

Overview of FAIRsFAIR metadata catalogue integration

Eva Mendez, UC3M, and Simon Lambert, STFC



emendez@bib.uc3m.es @evamen February 17, 2022







- F1. (Meta)data are assigned a globally unique and persistent identifier
- F2. Data are described with rich metadata (defined by R1 below)
- F3. Metadata clearly and explicitly include the identifier of the data they describe
- F4. (Meta)data are registered or indexed in a searchable resource



- **A1.** (Meta)data are retrievable by their identifier using a standardised communications protocol
 - **A1.1** The protocol is open, free, and universally implementable
 - A1.2 The protocol allows for an authentication and authorisation procedure
- A2. Metadata are accessible, even when the data are no longer available

Interoperable

- **I1.** (Meta)data use a formal, accessible, shared, and broadly applicable language for knowledge representation.
- **12.** (Meta)data use vocabularies that follow FAIR principles
- 13. (Meta)data include qualified references to other (meta)data

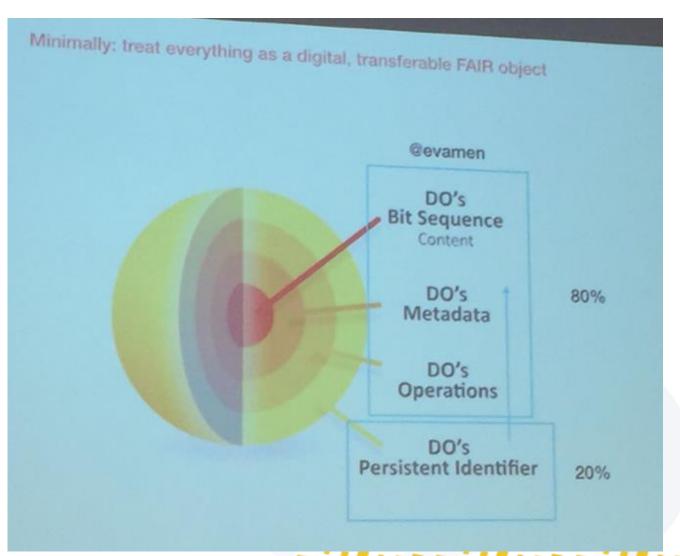


- **R1.** Meta(data) are richly described with a plurality of accurate and relevant attributes
 - R1.1. (Meta)data are released with a clear and accessible data usage license
 - R1.2. (Meta)data are associated with detailed provenance
 - **R1.3**. (Meta)data meet domain-relevant community standards



FAIR Guiding Principles: all about metadata

80% metadata 20% PIDs



Metadata at the core of FAIR data

How FAIR are your data?

Findable

It should be possible for others to discover your data. Rich metadata should be available online in a searchable resource, and the data should be assigned a persistent identifier.

- A persistent identifier is assigned to your data
- There are rich metadata, describing your data
- ☐ The metadata are online in a searchable resource e.g. a catalogue or data repository
- The metadata record specifies the persistent identifier

Accessible

It should be possible for humans and machines to gain access to your data, under specific conditions or restrictions where appropriate. FAIR does not mean that data need to be open! There should be metadata, even if the data aren't accessible.

- Following the persistent ID will take you to the data or associated metadata
- The protocol by which data can be retrieved follows recognised standards e.g. http
- The access procedure includes authentication and authorisation steps, if necessary
- Metadata are accessible, wherever possible, even if the data aren't

Interoperable

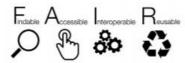
Data and metadata should conform to recognised formats and standards to allow them to be combined and exchanged.

- Data is provided in commonly understood and preferably open formats
- The metadata provided follows relevant standards
- ☐ Controlled vocabularies, keywords, thesauri or ontologies are used where possible
- Qualified references and links are provided to other related data

Reusable

Lots of documentation is needed to support data interpretation and reuse. The data should conform to community norms and be clearly licensed so others know what kinds of reuse are permitted.

- The data are accurate and well described with many relevant attributes
- The data have a clear and accessible data usage license
- It is clear how, why and by whom the data have been created and processed
- The data and metadata meet relevant domain standards



'How FAIR are your data?' checklist, CC-BY by Sarah Jones & Marjan Grootveld, EUDAT. Image CC-BY-SA by SangyaPundir

- Making data findable, including provisions for metadata
- What metadata will be created? In case metadata standards do not exist in your discipline, please outline what type of metadata will be created and how.
- Where will the data and associated metadata,
 ... be deposited?
- Interoperability of your data... What data and metadata vocabularies, standards or methodologies will you follow to make your data interoperable?
- The Research Data Alliance provides a
 Metadata Standards Directory that can be
 searched for discipline-specific standards and
 associated tools.



The Data Life Cycle

- WHO created the data?
- WHAT is the content of the data?
- WHEN were the data created?
- WHERE is it geographically?
- HOW were the data developed?
- WHY were the data developed?

Plan Analyze Collect Integrate Assure Describe Discover Preserve **Data**

Metadata: data "reporting"



Metadata in the DATA communication...

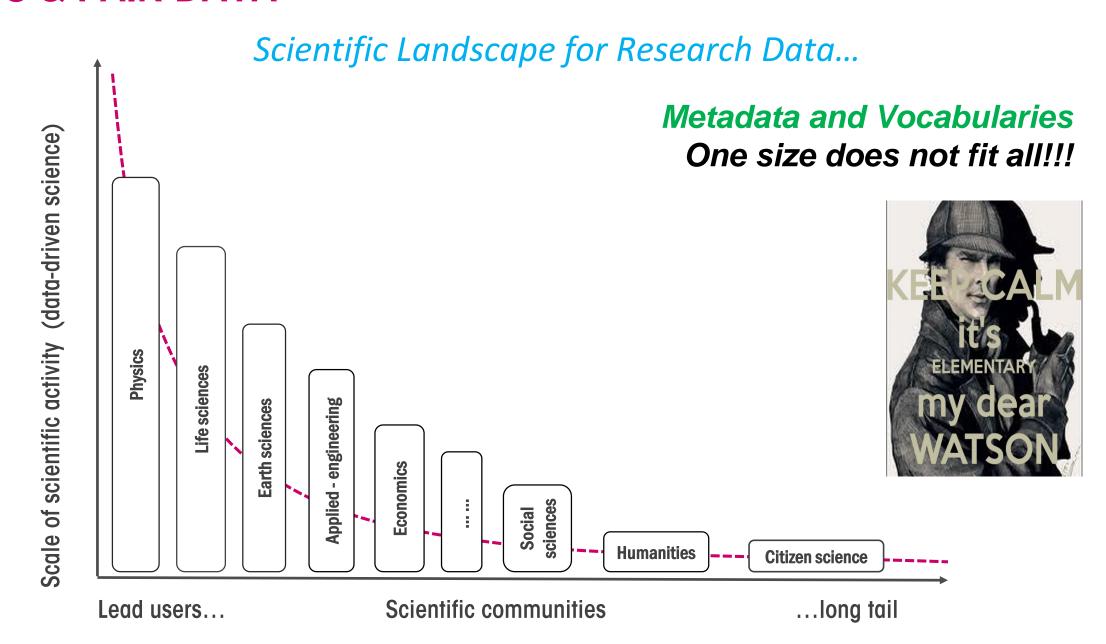
 When you provide data to someone else, what types of information would you want to include with the data to make them useful?

 When you receive a dataset from an external project/researcher, what types of details do you want to know about the data? You look familiar, my dear...

Have I already met a data of yours?



EOSC & FAIR DATA





Back to the problem



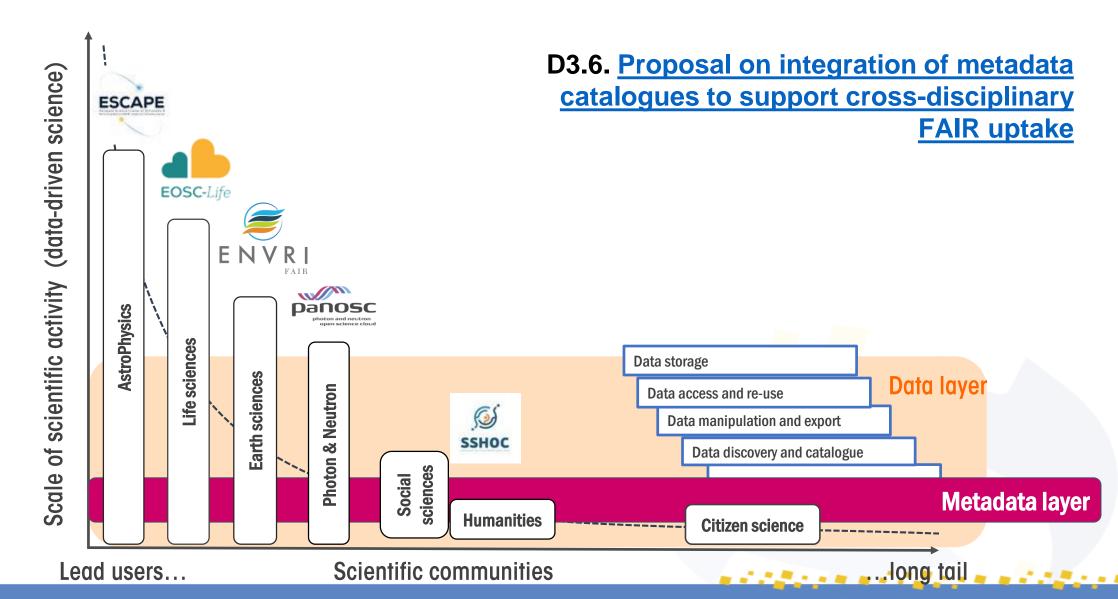
are like toothbrushes...



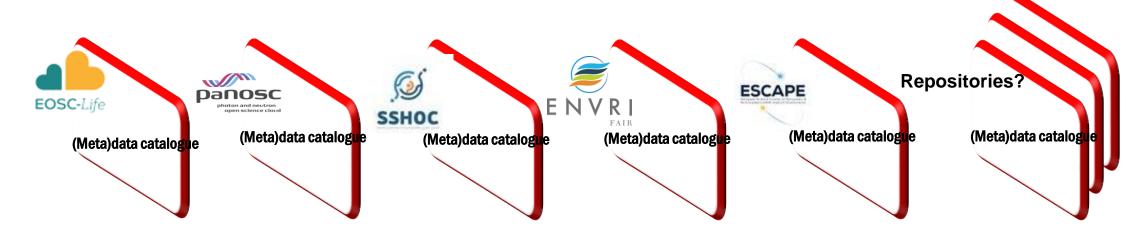
...Everyone thinks that it is a good idea, but nobody wants to use someone else's.



EOSC & FAIR DATA







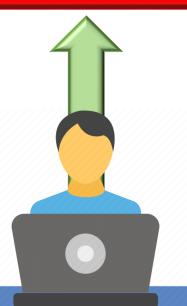




Integrated (Meta)data catalogue









Piloting integration of metadata catalogues

- The goal: facilitating cross-disciplinary data discovery
- FAIRsFAIR explored some practical implementation challenges that hinder reuse of existing metadata mappings
 - D3.7: <u>Report on integration of metadata</u> <u>catalogues</u>



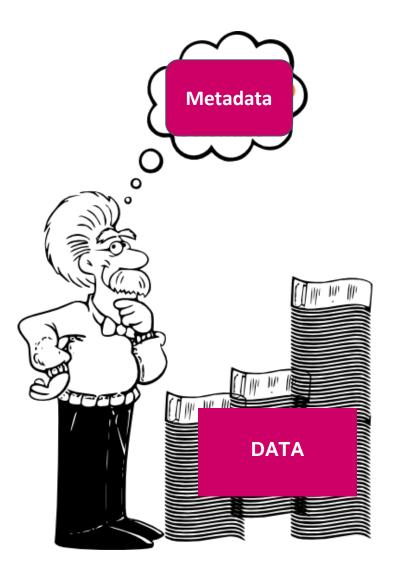


The potential of DCAT

- We worked with two of the thematic cluster projects (SSHOC and PaNOSC) and two service providers (B2FIND and OpenAIRE) to assess the feasibility of DCAT from both the domain specific and aggregator perspectives
- A positive attitude to DCAT, but there must be demand
- Potential role for DCAT to support aggregation and findability of metadata catalogues
- Combined approach of DCAT2 at the generic level and DDI-CDI at the domain specific level could provide a solution for supporting both the findability and interoperability of heterogeneous research data

(DCAT and DDI-CDI as complementary)

Other findings/Challenges



- Implications of the differences between research domains [Inter-cross disciplinary research]
- Metadata standards: avoid the "toothbrush effect"
- Emergent desire for a central documented collection of metadata mappings
- Metadata quality is not only at schema level (metadata formats), but also at scheme (semantic artifacts) and content
- Good research outcomes (publications and data) include good metadata, but difficult to balance rich/cool/good metadata.
- Requirements for sustainability (in a broad sense)



for os exit

FAIRSFAIR Fostering Fair Data Practices in Europe



