

Challenges and Opportunities for researchers in China

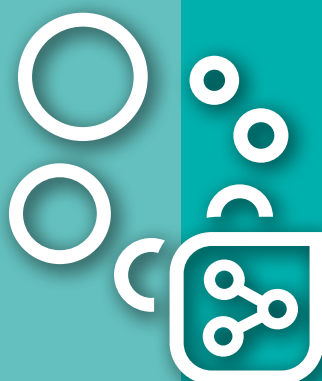
Springer Nature has published the results of a survey of > 2000 researchers in China, looking at the challenges and opportunities in data sharing in China¹

93% of researchers in China have shared their data (n=1645)

Sharing data is important to the majority of researchers in China:

79%

of respondents rated the discoverability of their data as being somewhat important (score of 6 or above out of 10)
(n=1731)



The top two reasons why researchers would be motivated to share data are:

46%

'To progress research' in their field

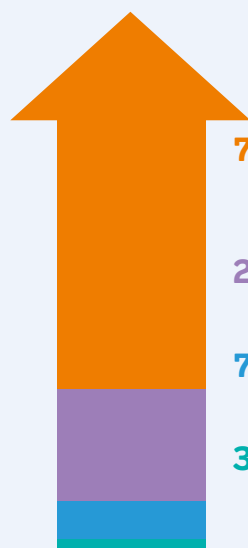
44%

'Increased impact and visibility' for their research
(n=1579)

Lack of journal requirements was the main reason why researchers had not shared their data

35%

Private sharing of data is more common than public sharing of data



70% have shared data both privately and publicly

20% have only shared data privately

7% have never shared their data

3% of respondents have only shared their data publicly

The three most common methods of private sharing were:



USB or flash drives (49%)



email (43%)



PC hard drive (30%)

Most sharing is with immediate colleagues and collaborators:



share privately with colleagues from their institution (61%)



share privately with known peers (55%)



think it is important to share with other researchers in China (64%)



considered it important to make data openly available to anyone (45%)



There are still concerns over sharing datasets:

misuse of data

48%

copyright and licensing

32%

(n=990)

¹Underlying survey data have been made openly available in the figshare repository.

The most common ways of publicly sharing data were: (n=1119)



42%

Supplementary information with journal articles



34%

More biological science researchers deposit their data in subject specific repositories



33%

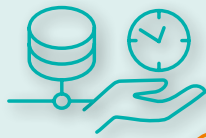
Publishing in a data journal



19%

More engineering researchers use code sharing services

Types of data and timing of sharing

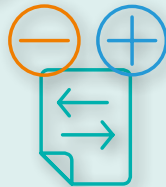


Privately:

84%

Negative and positive data are equally shared

Researchers share data throughout the research process



Publicly: **46%** Negative data is less frequently shared



Data that is not shared relates to



75%

unpublished findings



70%

national security



70%

personal data

Majority of sharing is after (46%) or at the point of (33%) publication

(n=1479)

93% of researchers have created a Data Management Plan (DMP) before. Of these: (n=1827)

58%

of researchers create DMPs for half or more than half of their research

36%

create DMPs only rarely



Of those who haven't created a DMP before:

50%

had not heard of a DMP before

40%

do not know how to create one

(n=126)



The most common details in a DMP were:

- Data storage (71%)
- Data collection (62%)

Data sharing is included by only **21%** (n=1490)



69%

are extremely likely or likely to create a DMP in the next two years

(n=1747)

The main reasons for creating a DMP were:

67%

To ensure efficient and effective management of data



58%

Good practice when undertaking research



(n=1645)



Requirements from funders (**18%**) or institutions (**8%**) were seen as less important

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