

# Methods sharing survey

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## UNDERSTANDING METHODS SHARING

Thank you for your interest in this survey. We are investigating under what conditions and through what channels researchers across fields share detailed information about their research methods.

## ABOUT PLOS

PLOS is a non-profit, Open Access publisher empowering researchers to accelerate progress in science and medicine by leading a transformation in research communication.

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

- The survey should take about 5 minutes to complete. Questions marked with a red asterisk must be answered to submit the survey.
- Please use the Back button in the survey if you would like to review your responses; using the Back button in your web browser will cause an error.
- Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary, and you are free to withdraw from the study at any time until you submit the survey. Responses will never be associated with individual participants and the results will only be analysed in aggregate.
- If you have any questions about the study, please contact Marcel LaFlamme.

1. **Do you consider yourself an active scientific researcher? \***

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

(untitled)

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2. **What is your primary research field?**

- ☐ Biology and Life Sciences
- ☐ Ecology and Environmental Sciences
- ☐ Engineering and Technology
- ☐ Humanities and Social Sciences
- ☐ Medicine and Health Sciences
- ☐ Physical Sciences
- ☐ Other

### 3. How long ago were you awarded the terminal degree in your research field (e.g., PhD, MD, MPH)?

- ☐ I have not (yet) been awarded this degree
- ☐ 0-5 years
- ☐ 6-10 years
- ☐ 11-15 years
- ☐ 16-20 years
- ☐ 20+ years

### 4. In what country are you primarily based?

Afghanistan  
Albania  
Algeria  
Andorra  
Angola  
Antigua and Barbuda  
Argentina  
Armenia  
Australia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Bahamas, The  
Bahrain  
Bangladesh  
Barbados  
Belarus  
Belgium  
Belize  
Benin  
Bermuda,  
Bhutan

Bolivia  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Botswana  
Brazil  
Brunei  
Bulgaria  
Burkina Faso  
Burundi  
Cambodia  
Cameroon  
Canada  
Cape Verde  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
Chile  
China  
Colombia  
Comoros  
Congo, Democratic Republic of the  
Congo, Republic of the  
Costa Rica  
Cote d'Ivoire  
Croatia  
Cuba  
Curacao  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Djibouti  
Dominica  
Dominican Republic  
East Timor (see Timor-Leste)  
Ecuador  
Egypt  
El Salvador  
Equatorial Guinea  
Eritrea  
Estonia  
Ethiopia  
Fiji  
Finland  
France  
Gabon  
Gambia, The  
Georgia

Georgia  
Germany  
Ghana  
Greece  
Grenada  
Guatemala  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Guyana  
Haiti  
Holy See  
Honduras  
Hong Kong  
Hungary  
Iceland  
India  
Indonesia  
Iran  
Iraq  
Ireland  
Israel  
Italy  
Jamaica  
Japan  
Jordan  
Kazakhstan  
Kenya  
Kiribati  
Kosovo  
Kuwait  
Kyrgyzstan  
Laos  
Latvia  
Lebanon  
Lesotho  
Liberia  
Libya  
Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Macau  
Macedonia  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Malaysia

Maldives  
Mali  
Malta  
Marshall Islands  
Mauritania  
Mauritius  
Mexico  
Micronesia  
Moldova  
Monaco  
Mongolia  
Montenegro  
Morocco  
Mozambique  
Myanmar  
Namibia  
Nauru  
Nepal  
Netherlands  
Netherlands Antilles  
New Zealand  
Nicaragua  
Niger  
Nigeria  
North Korea  
Norway  
Oman  
Pakistan  
Palau  
Palestinian Territories  
Panama  
Papua New Guinea  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Philippines  
Poland  
Portugal  
Qatar  
Romania  
Russia  
Rwanda  
Saint Kitts and Nevis  
Saint Lucia  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Samoa  
San Marino  
Sao Tome and Principe  
Saudi Arabia  
Senegal  
Serbia  
Seychelles  
Sierra Leone  
Singapore  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Solomon Islands  
Somalia  
South Africa  
South Korea  
South Sudan  
Spain  
Sri Lanka  
Sudan  
Suriname  
Swaziland  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Syria  
Taiwan  
Tajikistan  
Tanzania  
Thailand  
Timor-Leste  
Togo  
Tonga  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Tunisia  
Turkey  
Turkmenistan  
Tuvalu  
Uganda  
Ukraine  
United Arab Emirates  
United Kingdom  
United States  
Uruguay  
Uzbekistan  
Vanuatu  
Yemen

Venezuela  
Vietnam  
Yemen  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe



## How and with whom you share

### 5. Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

The information found in the Methods section of a research article in my field is usually adequate...

Strongly  
Disagree

Disagree

Neither Agree nor  
Disagree

Agree

Strongly  
Agree

Not  
sure

to evaluate the findings of the article.

☐☐☐☐☐☐

to reproduce the article's results.

☐☐☐☐☐☐

to reuse or extend the method in a different  
context.

☐☐☐☐☐☐



**6. In the past 5 years, have you ever shared detailed methods information about your research (e.g., step-by-step instructions; points of failure and how to troubleshoot them) independently of your research findings, i.e., outside of the Methods section of a research article? \***

- ☐ No, I have not shared detailed methods information outside of my research group or team
- ☐ Yes, I have shared detailed methods information privately with individual researchers upon request
- ☐ Yes, I have shared detailed methods information publicly in/on a separate publication or platform
- ☐ Yes, I have shared detailed methods information in another manner (please describe):

**When you have publicly shared detailed methods information independently of your research findings, which of the following channels have you used?**

- ☐ Lab or project website
- ☐ Methods sharing platform (e.g., protocols.io)
- ☐ Supporting information or appendix to a research article
- ☐ Peer-reviewed protocol or methods publication
- ☐ Another channel (please describe):

**7. When you have publicly shared detailed methods information as peer-reviewed protocols or methods publications, what proportion of the time were these publications open access?**

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Often
- ☐ Always
- ☐ Not sure/don't remember

(untitled)

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**8. Thinking across the studies you have conducted over the past 5 years, how often have you shared detailed methods information independently of your research findings in the following ways? \***

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
Shared detailed methods information only with my research group or team	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shared detailed methods information privately with individual researchers upon request	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shared detailed methods information publicly in/on a separate publication or platform	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. In your view, how important is it for researchers to publicly share detailed information about the following types of method?

	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Important	Extremely Important
Existing methods that are straightforward to apply and widely used	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Existing methods that are difficult to apply consistently and/or successfully	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Existing methods that have been modified or combined in a distinctive way	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Novel methods that have not been reported before	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(untitled)

10. Please review the following goals of publicly sharing detailed methods information.

	How important is each goal to you?	How satisfied are you with your ability to achieve each of these goals?
Providing enough information for others to evaluate my findings	<div>Not at all important</div> <div>Slightly important</div> <div>Moderately important</div> <div>Important</div> <div>Extremely important</div>	<div>Completely dissatisfied</div> <div>Dissatisfied</div> <div>Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied</div> <div>Satisfied</div> <div>Completely satisfied</div> <div>Not applicable to me</div>
Providing enough information for others to reproduce my results	<div>Not at all important</div> <div>Slightly important</div> <div>Moderately important</div> <div>Important</div> <div>Extremely important</div>	<div>Completely dissatisfied</div> <div>Dissatisfied</div> <div>Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied</div> <div>Satisfied</div> <div>Completely satisfied</div> <div>Not applicable to me</div>

Providing enough information for others to reuse or extend the method I used

Not at all important  
Slightly important  
Moderately important  
Important  
Extremely important

Completely dissatisfied  
Dissatisfied  
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied  
Satisfied  
Completely satisfied  
Not applicable to me

Getting feedback to further improve the method's efficacy

Not at all important  
Slightly important  
Moderately important  
Important  
Extremely important

Completely dissatisfied  
Dissatisfied  
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied  
Satisfied  
Completely satisfied  
Not applicable to me

Making the method easily and permanently discoverable

Not at all important  
Slightly important  
Moderately important  
Important  
Extremely important

Completely dissatisfied  
Dissatisfied  
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied  
Satisfied  
Completely satisfied  
Not applicable to me

Ensuring that the method is accessible to anyone

Not at all important  
Slightly important  
Moderately important  
Important  
Extremely important

Completely dissatisfied  
Dissatisfied  
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied  
Satisfied  
Completely satisfied  
Not applicable to me

Getting credit for my work in a way that can advance my career

Not at all important  
Slightly important  
Moderately important  
Important  
Extremely important

Completely dissatisfied  
Dissatisfied  
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied  
Satisfied  
Completely satisfied  
Not applicable to me

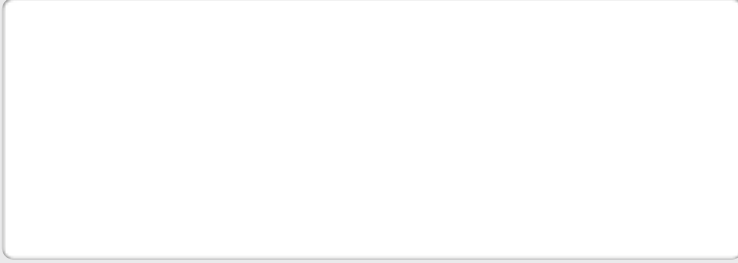
Helping my students to get credit for their work in a way that can advance their careers

Not at all important  
Slightly important  
Moderately important  
Important  
Extremely important

Completely dissatisfied  
Dissatisfied  
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied  
Satisfied  
Completely satisfied  
Not applicable to me



**12. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about why you either do or do not publicly share detailed methods information?**

A large, empty rectangular text input box with rounded corners and a thin gray border, intended for the user to provide their response.

**Enabling public sharing**

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**13. If you were deciding how and where to publicly share detailed methods information independently of your research findings, how valuable would each of the following product or service features be to you?**

	Not at all valuable	Nice to have	Valuable	Essential	Not sure
Personal invitation from the product or service provider	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support for versioning as the method evolves over time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Product or service provider is known and respected by my colleagues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Expert feedback on how the methods information is organized and communicated	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visibility of the methods information in scholarly indexes (e.g., Google Scholar, PubMed)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Option for facilitated public sharing of the methods information if and when requested by another researcher	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability to “count” the methods information as a peer-reviewed publication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of the methods information on an open access basis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Option to include non-textual media such as video	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer review of the scientific substance of the method	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**14. Are there any other features that you would like to see in a product or service intended to help researchers publicly share detailed methods information?**

**15. Have you ever published an article in a PLOS journal?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**16. Would you like to take part in future research that may include testing products and services intended to help researchers publicly share detailed methods information?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**17. Please provide your email address so that PLOS can contact you for this purpose: \***



**Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey! Your response has been recorded.**

**PLOS has committed to openly share the results of the survey, including the deidentified underlying data, with the research community.**