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Res. Data Session: Research Data Policies: Seachange or Zeitgeist?

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What will be the practical implications of research data policies for the everyday life of researchers or institutional and commercial service portfolios? The question is not new: the German Research Foundation DFG addressed data management as part of the recommendations for safeguarding good scientific practice in 1998 [1], the National Institute of Health NIH in the US presented a draft statement on sharing research data in 2002 and concepts like "Data Deluge"[3] celebrate a 10th anniversary. Recently, the National Science Foundation NSF in the US introduced a requirement for data management plans [4], UK's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council EPSRC asks universities to deliver a data roadmap for implementation by 2015 [5] and institutions such as the University of Edinburgh start publishing local policies [6].

At the same time, disciplinary practice varies significantly. Some life science journals require mandatory data deposits with an article publication. Data journals as well as data publishing platforms are appearing. In other disciplines even mentioning the term 'data' causes suspicion. The presentation will analyze selected research data policies in the light of examples of current research practice.

[1] http://www.dfg.de/download/pdf/dfg_im_profil/reden_stellungnahmen/download/self_regulation_98.pdf

[2] <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-02-035.html>

[3] http://eprints.soton.ac.uk/257648/1/The_Data_Deluge.pdf

[4] <http://www.nsf.gov/eng/general/dmp.jsp>

[5] <http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/about/standards/researchdata/Pages/policyframework.aspx>

[6] <http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/information-services/about/policies-and-regulations/research-data-policy>

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