WORLD DATA SYSTEM — ICSU

RDA

WDS/RDA Assessment Of Data Fitness For Use WG Outputs

The Challenge:

The increasing availability of research data and its evolving role as a first class scientific output in the scholarly communication requires a better understanding of and the possibility to assess data quality, which in turn can be described as conformance of data properties to data usability or fitness for use. These properties are multifaceted and cover various aspects. The compliance of a data repository or data center providing datasets - for example with certification requirements - could serve as a useful proxy. Currently, there is a fairly good understanding on how to certify the quality of a data center / repository as a whole, but there is no generally acknowledged concept for assessment of data usability of individual datasets. Assessing fitness for purpose and making a decision whether to reuse a dataset is not straightforward. This situation reduces the chances of shared data being reused and in case of reuse could decrease the reliability of research results.

Produced by: LWDS/RDA Assessment Of Data Fitness For Use WG

https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/assessment-data-fitness-use

What is the solution?

Criteria for research dataset fitness for use compared against the CoreTrustSeal requirements and FAIR principles. Through this comparison of criteria the WDS/RDA Assessment Of Data Fitness For Use Working Group determined that a CoreTrustSeal certified repository's data holdings would meet several aspects of dataset fitness for use. Evaluating metadata and data completeness in an automated fashion is not feasible at this time, therefore a manual evaluative process for research datasets that would build on the CoreTrustSeal repository certification process was developed.

A checklist for evaluation of dataset for fitness for use meant to supplement the CoreTrustSeal Repository Certification process, and is based on the data fitness for use criteria. This manual evaluative process would be conducted by a repository manager or an external entity such as a CoreTrustSeal repository evaluator for a sample (6-12) of individual data sets within the repository.

What is the impact?

- Improved communication of data fitness for use
- Improved and standardized data publication services
- Improved reliability and efficiency in the reuse of research data

Find out more about this Recommendation

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