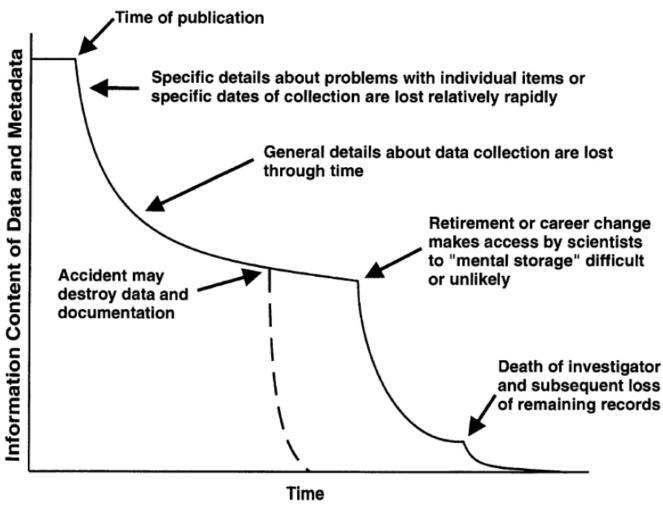
iUTAH Data Management Update



Amber Spackman Jones

Jeffery S. Horsburgh iUTAH Summer Symposium 7-17-2015

Information Entropy



Example of the normal degradation in information content associated with data and metadata over time ("information entropy").

Michener, W.K. (2006). Meta-information concepts for ecological data management, Ecological Informatics, 1(1), 3-7, http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoinf.2005.08.004.

Information Entropy

"Do not underestimate your ability to forget details about a study!"

Borer, E.T., Seabloom, E.W., Jones, M.B., Schildhauer, M. (2009). Some simple guidelines for effective data management. Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America 90:205-214. dx.doi.org/10.1890/0012-9623-90.2.205

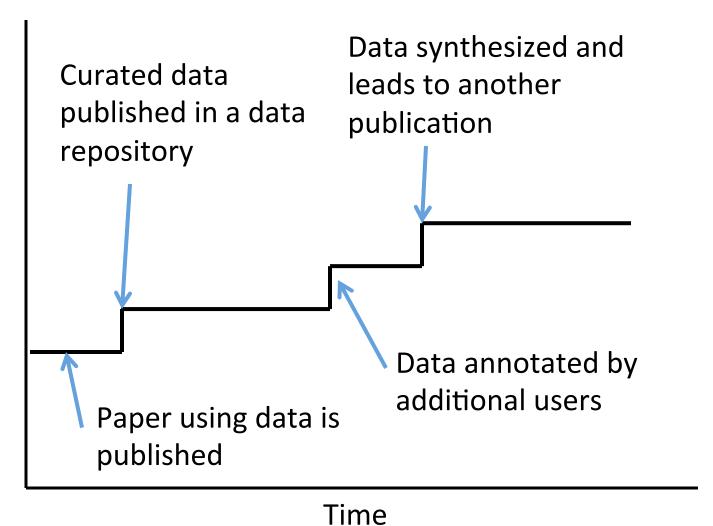
"If the information on an observation is lost, it is lost forever because it is almost impossible to measure the observation again in the original context."

Specht, A., Guru, S., Houghton, L., Keniger, L., Driver, P., Ritchie, E.G., Lai, K., Treloar, A. (2015). Data management challenges in analysis and synthesis in the ecosystem sciences. Science of the Total Environment. Dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2015.03.092

If the rewards of the data deluge are to be reaped, then researchers who produce those data must share them, and do so in such a way that the data are interpretable and reusable by others.

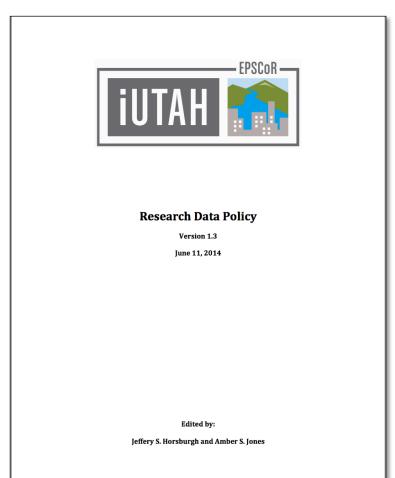
Borgman, C.L. (2012). The conundrum of sharing research data. Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology 63(6): 1059-1078. dx.doi.org/10.1002/asi.22634

What if instead?



iUTAH Data Policy

- Applies to all datasets created or developed with support from iUTAH
- Recommended reading for all investigators. Available at: http://iutahepscor.org/resources/documents/iUTAH_Data_Policy.pdf
- In general, open data policy to maximize the impact and broad use of datasets collected by iUTAH research teams
- Researchers should have expectation of first rights to analyze and publish data
- Researchers expected to provide high quality datasets with sufficient metadata
- Data products should to be considered at outset of data collection



iUTAH Data Policy: Data Typology

- A. Primary iUTAH datasets and research products (e.g., raw and QAQC sensor data, baseline sampling datasets, general iUTAH datasets for the iUTAH community).
- B. Support from iUTAH provided, but created by a specific investigator or group to support particular research question/goal.
- C. Types A and B but subject to IRB restrictions.
- D. Proprietary data that may be subject to licensing, copyright, other restrictions.



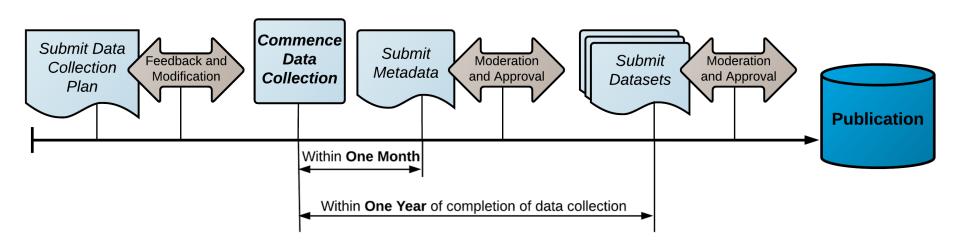
Timeframes

Published as soon as results are created

Finalized data submitted within one year of completion of data collection activities

Same timeframes as A and B, but may require anonymization

Data Publication Process



Publication:

- Assigns a citation and a URL
- Data and metadata are discoverable
- Datasets are archived and curated

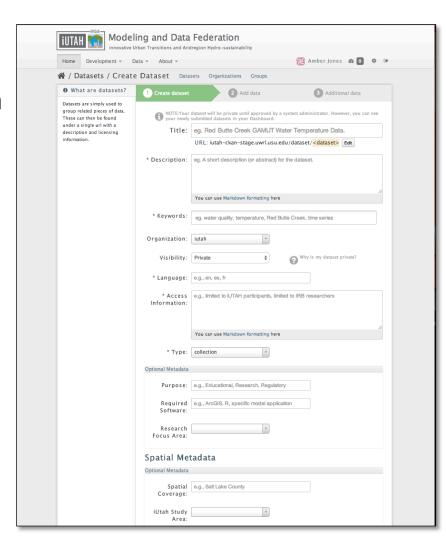
iUTAH Data Policy: Data Collection Plans

- ALL data creation efforts with ANY funding from iUTAH (salary, travel, sampling, equipment, etc.) MUST submit a brief plan to the Data Policy Committee PRIOR to funding.
- Plan should include:
 - 1. Identification of types of data to be collected/created
 - 2. Brief description of methods, data formats, and data products
 - 3. Timeline for data generation and expected publication
 - Identification of who will have access to preliminary data during collection
 - 5. Identification of limits to access
 - 6. Information on collaborators/co-authors of data products or publications

Data Publication System

http://repository.iutahepscor.org

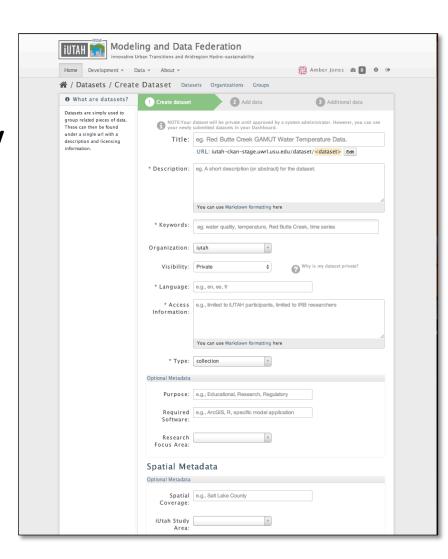
- Web-based system for iUTAH researchers to submit and publish data and models.
- System supports curation of datasets.
- Integrates the submission and presentation of data and metadata.
- Supports **discovery and access** of datasets to a wide audience.
- Supports storage and archival.
- Datasets are private until approved by a moderator.



Data Publication System

http://repository.iutahepscor.org

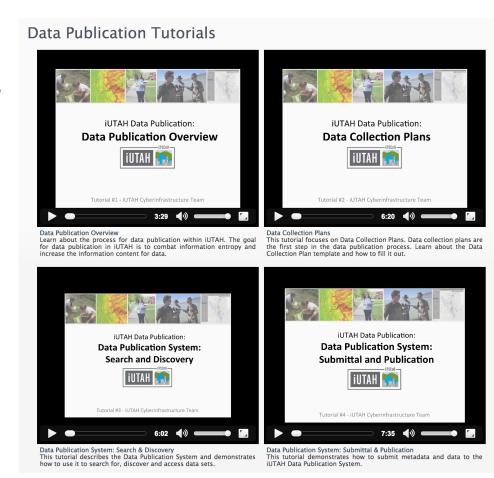
- Organized into datasets. Each dataset consists of multiple resources.
- Supports submission of metadata-only record.
- General level metadata. More specific metadata may be submitted as a resource.
- Metadata records submitted to provide insight into what work iUTAH participants are conducting.



Data Publication Tutorials

<u>http://iutahepscor.org/data_modeling.shtml</u>
http://data.iutahepscor.org/mdf/About/Training_Materials/

- Developed short videos to provide training on aspects of data publication.
- Four videos:
 - Overview
 - Data Collection Plans
 - Data Publication System:
 Search and Discovery
 - Data Publication System:
 Submittal and Publication



Data Submission Best Practices

Use Descriptive File Names

- Use only plain ASCII characters
- Brief, but descriptive of content
- Include a "readme" file when using many files

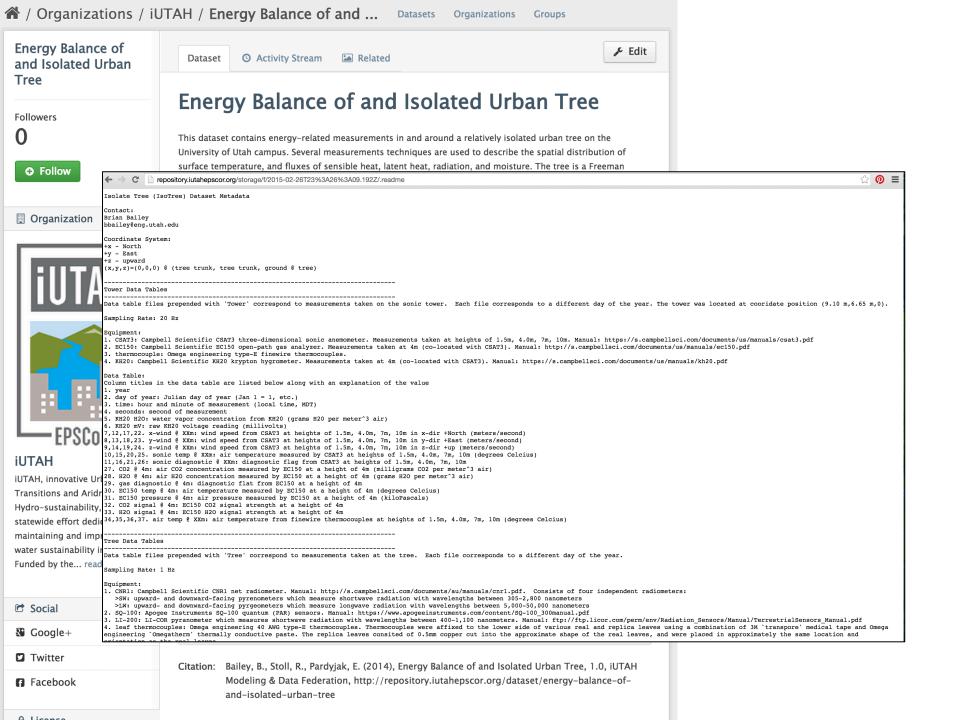
Archive Data in Non-Proprietary Formats

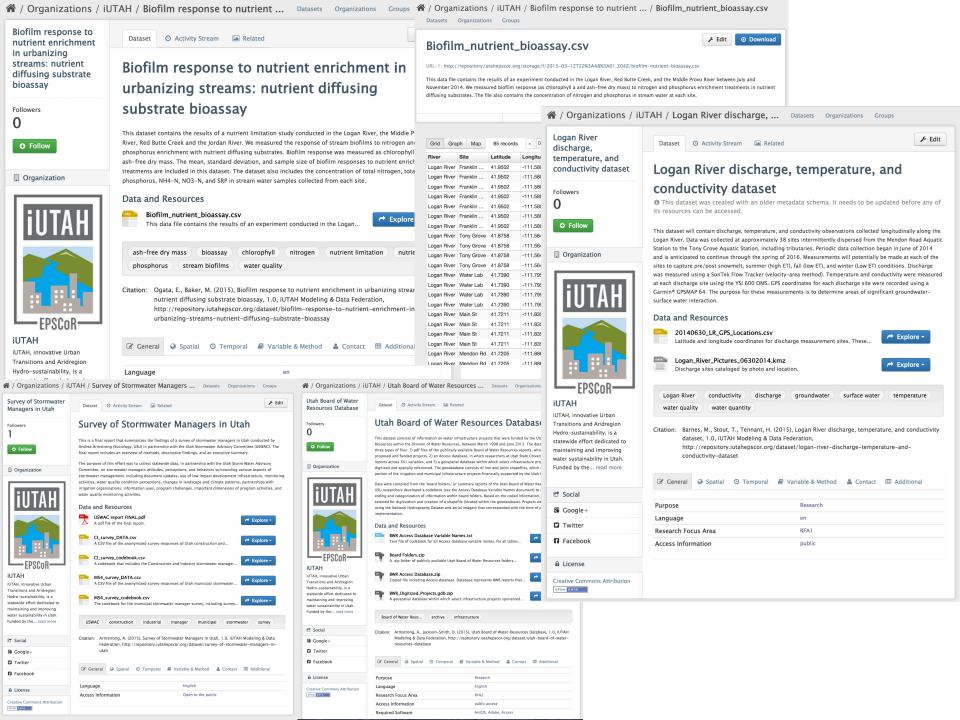
- Microsoft Excel is widely available and used now, but what about in 10 years? 20 years?
- How many other software programs can open your data?
- Will your data disappear if the file format/software become obsolete?

Data Submission Best Practices

What format to use?

- Store it in a file format that can be used by many different software programs
 - Text files e.g., comma separated values (CSV) for tabular data
- Use a standard file format accepted by your scientific community
- Consider both format and syntax (e.g., the structure within the file)





Survey Data Viewer:

http://data.iutahepscor.org/surveys/

