Scholars' perceptions and behavior of Research Datasets:
a case study of Taipei Medical University

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Background & Method

In recent years, the open sharing of research data has made the research process more transparent and has resulted in the benefits of research reproduction, and has gradually caught the attention of scholars. In order to understand scholars' cognition and behavior towards the public sharing of research datasets, this study was conducted by 680 full-time faculties of Taipei Medical University, and the online questionnaire has been emailed since 25 October 2021 to 7 November 2021. A total of 95 valid questionnaires were collected, with a response rate of approximately 14%.

Results & Conclusions   The research results are as follows:

1. We found that nearly 20% of respondents have published research datasets, and nearly 60% of them are willing to try to disclose research datasets in the future.

    a) The reasons why scholars are willing to disclose research datasets:
    There are the same top two reasons between the scholars who have published and haven't published research datasets: both of their reason is that the sponsor or submitting journal requires the datasets, followed by the promotion to other scholars. (Fig. 1)

    b) The doubts of scholars about public research datasets. Compared with the scholars who have published and haven't published research datasets: the scholars who have published research datasets, 55.6% have doubts about publishing research datasets, and the top reasons for their doubts are fear of users misusing data to misunderstand data (33.3%), and data is too confidential for fear of losing scientific advantages (33.3%). The other side, the scholars who haven't published research datasets, the main reason for doubt is fear of users misusing the data (46.8%). (Fig. 2)

2. The behavior of scholars who have published research datasets:

    a) The reason for selecting the platform for the disclosure of research datasets is primarily driven by the requirements or suggestions for journal submission (72.2%)

    b) Via Chi-Square Test, there is a correlation between scholars in different positions and whether they have previously published research datasets (P<0.1). (Table1)

3. The behavior of scholars using research datasets from others

    a) 26.3% of scholars have used the research datasets of other scholars to conduct research, and the reason is: explore potential research topics (60%).

    b) Via Chi-Square Test, there is a correlation between scholars with different research seniority and research datasets that used other scholars. (P<0.1) (Table 2)
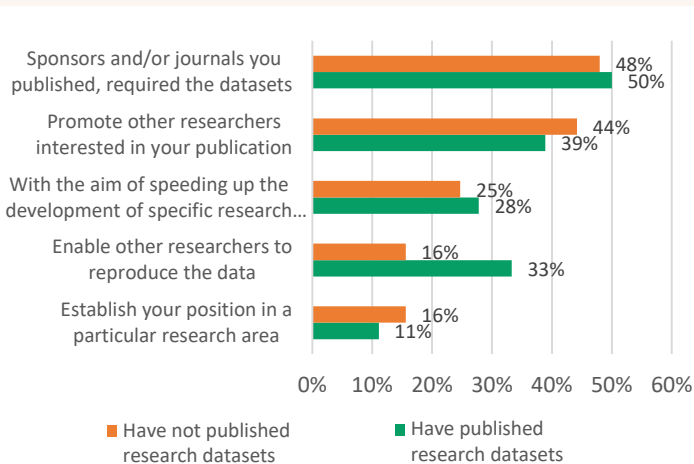

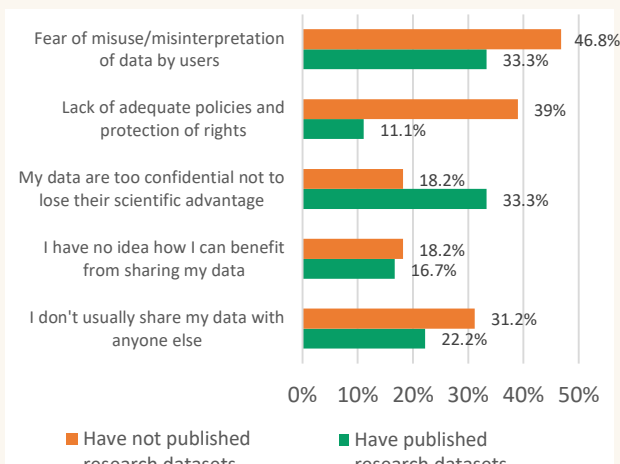Figure 1 Reasons for making research datasets public

Figure 2 Doubts for making research datasets public

Table 1

Position	Have previously published research datasets	Haven't previously published research datasets
Professor	9 (50%)	18 (23.4%)
Associate Professor	5 (27.8%)	30 (39%)
Assistant Professor	4 (22.2%)	29 (37.7%)

Table 2

Research Years	Have previously used research datasets from others	Haven't previously used research datasets from others
under 10 years	10 (40%)	32 (45%)
11 to 20 years	12 (48%)	18 (25.7%)
More than 20 years	3 (12%)	20 (28.6%)

In the future, the library can organize lectures to raise awareness of the issue for sharing research datasets, so that scholars can better understand the information of public research datasets and reduce doubts.