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The World of Research Data: When Should Data be Closed, Shared or Open?

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That research data should be shared with the rest of the world has become almost evangelical in nature. This paper will try to answer the following questions:

- What are the (real) reasons for 'forcing' scientists to open their data, even if they are not ready to do so?
- What right have non-scientists (and scientists) to push indiscriminately for the sharing of data without taking the nuances of research into consideration?

This paper will look at the physical characteristics of research data before it can be shared, a case study of the public humiliation of a excellent researcher who did not wish to share his data, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of sharing research data.

Presenter Biography

Dr Heila Pienaar is the Deputy Director for Strategic Innovation at the University of Pretoria Library. She has been actively involved with RDM at UP and nationally since 2010

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