



Implementing an Open Data Policy at PLOS: Lessons Learned

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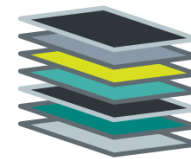
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Public Library of Science

PLOS is a nonprofit **publisher** and **advocacy** organization with a mission to accelerate progress in science and medicine by leading a **transformation** in research communication.

100 PERCENT
OPEN ACCESS

13+ YEARS
AS A LEADER IN OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING



7

PEER-
REVIEWED
JOURNALS

2016 Highlights

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS*

ARTICLES PUBLISHED
 **27,000+**

12+ MILLION
MONTHLY ARTICLE VIEWS

2,000,000+
MONTHLY ARTICLE DOWNLOADS

195,000+ ARTICLES
PUBLISHED[‡]

*2016
‡Through 2016

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS*

2.1 MILLION
UNIQUE VISITORS
TO PLOS BLOGS

 **300,000+**
TWITTER FOLLOWERS[‡]

61 NOBEL LAUREATES
HAVE PUBLISHED
THEIR WORK WITH PLOS[‡]

*2016
‡Through 2016

GLOBAL REPRESENTATION*

7,000 EDITORS 
78,000 REVIEWERS


AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS
FROM
190+ COUNTRIES[‡]

*2016
‡Through 2016

PLOS Data Policy

- PLOS has encouraged data sharing since its inception in **2003**
- Original data policy required authors to share data **upon request** after publication
- Strengthened the data policy in March 2014 to further promote **transparency** and **reproducibility**

PLOS Data Policy

- PLOS journals require authors to make **all data underlying the findings** described in their manuscript fully available without restriction, with rare exception.
- When submitting a manuscript online, authors must provide a ***Data Availability Statement*** describing compliance with PLOS's policy.

Since March 2014

>65,000

papers published with a data
statement at PLOS

Data Availability Statements

Data Availability: All relevant data are within the paper and its Supporting Information files.

S1 Data. Numerical data.

Numerical data used in preparation of Figs 1 and 4; Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4; S1, S2 and S3 Figs.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0154768.s001

(XLSX)

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Bird ID	Sex	Bill height (mm)	Bill surface (mm²)	Bill surface (m²)	Body mass (g)
2	3	1	30.943	1707.055	0.003	223.7
3	4	1	30.427	1818.746	0.004	229.5
4	8	1	30.773	1647.224	0.003	235.3
5	9	1	30.711	1947.310	0.004	237.3
6	10	1	29.249	1696.357	0.003	237.4
7	13	1	29.542	1844.555	0.004	252.5

Data Availability Statements

Data Availability: The CHV/0194, CHV/V777 and CHV/V1154 genome sequences were deposited in GenBank under accession numbers KT819633, KT819632 and KT819631, respectively. The sequence read datasets were deposited in the European Nucleotide Archive under accession numbers ERS1026451, ERS1026452 and ERS1026453, respectively, in study number PRJEB12251.

Data Availability: The Danish Twin Registry is a public register administered in accordance with Danish law and the DTR makes data available to researchers after they have applied and their project has been approved by the DTR Scientific Board. Instructions on how to apply and a link to the data request application form can be found here:
http://www.sdu.dk/en/om_sdu/institutter_centre/ist_sundhedstjenesteforsk/centre/dtr/researcher. Data from the Human Mortality Database are accessible at <http://www.mortality.org/>.

Implementation at *PLOS ONE*

- Breadth of scope created challenge
 - Different disciplines have different data sharing norms/tools
- Highly controversial at time of inception
 - Abnormal to require data sharing
- Considerable effort to implement
 - Internal staff, Editorial Board, Reviewers

Observations

- Provide clear **guidance**
 - FAQ, support, references
- Involve the **community**
- Reflect the needed
- Plan for increased **work/resources**
- Drive **change** but acknowledge **reality**

Guidance for Contributors

- **FAQs consistently updated**

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/s/data-availability#loc-faqs-for-data-policy>

- **Recommended repositories**

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/s/data-availability#loc-recommended-repositories>

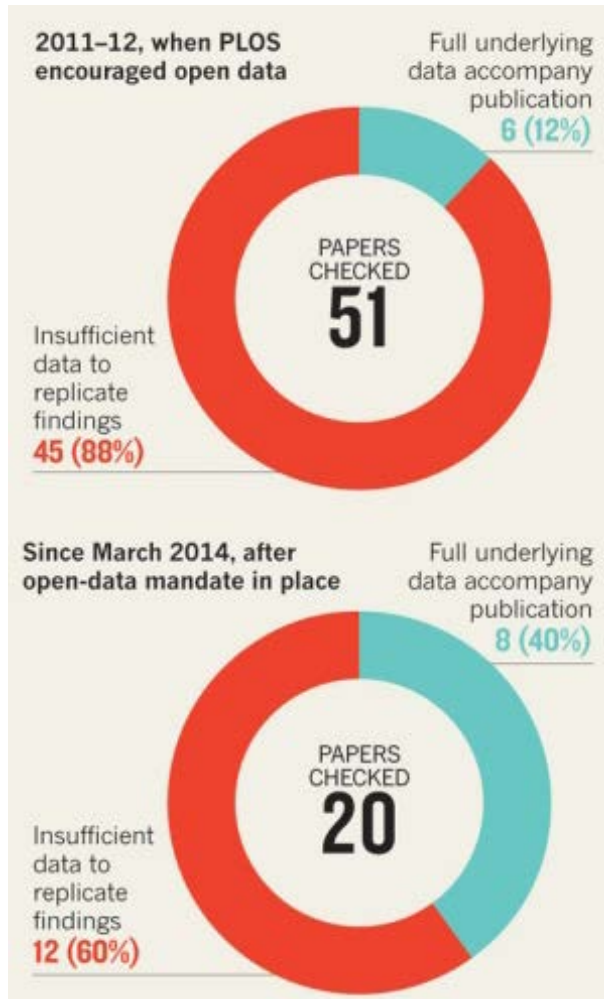
External Data Advisory Group

- Academic Chair: [Phil Bourne](#)
- [40 experts](#) across the world with representatives from all PLOS journals

Internal Checks: PLOS ONE

- **At submission:** check for unacceptable restrictions to access
- **During review:** Editors & Reviewers assess underlying data
- **At accept:** check statements & ensure clinical datasets have no potentially identifying information
- **Post-publication:** work with authors as needed

Data Policy Compliance



- Increased data sharing from 12% to 40%
- “The PLOS mandate means the situation is ‘already better than it was’” – Tim Vines



Thank You:

PLOS Data Policy team

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