

Research Data Management towards Open Science: An attempt at NIES

*Tomoko Shirai¹, Mizuho Owashi¹, Eiichi Maita¹, Nobuko Saigusa¹

1. National Institute for Environmental Studies

The open science movement is picking up steam worldwide recently. Opening access to journal articles has been a hot topic in open science for about a couple of decades, but opening access to research data (open data) is another critical component of open science. Open data enables a wider group of researchers to build upon existing knowledge by reusing data in novel ways, resulting in increased citations and opportunities for collaboration. However, except some disciplines that already have a culture of sharing research data at least within the communities, appropriate policies and standards for research data management are not consolidated.

National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) has recently started to take action on this issue. It started by request from some researchers about minting Digital Object Identifier (DOI) to the research data, which ended up becoming a member of the Japan Link Center, one of the DOI registration Agencies and started minting DOI to research data since 2016. As the beginning was “bottom-up” rather than “top-down”, it has been “reactive approach” rather than “proactive approach”. A working group for promoting open science has been officially formed in 2017, in order to discuss about the institutional repository, data management policies of the institute.

It is not easy to promote open science as an institute though. There are various disciplines in environmental research and in some disciplines, majority of researchers are still reluctant to make their research data publicly available. Resources (both money and human) available for data management is very limited as well. We will present the situation of our attempts to promote open science and discuss about existing issues as a case study of a research institute.

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