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Research Data Management as a Quality Management System

Within the field of Library and Information Studies, research data management is a concept that generally invokes associations with open science, open access and open data. Although all of these concepts are indeed related in some way, they cannot be equated with one another, as this would amount to false equivalence. This assertion is supported by the observation that the management of research data predates the existence of modern information and communications technology.

In a sense research data management can be viewed as a quality management system that exists irrespective of whether or not research data will eventually be made openly accessible following the conclusion of a research project. By viewing research data management as a quality management system it is possible to rationalize the existence of quality assurance and quality control measures that have been put in place over the past couple of years as well as the particular form that such measures have taken. Perhaps more importantly however, it should be possible to better understand the delicate interaction between the principles of openness and fairness.

This presentation will attempt to describe research data management as a quality control system by placing particular emphasis on the fairness of research data. The primary objective is to showcase the manner in which tools which facilitate compliance with the FAIR Data Principles actually serve a quality management function whilst incidentally contributing to the openness of research data.