RDA

Developing a Research Data Policy Framework for All Journals and Publishers

The Challenge:

Journal and publisher policies can increase data sharing by researchers, but differences in research data policy requirements across journals and publishers can lead to confusion, both for authors and for research support staff. As stakeholders, including publishers, funding agencies and institutions, continue to implement and strengthen their policy requirements, there is increased potential for conflicting policy guidance, making compliance more challenging.

Produced by: RDA Data policy standardisation and implementation IG

https://datascience.codata.org/article/10.5334/dsj-2020-005/

What is the solution?

We define and describe 14 features of journal research data policies and arrange these into a set of six standard policy types or tiers, which can be adopted by journals and publishers to promote data sharing in a way that encourages good practice and is appropriate for their audience's perceived needs. Policy features cover expectations for data citation, data repositories, data availability statements, data standards and formats, and peer review of research data. Implementation guidelines for the standard research data policies for journals and publishers are also provided, along with template policy texts which can be implemented by journals in their Information for Authors and publishing workflows.

What is the impact?

The framework has been adopted or utilised by several publishers, journals and organisations in 2019-2020. It is supporting measurable increases in the number of journal policies and published papers that make statements about the availability of supporting data. The STM Association is using the framework to promote adoption of data sharing policies by its nearly 150 member publishers; PLOS and some Springer Nature journals have updated their research data policies in response to the framework, as have scientific journals in Slovenia. The framework has been published in a peer-reviewed journal and is being frequently cited.

Find out more about the Output from the RDA Data policy standardisation and implementation IG

September 2020