

The Stewardship Gap

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The Stewardship Gap Project is an 18 month effort to do a strategic comparative case study that sheds light on the size, characteristics and sustainability of valuable sponsored research data and creative work. To use data now and in the future requires that projects and organizations take responsibility for the stewardship (current management) and preservation (management over time) of data on which modern research and creative work depend. Yet even as the importance of research data increases, we know little about the quantity, characteristics or sustainability of those data. It is broadly suspected that there is a "stewardship gap" between the amount of valuable data developed as part of sponsored research/creative work or used in a research publication, and the amount of data that is at risk for loss or damage. This presentation will discuss interviews with scientists who were asked why their data have value and how they were prepared to preserve their data for the future.