

Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR) data

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Background

There is a strong international movement from both funders and publishers of medical research towards making digital data outputs of research available for reuse. This sharing and reuse of data increases the value of the data and the research¹.

Objectives

To explore how the FAIR² (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) principles can apply to medical and personal research data.

Method

The FAIR principles for data are being implemented widely. They provide a framework for making data available to secondary users, while still complying with legal and ethical requirements for personal data.

Research data can be made accessible through being openly described in data repositories, without making the data openly available. This is called mediated access and safeguards the data by making it restricted in access to appropriate users. This concept is consistent with the approach of the Five Safes³ methodology of managing access to data.

Results

Data sharing allows the benefits from research to be maximised. Strategies to make medical research data FAIR will be addressed.

¹ <http://www.ands.org.au/working-with-data/articulating-the-value-of-open-data>

² <http://www.ands.org.au/working-with-data/fairdata>

³ http://rssh.cass.anu.edu.au/sites/default/files/rssh/Ritchie_5safes.pdf