

Presenting your Data Champions

**There to advise, encourage and support
you on best data practices**

Data stewards are invaluable for the research community. They are there to address your data management needs and to help with your data dilemmas, offering support and guidance from collecting, curating, storing and sharing your data.

In this piece, data stewards from different institutions around the globe have kindly shared their knowledge and expertise. For those in need of inspiration and useful pointers, read through these pieces of advice on why and how to openly share your data.

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Beth Montague-Hellen

University of Nottingham



“ Ensure that from the start of the project all collaborators and researchers know that data will be shared. Be clear throughout the project which data will be shared openly, which could be shared with restrictions and which should not be shared. Where data can't all be shared, think about what could be shared – data can usually be divided up and a subset might still be useful to other researchers. ”

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Ralitsa Madsen

University College London

“ Do it – it can only benefit you. Not only will it highlight your collaborative spirit, it also acts as a sign to the scientific community that they are dealing with a trustworthy scientist who values rigour and quality over quantity. ”

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Ennio Lavagnini
University of Cambridge

“ Ask someone expert in the field... it can really change your point of view and he/she can show you a lot of different possibilities to take advantage of this opportunity. ”

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Robert Darby

University of Reading

“ Engage with the support at your institution. Attend the available training, book a consultation with the RDM support team. There are good and bad ways to share data, and it is important to know the difference. ”

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Yasemin Turkyilmaz

TU Delft

“ Ask for help. Your university possibly has dedicated staff such as data stewards, data managers and research software engineers to support you. Academic libraries often have dedicated resources to help with data management (advice, training, tools, infrastructure). ”

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Dr Chris Emmerson

Newcastle University

“ To consider and plan the sharing of data at the earliest opportunity of the research project. And it is not only the data but the ‘recipe’ for the data that truly enables data to be reused in the future. ”

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Hayley Clissold

Wellcome Sanger Institute

“ Do it! Open data is invaluable to the research community. Open access science accelerates research, maximises impact, encourages international collaboration and improves researcher visibility, so please make your research data as openly available as possible! ”

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Esther Plomp

TU Delft

“ Just start: a lot of researchers are no experts at this because it is new to all of us and they still try! Start with something that you feel most comfortable with and learn along the way, just like you would do with any other aspect of your research. Be open to feedback from your peers and improve in incremental steps, there is no need to be a 100% open immediately. ”

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Andreas Angourakis

University of Cambridge

“ Organise and, if possible, expose your data from the start of a project. Do not wait until you need to prepare a publication or submit it as a closed definitive version. ”

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Alison Ashmore
University of Nottingham

“ To definitely do it, the more researchers share their data the more it will become standard practice rather than an afterthought. ”

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Beverley Jones

University of Sheffield

“ Live open from the beginning – deposit the data from your PhD in the institution you find yourself, link it to your thesis, work on EOSC or similar, use enotebooks if the institution supports it, talk to Scholarly Comms in the library, attend their training, be their advocate. ”

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Samuel Simango

Manager, Research Data Services, Stellenbosch University

“ You need to familiarise yourself with the principles of research data management. Data sharing is only one aspect of the research data management life-cycle. By understanding the broader context that data sharing occupies within this life cycle researchers can come to understand how they can generate quality data to be shared. ”

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Lindsey Myers

University of York

“ Plan to share your data, and start planning before the project starts - write a data management plan and update it as the project progresses, seek advice and guidance so that you can implement and meet your planning aims/goals. ”

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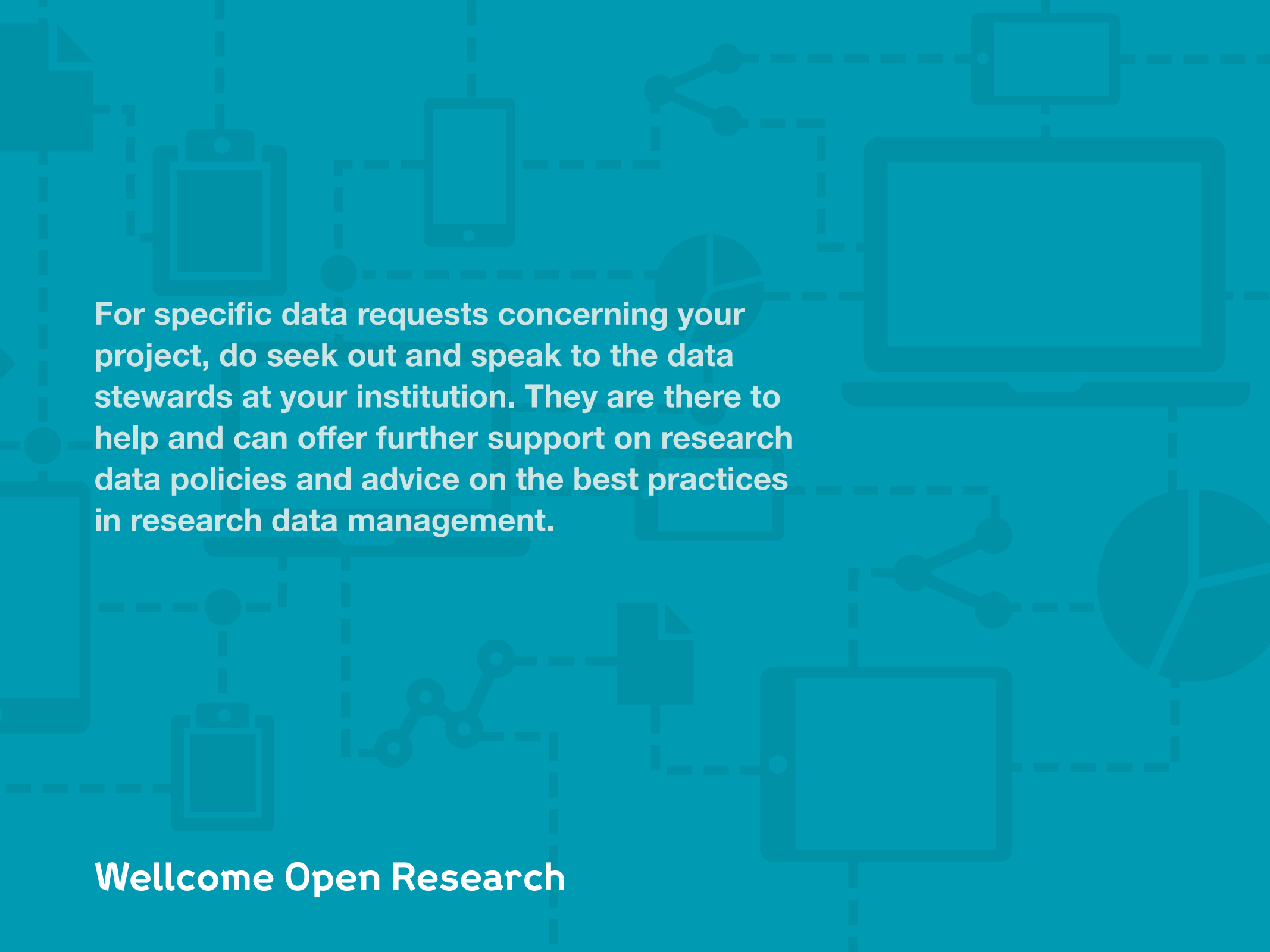


Hugo Caffaratti

University of Cambridge

“ To use clear and concise metadata. To structure the data in a way that is easy to understand and accessible to other users. ”

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For specific data requests concerning your project, do seek out and speak to the data stewards at your institution. They are there to help and can offer further support on research data policies and advice on the best practices in research data management.

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