

Data Citation: From Principles to Implementation

Mercè Crosas, Ph.D.

Twitter: @mercecrosas

Director of Data Science

Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University

National Academy of Sciences Journal Summit, March 20, 2014

The Making of the Principles

- ▣ Decades of research and practices in data citation
- ▣ Consolidated to a single set of Principles
- ▣ By a synthesis group representing 25+ organizations
- ▣ Driven by the premise that:

"sound, reproducible scholarship rests upon a foundation of robust, accessible data"

and

"data should be considered legitimate, citable products of research"

Joint Declaration of Data Citation Principles

- 1 Importance**
- 2 Credit and Attribution**
- 3 Evidence**
- 4 Unique Identification**
- 5 Access**
- 6 Persistence**
- 7 Specificity and Verifiability**
- 8 Interoperability and flexibility**

Full Principles: <https://www.force11.org/datacitation>

Endorsement: <https://www.force11.org/datacitation/endorsements>

Implementation Example from a Data Repository

The Dataverse generates a Data Citation for each deposited dataset compliant with the Principles

Resolves to landing page with access to metadata, docs, and data



Authors, Year, Dataset Title, DOI, Data Repository, UNF, version



Principle 2:
Credit and
Attribution



Principle 4, 5, 6:
Unique Id
Access
Persistence



Principle 7:
Specificity and
Verifiability

Principle 8: Interoperability and flexibility:
Dataverse exports all citation metadata in XML, JSON formats

Implementation Suggestions for Publishers

- Upgrade data citation to references section **[Principle 1: Importance]**
- In article, cite data by claim **[Principle 3: Evidence]**
- Provide guidelines for authors based on Principles, but customized to each journal **[Principle 8: Interoperability and Flexibility]**
- Interoperate with, or recommend, Data Repositories compliant with the Principles
- Build tools to access machine-readable metadata from datasets

Want to be involved?

Join the **Data Citation Implementation group**:

<https://www.force11.org/datacitationimplementation>

Remaining Challenges

- Challenges of Provenance: what is the chain of ownership and transformations to the data?
- Challenges of Identity: what should be cited? at what level of granularity and versioning for large, dynamic datasets?
- Challenges of Attribution: How do you support attribution for hundreds/thousands contributors?

Altman M., Crosas M., 2014, “The Evolution of Data Citation: From Principles to Implementation” IASSIST Quarterly, *In Press*