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The Article is Not Enough: Introducing the JLSC Data Sharing Policy

JLSC Editorial Board

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EDITORIAL

The Article is Not Enough: Introducing the *JLSC* Data Sharing Policy

Editor's Note: *Thanks to Gail Clement and Lisa Schiff for their leadership and work on this statement.*

As data publication and data citation emerge as best practices in scholarly communication, the *JLSC* editorial board has considered its own position regarding a data publishing policy, and has explored the elements of such a policy most appropriate for our community at this time. Our view is that the scholarly record is strongest when the data underlying any report of research findings are accessible at the time of publication and into the future to enable other investigators to reproduce the research and to build on it through additional studies. Additionally, we recognize that data publication and citation are important practices to ensure data providers receive credit for their valuable research contributions. Finally, we understand the importance of making all publicly-funded research data openly available so that society may fully benefit from its investments in the creation of these knowledge assets. For this combination of reasons, *JLSC* shall introduce a data policy effective August 1, 2014 that will be subject to revision in order to reflect ongoing developments in practices and infrastructure in this area.

In formulating a sensible Data Sharing Policy for authors and researchers in the library community, we have taken into account the fact that the work practices and standards for our community of scholars differ in important ways from our colleagues in other disciplines, particularly those in science, technology, and medicine. In many of those research-intensive fields, data sharing policies have matured into mandates by funding agencies, publishers, and institutions that require data archiving using a prescribed set of vehicles: a disciplinary repository or data center; a published data descriptor or data paper; or as supplemental files submitted with the associated manuscript. Each of these modes of data archiving carries with it the community expectation of data curation and some form of quality review by domain experts; assignment of international persistent identifiers including DOI's and ORCID ids; and the ability to distribute the data under either an open license permitting unrestricted reuse, such as CC-BY, or as a public domain asset marked with the CC0 stamp. Although some of these aspirational expectations of STEM data publishing initiatives are not ready for full implementation, the conversation within these communities clearly aim in that direction.

Should data sharing in the more practice-focused, and typically privately funded, arena of library scholarship follow the model of the STEM fields? We suspect not. For that reason we are introducing a more moderate approach to sharing data associated with *JLSC*-published research. Our aim is to kickstart the conversation within our community of practice as to what data sharing model makes most sense for our readers and fellow researchers.

To that end, we invite community comment and critique of the following draft Data Policy to ensure that, once established, it aligns with the values and needs of the Library community. Please send all feedback to Gail Clement (gclement@library.tamu.edu) or Lisa Schiff (lisa.schiff@ucop.edu).

Proposed JLSC Data Policy

Authors of research papers submitted for publication in *JLSC* are encouraged to make the data underlying their articles available online whenever possible. For the purposes of this policy, the term "data" is understood

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broadly[1] and refers to both quantitative and qualitative research outputs, spanning observations and analysis of social settings (producing numbers, texts, images, multimedia or other content) to numbers attained through instrumental and other raw data gathering efforts, quantitative analysis, text mining, or citation analysis, as well as protocols, methods, and code used to generate any specific finding reported in the paper. The *JLSC* editorial board prefers that the data be submitted as supplemental files accompanying the article, or be archived in a secure repository that provides a persistent identifier, assures long-term access, and provides sufficient documentation and metadata to support re-use by other investigators. Acceptable solutions include institutional repositories; repositories specifically focused on data curation,[2] or domain specific repositories. If there is no relevant public repository available, and the data cannot easily be included in a supplement, authors should describe how the data are being curated and made available or, in the case where they cannot be made available (e.g. IRB restrictions), why that is so. In any case, a citation to the dataset should be made in the article itself in accordance with the data citation principles of the FORCE11 "Joint Declaration of Data Citation Principles" (https://www.force11.org/datacitation), including an ORCID for the researcher(s) associated with the data. (Note that while *JLSC* itself cannot currently accept ORCIDs as part of our article submission process, our platform provider has plans to implement this feature in the future). Finally, we recommend that whenever possible authors explicitly define the terms of re-use by assigning a license to their data, choosing, for instance, among Creative Commons (http://creativecommons.org/) or Open Data Commons (http://opendatacommons.org/licenses) licenses.

This *JLSC* data policy does not require data publication and citation at this time due to still-emergent standards for data peer review; the lack of sufficiently robust and distributed infrastructure to support the variety of disciplinary research occurring in our field; uncertainty whether *JLSC* should provide a third mode of data publication in the form of "data papers" or "data descriptors"; and insufficient preparation and notification to *JLSC* contributors to ensure datasets are properly curated with the aim of publication. Authors unable to share their data must provide written explanation of this circumstance in their cover letter at the time of submission.

JLSC Editorial Board
August 1, 2014

[1] See Fitzgerald, A. M., Pappalardo, K. M., Fitzgerald, B. F., Austin, A. C., Abbot, J. W., Cosman, B. L., ...Singleton, B. (2007). *Building the infrastructure for data access and reuse in collaborative research : An analysis of the legal context*. The OAK Law Project, Canberra, Australia. Retrieved from http://eprints.qut.edu.au/8865/

[2] A few examples of suitable open repositories used in the library and information science community are: *ICPSR* (http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/landing.jsp); *DataHub* (http://datahub.io/); and *figshare* (http://figshare.com). Other possible repositories may be found in *Databib* (http://databib.org/), a searchable online directory of research data repositories. An emerging standard for dataset metadata, identifier registration and citations that is used by many repositories can be found at *DataCite* (http://www.datacite.org/). Note that *JLSC* does not manage a data repository of its own.