



CODATA Connect

Beyond Articles: Rethinking Diamond Open Access for a Data-Driven Research Future for Early Career Researchers



Introduction to CODATA Connect

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CODATA in a nutshell

- CODATA serves a **membership** that includes **national data committees, scientific academies, International Scientific Unions (ISC membership) and other organisations.**
- CODATA leverages a **network of expertise** and a **skilled secretariat** to address challenges around data policy, interoperability and reuse of data in all areas of science.
- CODATA works with many **partners**, including
 - **ISC and ISC members** (national members, international scientific unions, international programmes)
 - **UN and intergovernmental agencies** (UNESCO, UN Stats, UNEP, UNDRR; OECD; GBIF, BIPM)
 - **Technical and standards organisations, data infrastructures.**
- **CODATA's mission: to connect data and people to advance science and address global challenges.**
- **CODATA's vision is of a world in which science is empowered to address universal challenges through the transparent, trustworthy and equitable use of data and information.**



Making Data Work...



- **Making Data Work for Cross Domain Grand Challenges**
- **WorldFAIR Project and WorldFAIR+**
- Recommendations for the Cross-Domain Interoperability Framework (CDIF)
- FAIR Vocabularies with ISUs
- Cross-Domain Case Studies
- Global Open Science Cloud initiative
- Regional Open Science Platforms



Promoting Data Policy



- International Data Policy Committee
<http://bit.ly/data-policy-committee>
- Data Policy in Times of Crisis (UNESCO Open Science Toolkit)
<https://bit.ly/UNESCO-CODATA-DPTC>
- Major policy reports:
<https://bit.ly/CODATA-Policy-Reports>

Data science and AI for science



- Data Science Journal:
<https://datascience.codata.org/>
- International Data Week and CODATA Conference series.
- Task Groups and Working Groups.
- CODATA Connect ECR Group
- CODATA-RDA School of Research Data Science.
- Beijing and other training workshops.
- CODATA RDM Terminology

CODATA Connect

CODATA Connect is CODATA's Early Career Network, uniting alumni and young researchers worldwide to build data skills, mentorship, leadership, and collaboration through global training and community activities.

Mission:

- Build a global network of early career data professionals.
- Advance skills and careers through training, mentorship, and leadership.
- Share opportunities and expertise across the community.
- Strengthen CODATA Connect's role within CODATA and develop future leaders.
- Support young researchers in sharing their work for community benefit



CODATA Connect Objectives

- Promote the value of data sharing among early career professionals worldwide.
- Connect ECRs with global data communities and peer networks.
- Build capacity across regions, especially in emerging economies.
- Organize activities, webinars, meetups, joint proposals, and networking for skills and collaboration.
- Facilitate international cooperation on data policies, training, and curricula.
- Engage alumni through data challenges and competitions with recognition opportunities.



Question

What is a realistic and fair “minimum standard” for data sharing, reproducibility, and open workflows in Diamond OA journals, given disciplinary diversity and unequal access to infrastructure?

Context

Expectations around open data and reproducibility vary widely across disciplines and regions. Some researchers lack access to repositories, computing resources, or training in data and code sharing. Diamond OA journals also vary in editorial capacity. What and who defines minimum, achievable standards that support transparency and reuse without creating exclusion or excessive burden.





Question

What responsibilities can reasonably be expected of early-career researchers in Diamond OA ecosystems, and what safeguards or recognition mechanisms must accompany these expectations to avoid exploitation?

Context

Diamond OA often relies on community contributions such as peer review, editorial assistance, data preparation, metadata creation, and reproducibility checks. These responsibilities can increase the invisible workload for ECRs, who already face precarity and career pressures. This discussion should explore where boundaries should be drawn, which responsibilities are appropriate at early-career stages, and what forms of recognition, credit, or compensation are necessary.

Question

How can Diamond OA policies and platforms be designed so that researchers working in local languages, diverse disciplines, and non-Western knowledge traditions can participate meaningfully—not just publish for free?

Context

Many Diamond OA journals still operate primarily in English and follow publishing norms shaped by Global North institutions. Researchers producing knowledge in local languages or within indigenous and community-based traditions may face barriers related to language, metadata standards, editorial practices, and ethical data governance. How Diamond OA can support bibliodiversity, multilingual workflows, and respectful inclusion of diverse knowledge systems.





Question

What core skills must early-career researchers develop to thrive in a Diamond OA ecosystem that values data, code, and reproducibility—and who should be responsible for providing and resourcing this training?

Context

A Diamond OA future assumes skills in data stewardship, metadata creation, licensing, reproducible workflows, and open peer review. However, many ECRs receive little formal training in these areas, and access to support varies widely. This discussion should consider which skills are essential, how they should be taught, and the roles of institutions, funders, journals, and global networks in supporting capacity building.

Question

If Diamond Open Access removes APCs but not disparities in infrastructure, training, and recognition, what concrete policy measures are needed to prevent a new divide between ECRs in high-income and low- and middle-income countries?

Context

While Diamond OA removes direct publication fees, ECRs across regions still experience unequal access to digital infrastructure, repositories, mentorship, funding for data curation, and visibility of local journals. In some contexts, Diamond OA journals may be perceived as lower prestige, affecting career progression. How funding, infrastructure, recognition systems, and global governance can support equitable participation, not just equitable access.



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<https://codata.org/initiatives/data-skills/codata-connect/>

