for items ranging from components of DMP's, to data formats to archiving standard.

7. Developing attribution for research data

Exploring ways that research data can be cited and attributed in consistent manner – goal is to "advance data as legitimate form of scholarship."

8. We're all in this together (Part I)
Providing support for training and workforce development

9. We're all in this together (Part II)
Pilots, pilots ,pilots.
And more pilots.

10. We're all in this together (Part III) Development of "Data Commons" mentioned by 6 of the 8 agencies releasing plans to date.

Open Research Data is Now a Priority.