

## Book Review

**Managing and Sharing Research Data: A Guide to Good Practice**, by Louise Corti, Veerle Van den Eynden, Libby Bishop and Matthew Woollard; SAGE Publications, London, 2014, ISBN: 9781446267264, Paperback, 240 pages, US\$ 45.00.

A researcher needs to understand the process of managing, storing, transferring, sharing and publishing their research data to strengthen dissemination of his/her research findings. The book "Managing and Sharing Research Data: A Guide to Good Practice", written by Louise Corti, Veerle Van den Eynden, Libby Bishop and Matthew Woollard, is a comprehensive handbook for researchers while they are managing, storing, transferring, sharing and publishing their research data in an ICT-enabled environment. This book gives an outlook of data related activities any academic researcher is supposed to undertake along with his/her pre-doctoral, doctoral and post-doctoral research studies. This book is written by data professionals working with the United Kingdom Data Archive.

Nowadays, many journal publishers insist their authors to share their research data on open data sharing platforms to achieve transparency and reusability of published research. The authors of this book sum up the reasons that necessitate an open research data mandate by different stakeholders: "Research funders are increasingly mandating open access to research data; governments are demanding transparency in research; the economic climate is requiring much greater reuse of data; and fear of data loss calls for more robust information security practices. All these factors mean that researchers will need to improve, enhance and professionalize their research data management skills to meet the challenge of producing the highest quality sharable and reusable outputs in a responsible and efficient way" (p. viii).

The book is organized into eleven chapters for logically exploring every aspect of scientific data management and research data sharing. In chapter one titled 'Importance of Managing and Sharing Research Data', the authors briefly describe the data sharing agenda, policies and principles accepted by UK-based research funders, scientific societies, and journal publishers. The chapter enlists a set of dilemmas or concerns about data sharing voiced by individual researchers while the authors enlist the counter arguments in favour of sharing.

Chapter two briefly describes typical activities undertaken in the research data lifecycle, which include the discovery and planning, data collection, data processing and analysis, publishing and sharing, long-term management, and reusing data. The chapter three titled 'Research Data Management Planning' introduces data management and sharing plans as prescribed in research funders' or institutional policies. Here a data management

checklist is made available for achieving good data practices and to optimize data sharing. The chapter four titled 'Documenting and Providing Context for Data' elaborates different elements in data-level documentation and metadata cataloguing of qualitative and quantitative data collections.

Chapter five titled 'Formatting and Organizing Data' helps us in understanding different computer-readable file formats available for codifying and storing different kinds of data such as textual, image, audio, video, geospatial or tabular data. Here one can learn about ways of organizing data files in a logical manner. Chapter six titled 'Storing and Transferring Data' highlights the best practice in storing data and data backup strategies, and helps us in achieving data integrity and data security while storing or transferring data.

In chapters seven to twelve, the authors unfold research data ecosystem with social, ethical, legal and cultural dimensions. Sharing and reusing research data ensure establishing a collaborative research environment participated by international, national or local partners with a mandate of expansion of knowledge domain. The chapter eight briefly describes the intellectual property rights and open licensing terms associated with the practice of sharing and reusing research data. The chapters ten titled 'Making Use of Other People's Research Data' and eleven titled 'Publishing and Citing of Research Data' facilitate the researchers in understanding requisite protocols or conventions and expanding open science paradigm for the future generations of researchers.

Every chapter of this book presents some self-check exercises, answers to the exercises and few short case studies. The authors of this book maintain a resourceful webpage at <http://ukdataservice.ac.uk/manage-data/handbook> for freely disseminating additional resources, which includes various presentations and guidelines. This webpage will also be helpful to researchers who cannot afford to buy this book.

This book primarily showcased a particular country situation, i.e., research data sharing principles and infrastructure available within the United Kingdom. Citing examples from other countries, particularly the emerging nations would have been beneficial to readers in other countries other than the UK. As the price of this useful book is not affordable to many South Asian researchers, a low-cost South Asian edition is suggested.

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