WILEY’s Researcher Data Insights Survey was launched earlier this year to understand how and why researchers make their research data publicly available. The study’s results, highlighted below, are intended to advance the global conversation about data sharing and help Wiley better meet the needs of our researchers, authors, and partners in the rapidly evolving landscape of scientific research and communications.

The survey was deployed in March 2014 and received more than 2,250 responses from researchers around the world.

DATA SHARING BY COUNTRY

Global data sharing practices vary widely across research fields and geographic areas. Just over half of researchers report making their data publicly available, though archiving results in repositories is not yet the norm.

RESEARCHER MOTIVATIONS FOR SHARING DATA

Data sharing is standard practice within my research community. To increase the impact and visibility of my research. To improve the impact and visibility of my research. Public benefit. Journal requirement. Translational and rescue.

RESEARCHER DATA SHARING INSIGHTS

DATA SHARING TRENDS

Data sharing practices vary widely across research fields and geographic areas. Globally, researchers also report sharing their data in limited and non-permanently ways: 57% are sharing data at a conference while 42% of researchers share their data upon informal request (e.g. email, direct contact, etc.).

REASONS WHY RESEARCHERS ARE HESITANT TO SHARE THEIR DATA

42% intellectual property or confidentiality issues
36% My funder/institution does not require data sharing
26% I am concerned that my research will be scooped
26% I am concerned about misinterpretation or misuse
23% Ethical concerns
22% I am concerned about being given proper citation credit or attribution
21% I did not know where to share my data
20% Insufficient time and/or resources
16% I did not know how to share my data
12% I don’t think it is my responsibility
12% I did not consider the data to be relevant
11% Lack of funding
7% Other

DATA SHARING TRENDS BY COUNTRY

Where Health Scientists share their work: 68% As supplementary material in a journal. 29% Life Sciences. 21% Institutional data repositories (i.e. university or institute-sponsored). 5% Discipline-specific data repositories (i.e. Dryad, figshare).

Where Life Scientists share their work: 76% As supplementary material in a journal. 42% Discipline-specific data repositories. 29% Personal/institutional lab webpages. 13% General-purpose data repositories (i.e. Dryad, figshare).

Where Physical Scientists share their work: 65% As supplementary material in a journal. 45% Other. 41% Physical Science researches say that they would be most motivated to share their data publicly in the future if it will increase the impact and visibility of their work.

Where Social Scientists share their work: 64% As supplementary material in a journal. 35% Personal/institutional lab webpages. 32% Discipline-specific data repositories (i.e. university or institute-sponsored). 10% General-purpose data repositories.

RESEARCHER DATA SHARING TRENDS

Data sharing practices vary widely across research fields and geographic areas. Globally, researchers also report sharing their data in limited and non-permanently ways: 57% are sharing data at a conference while 42% of researchers share their data upon informal request (e.g. email, direct contact, etc.).