Open Data Perspectives in Government and Research BoF

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OUTLINE

There are many discussions swirling around open, linked, and increased sharing of data. They are occurring in the research community as well as the government at all levels. We have seen over the last 5-10 years an increased awareness of the opportunities around more open data, as well as the need. Funding is tighter and the benefits of the investments need to be made clearer. Research is increasingly collaborative around and focused on data, bringing together larger volumes, more diverse sources and greater inter-disciplinary analysis. Governments are keen to improve service delivery, increase efficiencies, provide more transparency, and achieve better policy outcomes, while delivering benefits to the wider community who can consume and value-add to data.

At the same time, there is still an ongoing culture change around issues such as data ownership and licensing, making data more open, if not public, dealing with the costs of data accessibility, and a host of associated issues – both in research communities and in government circles. Many of the conversations in both communities are quite similar.

There have been a wide range of policy initiatives to foster culture change, demonstrate the benefits, reduce the barriers, and ensure common approaches. We have seen ANDS and its precursor projects driving the discussions in the research community. In the government at all levels, initiatives such as Gov2.0, data.X.gov.au, public service data strategies and government policies have been enthusiastically developed. Between the two sit the funding bodies, who like many of their global peers and some publishers, are setting increased expectations around the wider availability of data arising from publicly funded research.

This BoF will bring together some key stakeholders from a range of perspectives – from the Federal Government, the ARC and the research community. The discussion will hopefully bring out some of the common issues, and maybe even solutions, to the problems that both are facing. It may identify opportunities for each side to teach the other, or where increasing collaboration can help to drive culture change and participation.

To kickstart the discussion, some brief presentations will provide specific overviews, including:
-   ARC's initiatives around open research data
-   Progress of open data across government jurisdictions and the opportunities for greater collaboration
-   The Australian Government's Open Data Network

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Bios to follow

Professor Brian Yates - Executive Director, Engineering, Mathematical and Information Sciences, Australian Research Council

Pia Waugh - Director Coordination and Gov 2.0, Working for the Australian Government Chief Technology Officer & Procurement Coordinator, Technology & Procurement Division, Department of Finance