The Denton Declaration: An Open Data Manifesto

Introduction
On May 22, 2012, at the University of North Texas, a group of technologists and librarians, scholars and researchers, university administrators, and other stakeholders gathered to discuss and articulate best practices and emerging trends in research data management. This declaration bridges the converging interests of these stakeholders and promotes collaboration, transparency, and accountability across organizational and disciplinary boundaries.

Declarations
• Open access to research data is critical for advancing science, scholarship, and society.
• Research data, when repurposed, has an accretive value.
• Publicly funded research should be publicly available for public good.
• Transparency in research is essential to sustain the public trust.
• The validation of research data by the peer community is an essential function of the responsible conduct of research.
• Managing research data is the responsibility of a broad community of stakeholders including researchers, funders, institutions, libraries, archivists, and the public.

Principles
• Open access to research data benefits society, and facilitates decision making for public policy.
• Publicly available research data helps promote a more cost-effective and efficient research environment by reducing redundancy of efforts.
• Access to research data ensures transparency in the deployment of public funds for research and helps safeguard public goodwill toward research.
• Open access to research data facilitates validation of research results, allows data to be improved by identifying errors, and enables the reuse and analysis of legacy data using new techniques developed through advances and changing perceptions.
• Funding entities should support reliable long-term access to research data as a component of research grants due to the benefits that accrue from the availability of research data.
• Data preservation should involve sufficient identifying characteristics and descriptive information so that others besides the data producer can use and analyze the data.
• Data should be made available in a timely manner; neither too soon to ensure that researchers benefit from their labor, nor too late to allow for verification of the results.
• A reasonable plan for the disposition of research data should be established as part of data management planning, rather than arbitrarily claiming the need for preservation in perpetuity.
• Open access to research data should be a central goal of the lifecycle approach to data management, with consideration given at each stage of the data lifecycle to what metadata, data architecture, and infrastructure will be necessary to support data discoverability, accessibility, and long-term stewardship.
• The costs of cyberinfrastructure should be distributed among the stakeholders—including researchers, agencies, and institutions—in a way that supports a long-term strategy for research data acquisition, collection, preservation, and access.
• The academy should adapt existing frameworks for tenure and promotion, and merit-based incentives to account for alternative forms of publication and research output including data papers, public data sets, and digital products. Value inheres in data as a standalone research output.
• The principles of open access should not be in conflict with the intellectual property rights of researchers, and a culture of citation and acknowledgment should be cultivated rigorously and conscientiously among all practitioners.
• Open access should not compromise the confidentiality of research subjects, and will comply with principles of data security defined by HIPAA, FERPA, and other privacy guidelines.

Intentions

In our professional interactions at meetings, on review panels, conferences, teaching, etc. we will advocate the following positions:
• A culture of openness in research.
• A federated model of archiving data to enable discoverability, transparency, and open access.
• A robust and sustainable funding regime for research data management infrastructure (technical, policy, and human resources).
The development and adoption of metadata standards for research data.
- Long-term access to data that supports published research outputs.
- Support for researchers in negotiations with publishers to allow open access to research in repositories.
- Recognition of researchers’ intellectual property in data and scholarly research outputs.

Invitation
We invite all others who support these principles of research data management to join with us to make our vision of a culture of open data a reality.

Join us! Add your support to the principles of open data by adding your signature at http://openaccess.unt.edu/denton-declaration. Organizations wishing to lend their support, please email datares@unt.edu.

Participants
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