Operationalizing and evaluating the FAIRness concept for a good quality of data sharing in Research: the RDA-SHARC-IG (SHAring Rewards and Credit Interest Group)

Romain David, Laurence Mabile, Mohamed Yahia, Anne Cambon-Thomsen, Anne-Sophie Archambeau, Louise Bezuidenhout, Sofie Bekaert, Gabrielle Bertier, Elena Bravo, Jane Carpenter, et al.

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BUILDING FAIR- BASED ASSESSMENT GRIDS

To be generic and trans-disciplinary, assessment grids should be understandable by all scientist including ones who are not expert in data science.

The two grids are based on previous works on FAIR data management (Reymonet et al., 2018; Wilkinson et al., 2018; and E.U. Guidelines*):

1/ The self-assessment grid to be used by a scientist as a ‘checklist’ to identify her/his own activities and to pinpoint the hurdles that hinder efficient sharing and reuse of her/his data by all potential users.

2/ The two-level grid (quick/extension) to be used by the evaluator to assess the quality of the researcher/scientist sharing practice, over a given period, taking into account the means & supports available over that period. Assessment criteria are classified according to her/his stringency for FAIRness (mandatory / recommended / optional).

SHARC-IG TARGETED OUTCOMES

- Background paper on ‘rewarding’ mechanisms for sharing datasets & biorepositories and their link to research institutional evaluation -To be published as an RDA endorsed paper in an open access highly visible science journal with a science policy section.

- Set of generic recommendations towards relevant stakeholders meant at helping considering the many obstacles that remain on several fronts. Among these obstacles is the lack of relevant and recognized rewarding mechanisms for the very specific efforts required to share organized datasets and physical resources (Cobham et al., 2016; Mafele et al., 2016).

- The RDA-SHARC interest group is an interdisciplinary volunteer member-based group set up to unpack and improve crediting and rewarding mechanisms in the data/resources sharing process. The objectives are:

1/ To review the existing rewarding mechanisms and their limits in various scientific communities, and to identify key factors to improve the process and optimize the sharing of datasets and biorepositories; i.e. data and physical samples (ex: tools, incentives, requirements...).

2/ To develop processes for stepwise adoption of principles and implementation measures tuned to national, local and institutional contexts.

3/ To refer to existing guidelines for developing a grid for assessing the FAIR sharing activity (Wilkinson et al., 2018) and on the FORCE11 guidelines.

4/ To disseminate information and to diversify communities of stakeholders;

5/ To be generic and trans-disciplinary, assessment grids should be understandable by all scientist including ones who are not expert in data science.

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