Commercial search engine developers and universities: a critical time for collaboration in the coming age of publicly accessible research data

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• The past and the “recent present”:
  • In universities, researchers have had fairly little incentive to preserve and share their research data with others in the long term, aside from altruism
    • Not to be confused with temporary data collaboration during a project
  • Data sharing and publishing largely not a recognized scholarly activity for the tenure process
The potential game changer: requirements by research funding organizations

Now making research data available becomes non-optional.
Many research universities have their institutional repositories, chiefly for texts, images, video, audio…

… which some now (want to) adapt to accommodate research data … or build separate repositories for that purpose
The good: metadata standards for specific domains of research data do exist, and research universities are increasingly promoting/supporting their use by scientists...

Three examples, from ecological, life, and social sciences...
... so research data is (or at least can be) documented in ways that do (or at least could) allow for “search” in data-targeted ways:

Two examples, from ecological and from social sciences
The bad: as research data sharing becomes mandatory, university departments, libraries, research centers, associations, consortia, etc. will likely create more and more (different) information silos for more and more (diverse) data
The ugly: the future researcher, looking for data for repurposing, replication, ... won’t and shouldn’t have to know or care much about how this infrastructure came to be ...

... but will want cross-data-repository searching to be easy, yet focusable
Who can create the solutions to these problems? Research-generating institutions (incl. universities) and search engine developers together
Thank you for your time & attention!

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Look for this presentation in:  
http://ecommons.library.cornell.edu/handle/1813/17391