Australian Government

Department of Education

Data – Summary

Targeted Discussion Series (September 2024)

Summary

The consultation identified several key considerations and potential investment priorities for digital research infrastructure:

Searchability and metadata: Improving the ability to search across various domain repositories and enhancing the quality of metadata to promote better search results. Emphasising the importance of metadata aggregation rather than data aggregation.

Investments in vocab and ontology services, persistent identifiers, catalogues, resources for data curation, request management, and governance are essential. This includes making data findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable (FAIR).

Emphasising the importance of collecting the right metadata during data acquisition to ensure data can be effectively managed and reused.

Data lifecycle management: Ensuring that data is collected with the right metadata from the beginning, especially during fieldwork, to facilitate CARE and FAIR principles.

Addressing the challenge of managing data beyond the life of a project and ensuring its reusability over decades.

Provide education to all researchers to ensure FAIR and CARE principles are understood and adhered to from the time of data collection or generation.

Institutional responsibility: Investing at the national research infrastructure (NRI) level to support institutions in their role as data stewards, ensuring they care for and make data FAIR and curated to the level required by international repositories.

Promoting a culture change where data is seen as a valuable commodity and providing incentives for researchers to curate and manage data effectively.

International collaboration: Engaging at the international level to ensure global standards and accessibility of data.

Engaging at the international level to ensure that data generated by international facilities is accessible and adheres to FAIR principles.

The main messages suggested a strong effort in defining Australia's overall data lifecycle including deletion of data under the right circumstances. Findability will depend on robust metadata which must be created with the initial data collection or creation.

If you'd like to provide any additional comments or feedback on the above summary, you're invited to provide these views via the online NDRI Investment Plan Consultation Survey, which can be found on the department's NDRI webpage.