



University of Technology, Sydney

Research data curation
with an Open Access disposition
at UTS

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A hand holding a globe, with a bar chart and a document visible in the background.

Why collect research data?

- To maintain the scholarly record
 - Akin to keeping manuscripts, diaries, field notes, specimens
- To demonstrate outputs/outcomes to funding agencies
 - Required by ARC – at least for social sciences research
- To keep faith with informants
 - Avoid repeated collection of the same or similar data
 - Enable 'return' of data to informants



Why collect research data?

- To permit replication
 - Both to verify results and protect against fraud
- To enable reanalysis
 - New interpretations of the dataset
 - Cross tabulation or re-interpretation in conjunction with other datasets
- To facilitate new forms of scholarly activity and discourse
 - Linking from published papers to underlying research data
 - Dynamic visualisation
 - Responsive, dialogic systems



Data curation at UTS

- Operating NSW node of Australian Social Sciences Data Archive (ASSDA)
 - Established 1973, based at ANU
 - Data stored on ANU Supercomputer Facility (ANU-SF)
- Establishing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data Archive (ATSIDA)
 - National Indigenous research data archive
- Elements of UTSeScholarship
 - With UTSePress and UTSiResearch



Challenges - establishment

- **Credibility**

- With UTS research community
- With wider research communities, especially Indigenous
- With Indigenous communities and interests

- **Capacity**

- Technological – existing UTS:Library capacities plus ANU-SF
- Staff – seeking to recruit – in-house expertise developed through UTSePress and UTSiResearch activities



Challenges - developmental

- Trust
 - Need to develop effective relationships with researchers & those with an interest in the datasets
- Management
 - Must apply metadata schema (Dublin Core, DDI) to translate research **and cultural** protocols to enable longterm management for preservation and where possible access
 - Challenging for quantitative datasets – groundbreaking for qualitative datasets
- Description
 - Must apply consistent modes of description to enable access and use of datasets with other datasets and/or resources



Challenges – research practice

- Promote commitment to explicit and consistent data retention strategies at inception of research projects
 - Engagement with research offices, researchers and academics
- Develop ways of handling sensitive data in the (very) long term
 - Indigenous, medical, criminological
- Promote commitment to Open Access
 - Create a culture of transparency and collaboration in research



Thanks!