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**Title** When and Why Should Research Data be Sustained?

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# When and Why Should Research Data be Sustained?

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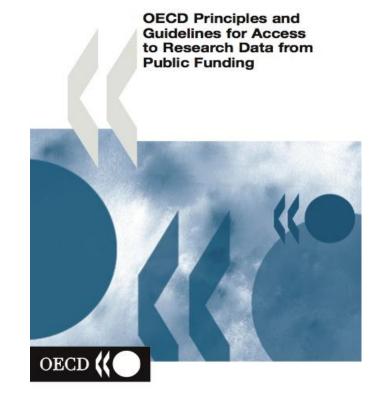
# BIG DATA, LITTLE DATA, NO DATA

Christine L. Borgman



# **Open Data: OECD criteria**

- Openness
- flexibility
- transparency
- legal conformity
- protection of intellectual property
- formal responsibility
- professionalism
- interoperability
- quality
- security
- efficiency
- accountability
- sustainability



Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (2007) http://www.oecd.org/science/sci-tech/38500813.pdf

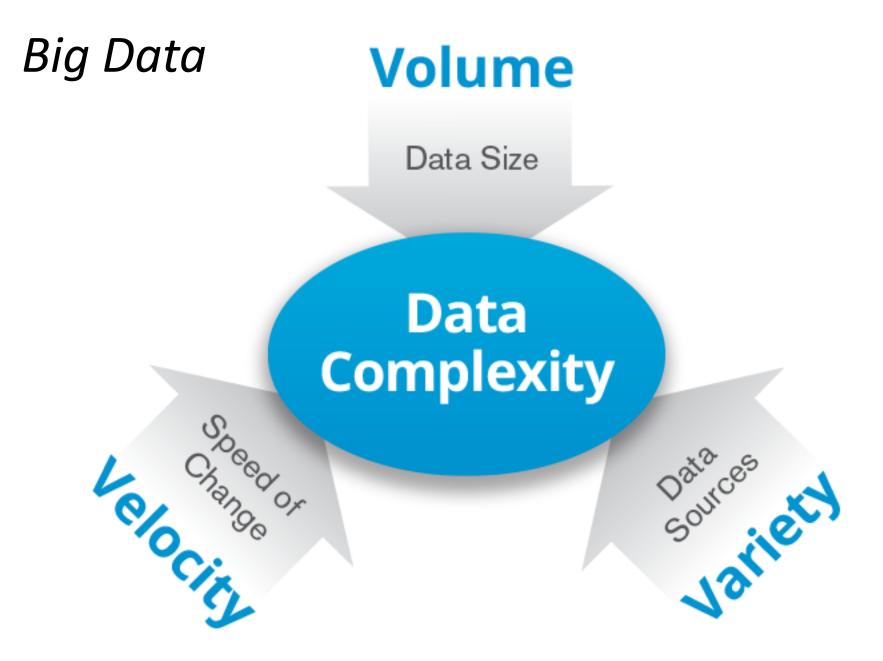
## Why sustain access to data?

- Purposes
  - Record of observations
  - Reference
  - Reproducibility of research
  - Aggregation from multiple sources
- Users
  - Investigator
  - Collaborators
  - Unaffiliated or unknown others
- Time frame
  - Months
  - Years
  - Decades
  - Centuries

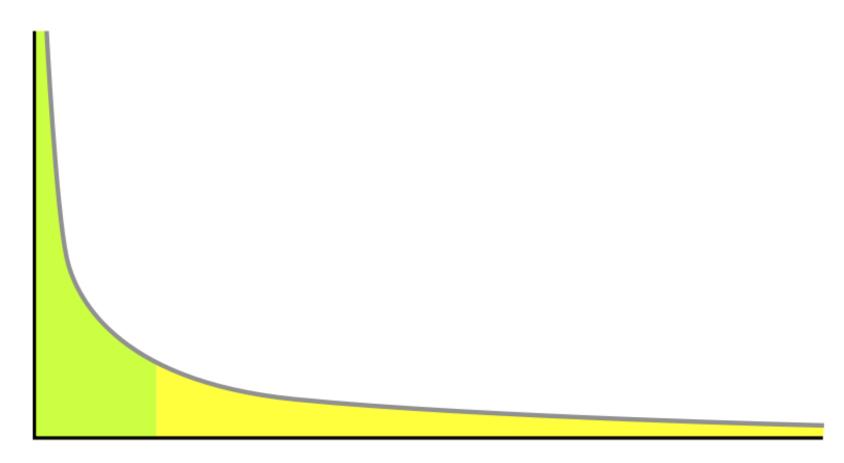


http://chandra.harvard.edu/photo/2013/kepler/kepler\_525.jpg 3

# Simplifying the Challenge



## Long tail of data



Number of researchers

Slide: The Institute for Empowering Long Tail Research

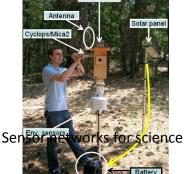
Volume of data

# Big Science <-> Little Science

- Large instruments
- High cost
- Long duration
- Many collaborators
- Distributed work
- Centralized data collection



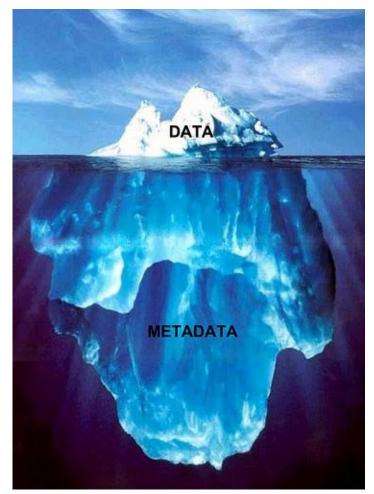
- Small instruments
- Low cost
- Short duration
- Small teams
- Local work
- Decentralized data
  collection



Sloan Digital Sky Survey

# How to sustain data?

- Identify the form and content
- Identify related objects
- Interpret
- Evaluate
- Open
- Read
- Compute upon
- Reuse
- Combine
- Describe
- Annotate...



## When to invest in data?



## When to invest in data?

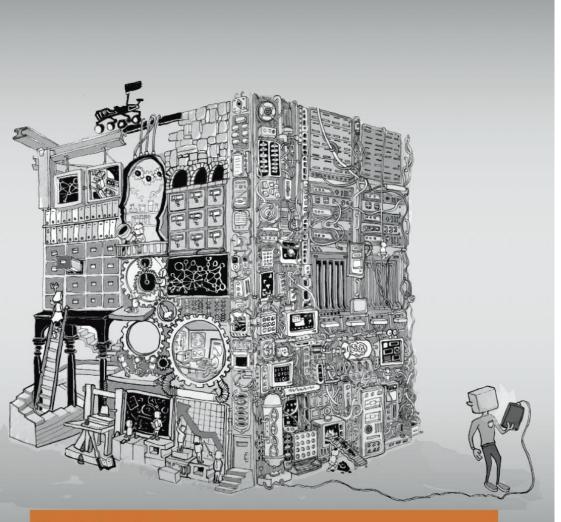


http://www.finance.umich.edu/programs

### Economics of the Knowledge Commons

	Subtractability / Rivalry		
		Low	High
Exclusion	Difficult	<b>Public Goods</b> General knowledge Public domain data	Common-pool resources Libraries Data archives
	Easy	<b>Toll or Club Goods</b> Subscription journals Subscription data	Private Goods Printed books Raw or competitive data

Adapted from C. Hess & E. Ostrom (Eds.), *Understanding knowledge as a commons: From theory to practice*. MIT Press.



Knowledge Infrastructures: Intellectual Frameworks and Research Challenges

Report of a workshop sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the Sloan Foundation

University of Michigan School of Information, 25-28 May 2012



http://www.genome.gov/dmd/img.cfm?node=Photos/Graphics &id=85327

Data are representations of observations, objects, or other entities used as evidence of phenomena for the purposes of research or scholarship.

C.L. Borgman (2015). *Big Data, Little Data, No Data: Scholarship in the Networked World*. 13 MIT Press