Researcher to Reader Conference, London 26-27 February 2018
Workshop - Open Access to Data (The Belmont Forum Data Publishing Policy Project)

Convenors: Sarah Callaghan, Bob Samors and Fiona Murphy
Delegates: Between 25-30 publishers, librarians and other key stakeholders

The workshop consisted of three 55 minute sessions across two days. We introduced the Belmont Forum and its overall mission, and outlined the Data Accessibility Statement project. We also invited Grace Baynes of Springer Nature and Caroline Sutton of Taylor & Francis, to give brief talks about their respective publishers' activities in this space.

In order for the workshop to be as useful and interesting as possible for all concerned, we did not simply present our progress to date. Rather, we set up the original problem – the need to develop standard DAS wording for Belmont Forum grantees to be agreed upon by both the funders and the publishers – and invited the delegates in breakout groups to list key issues, unpack their significance and address them. Then finally we went back into a plenary session and analysed some sample statements.

Although there was some sector overlap between the R2R group and our Data Policy Project Advisors (in that both groups included some publishers) the majority of the R2R group identified as librarians or research support staff. This was valuable given that we had not otherwise systematically engaged with this sector.

Key Findings

There was considerable overlap between the two groups' opinions with respect to:
- The importance of persistence identifiers
- The need to change the 'supporting information' culture
- The DAS should be in front of the paywall
- There needs to be clarity and guidance on the circumstances and data types that should not be completely exposed through the DAS. These would include personal, identifying data, endangered species, etc.

Given that many members of the R2R group envisaged themselves as potentially needing to deliver compliance and support to researchers in developing DASs, it makes sense that there was considerable emphasis on these aspects. These included:
- Definition and details required for compliance (how arduous will it be? Will the language and definitions align with other funders' policies, who checks?)
- Will there be trainining opportunities for all key players?
- What is the exact workflow?
  - Should the DAS be considered as an output from the DMP?

- Can the value proposition be made as attractive as possible to encourage researchers to participate meaningfully (e.g. demonstrate the likelihood of increased citations and/or publications)

The sessions also elicited some valuable insights to be considered for the cover sheet/rationale for final DAS submission.

- What is the purpose of the DAS?
  - Quick way of finding info about the data when scanning the paper
  - Quick way for funders/institutions to scan for compliance with data policy
- DAS doesn't remove the need for data citation - should happen as well!
  - Authors need clear guidance that they need to be citing the data in their reference list as well as providing the DAS
- For situations where space is an issue - permanent link to manifest of datasets used in the paper with details and permanent links to the datasets

There was a final, plenary session at the end of the overall conference where Bob presented our headline message and findings. We had some very positive feedback from the delegates, who were pleased that they had contributed to a live project.