



Understanding Qualitative Data Sharing Practices in Social Sciences

RQ: What factors would influence qualitative scholars' data-sharing practices? How do these factors influence their behaviours?

Problem: Social Scientists Face Challenges When Sharing Qualitative Data:



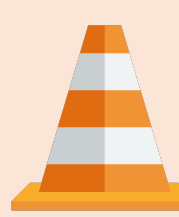
The Nature of Qualitative Data

Qualitative data can be complex, have a loose structure, and may be hard to reuse without a context.



Research Work in Social Science

- Privacy concerns for study participants
- Unclear/hard-to-define data ownership



Infrastructural Barriers – Lack of:

- Training, equipment, access to related facilities
- Funding and investment in infrastructure
- Data sharing culture

Theoretical Foundations for Understanding Data Sharing Practices

KI

Knowledge Infrastructure
(Edwards et al., 2013)

- People (individuals)
- Shared norms and value
- Artifacts
- Institutions
- Routines and practices
- Policies
- Built technologies

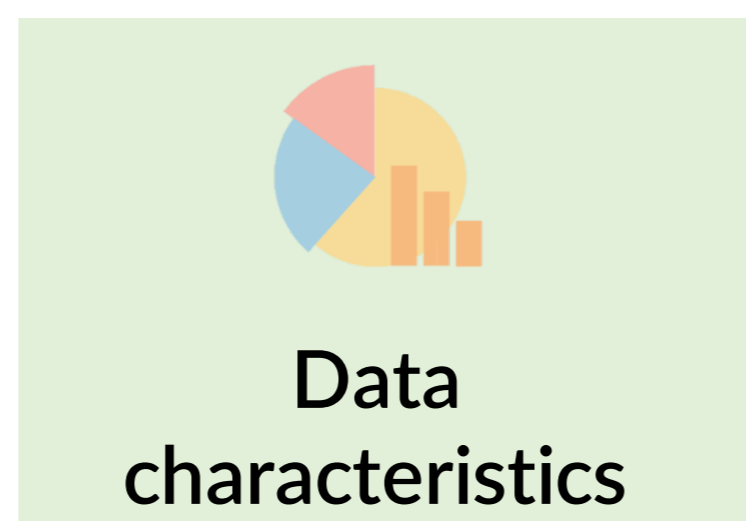
TORSC

Theory of Remote Scientific Collaboration
(Olson et al., 2008)

- Collaboration readiness
- The nature of the work
- Common Ground
- Mgmt., planning, & decision making
- Technology readiness

Designing the Instrument

- Adopting the KI and TORSC, **four dimensions** are proposed for investigating the determinants of social scientists' data sharing practices.



- The pre-test questionnaire (on Qualtrics) contained 99 close-ended and three open-ended questions.

Data Collection

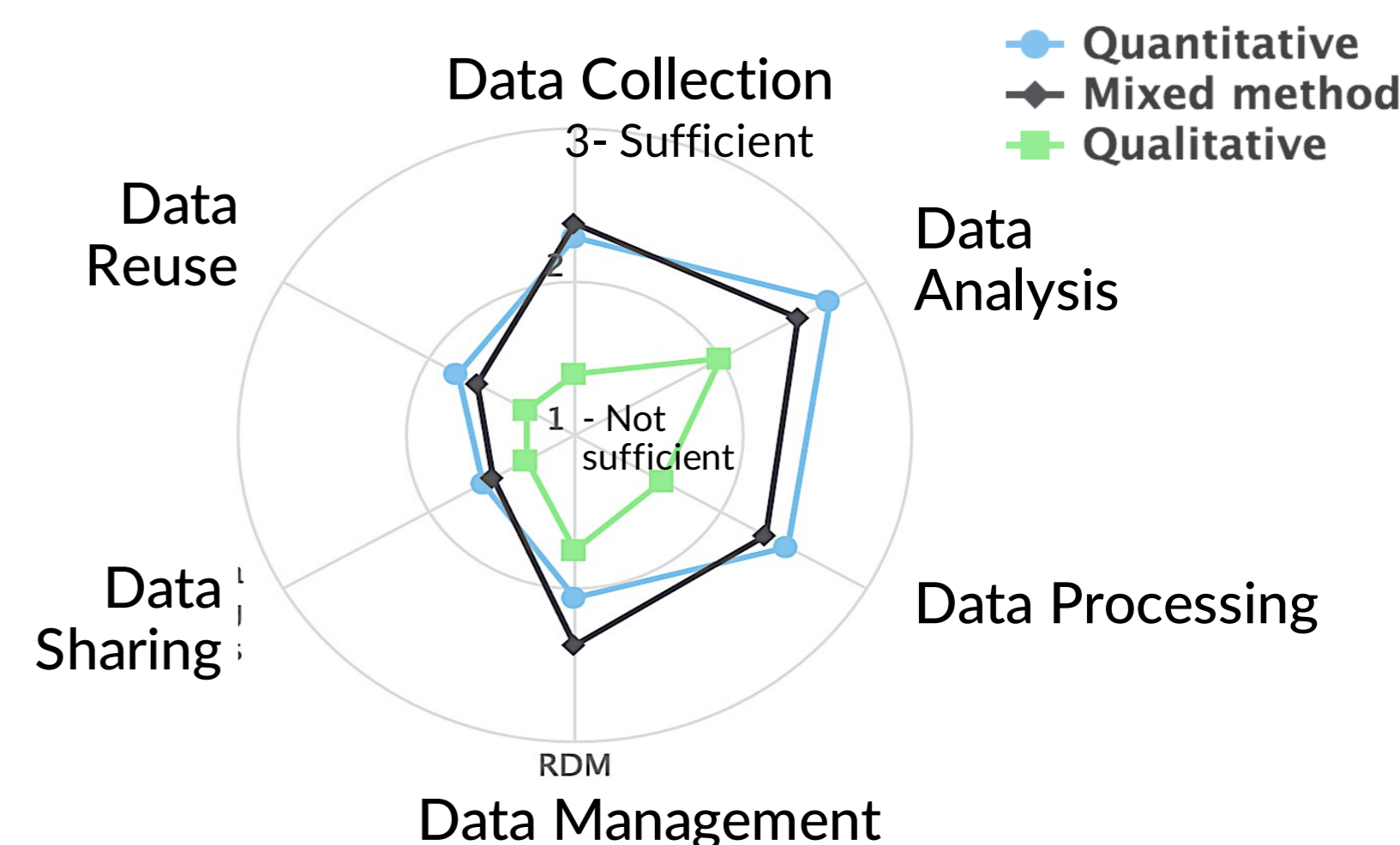
- 57 PhD students and post-docs at PITT and CMU (USA) completed the survey in December 2015. Participants self-reported their primary research methods:



- The top represented disciplines were political science (N=13), education (N=11), economics/business (N=10), and psychology (N=8).

Preliminary analysis

- The frequency of data sharing are associated with preprint sharing.
- Highest rated items for: (5: strongly agree; 1: strongly disagree)
 - Data sharing conditions – **“Altruism”**
I will be willing to share my data “if my data inspire researchers outside of my discipline”(4.16)
 - Perceived benefits - **“collaboration opportunities”**
“Sharing data gives me an opportunity to collaborate with other researchers.” (4.07)
- Participants assessed their institutional supports during the data lifecycle:



While the existing support of “Data Management” and “Data Analysis” are rated as fairly sufficient, resources for data sharing and reuse are least sufficient.

Next Steps

- Factor analysis and assessment of the reliability among items
- Case study on the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR):
 - Full-scale national survey of qualitative data sharers
 - Analysis on metadata and metrics of existing shared datasets
 - Interviews with staff and directors to refine the theoretical framework

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank Drs. Nora Mattern, Liz Lyon, Sheila Corral, Jian Qin, Stephen Griffin, and researcher Jessica Benner for their invaluable comments and suggestions on this study. The lead researcher is currently an iFellow, and the project is sponsored by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and guided by the Committee on Coherence at Scale (CoC) and Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR).

RELATED WORK

- Edwards, P. N., Jackson, S. J., Chalmers, M. K., Bowker, G. C., Borgman, C. L., Ribes, D., ... & Calvert, S. (2013). Knowledge infrastructures: Intellectual frameworks and research challenges.
- Olson, G. M., Zimmerman, A., & Bos, N. (2008). Scientific collaboration on the Internet. The MIT Press.

FURTHER READING

- Mattern, E., Jeng, W., He, D., Lyon, L., & Brenner, A. (2015). Using participatory design and visual narrative inquiry to investigate researchers' data challenges and recommendations for library research data services. Program: electronic library and information systems, 49(4); 408-423.
- Jeng, W., Lyon, L. (2016). A report of data-intensive capability, institutional support, and data management practices in social sciences. The 11th International Digital Curation Conference
- Curty, R. G. (2015). Beyond “Data Thrifting”: An Investigation of Factors Influencing Research Data Reuse In the Social Sciences. (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). Syracuse University.