What we learned yesterday

- Statisticians bring expertise in design and uncertainty (at multiple levels – sample, measurement, analysis)

- We are called upon to translate and clarify meaning in our audience's language (communication)

- Good science requires good process control, ethical thinking, and transparency (by us and scientists)

- We need principles and systematic approaches for the data life cycle (data collection to preservation)

Open Science and the Need for Education about Data

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ASA Chairs Workshop, July 2016

Premise of Inquiry

> "Open inquiry is at the
> heart of the scientific enterprise"

Science as an Open Enterprise Summary Report, The Royal Society, 2012

- Historically, this has involved:
  - Publication of theories, experimental and observational data, interpretations
  - Advancement of ideas through exchanges, colloquia and other venues
  - Self-correction through debate and scrutiny

Practice of Inquiry is Changing

- Centrality of printed page receding with digital technologies

- Increased emphasis on sharing data publicly

- Large-scale data collection and analysis is challenging traditional autonomy of individual researchers

- Internet provides a conduit for networks of scientists and public to collaborate and communicate

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Open Science

Open data

[available, intelligible, assessable & useable]

combined with

Open access to scholarly publications

and

Effective communication of their contents

[among scholars and with public]
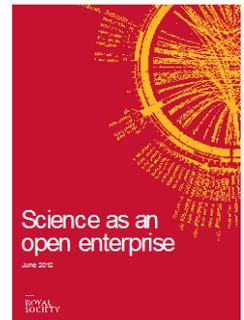
royalsociety.org/~/media/policy/projects/sape/2012-06-20-saoe-summary.pdf

It's not just making data available …

- Effective communication through more intelligent openness when sharing data
  - Understandable to those who wish to scrutinize data
  - Assessable for evaluating reliability of data and competence of data producers
  - Usable by others (scholars, public) for understanding and new discoveries

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External Drivers

- Increased public interest in evaluating the credibility of scientific conclusions and underlying evidence

- Push for government accountability through public release of data (e.g., funding agencies)

- Hopes that open access will increase public trust in scholarship, new discoveries and business activity

- *Need for science and scholarship to adapt to the changing technological, social and political environment*

US Research Funding Agencies

- 2013 OSTP memo directed major research funding agencies to:

  - Ensure publications and data from research funding are shared

  - Protect privacy and confidentiality, proprietary information, national security

  - Balance value of long-term archival with costs and burden

  - Enable costs to be covered in grants

Data Sharing Practice in its Infancy

- Most data sharing occurs on a small scale (local, known collaborator), except for select disciplines

- Disciplinary cultures vary widely in their practices for preparing, sharing, curating data

- Agency guidance and repository systems emerging, but still underdeveloped and inconsistent across agencies

- Research sponsors have emphasized data for publications (data management plans), but there are many other data products from research

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Preparing to share data:
the need to educate researchers & data scientists

- What is purpose of sharing? Audience? Value?
  - Validate publication OR for reuse, reproducibility
  - Scholars vs public
  - Value brought to science, scholars and public
- Given the purpose, what data should be shared?
- Should (part of) the data be protected?
  - Type of risk (e.g., confidentiality)
  - Risk of disclosure
- What options are available for protecting data?
  - Disclosure limitation methods (statistical, access)

Education for sharing data:
the need to train researchers and data scientists

- How do we effectively "communicate" data?

  - Importance of early planning and continuously updating documentation

  - Context of goals, methods, data manipulations, flaws

  - Standards for documenting data

  - Curation practices

- What are the options for storing data?

  - Data commons, federation of repositories

- Tools for proactive planning in research process?

  - Open Science Center, Research Data Alliance, …

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