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Incentives driving data sharing: an African perspective

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The Open Science movement – focused on making research data, software code and experimental methods publicly available and transparent - is steadily gaining momentum. According to Gewin (2016), “[A] spirit of openness is gaining traction in the science community, and is the only way, say advocates, to address a ‘crisis’ in science whereby too few findings are successfully reproduced. Furthermore, they say, it is the best way for researchers to gather the range of observations that are necessary to speed up discoveries or to identify large-scale trends.”

Although many researchers are already sharing their raw data and data sets, there are researchers who still question why they should share their data, and what benefits are in it for them. In other words, how will they be incentivized, when others use the outputs of their hard work. These issues also apply on national and institutional levels, across the world. Very few countries and institutions have policies in place regarding the management (incl. curation) and sharing of data as an outcome of funded research projects.

Through this talk, some initial findings on incentives for sharing data from the African Open Science Platform project will be presented.

HPC content

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