

Funding data management and sharing can extend the influence of evaluations and serve as part of a broader commitment to knowledge sharing

Where has all the Data Gone? A Tool that Can Help Answer that Question



Where has all the data gone?

Motivation...

Data gathered in evaluation studies is often not available to others who could benefit from it.



Archiving data extends the life and influence of data and...

...it is central to the vision of 'Open' data and data re-use to generate social benefits.

A \$200 million Prevention and Early Intervention programme on the island of Ireland, funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies, provides the context for this study.

52 evidence-based services were delivered to children and young people.

Almost all services were evaluated positively using **rigorous evaluations** and resulted in significant government buy-in.

Additional funding, after the programme ended, ensured the extensive evaluation datasets were archived, accessible and available for future research.

Objectives of this study

To explore the obstacles encountered when **retrospectively** preparing data for the archive.

To identify patterns in the findings that could inform future archiving efforts and the competencies required to ensure data is as 'open as possible'.

What we did...

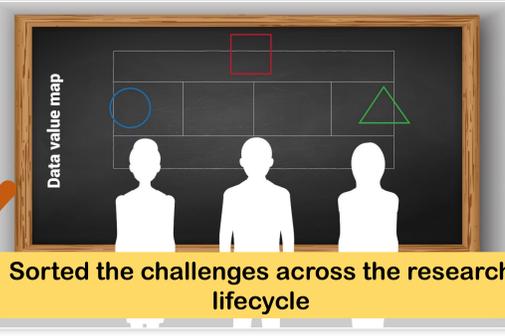
Analysed challenges and opportunities identified by the evaluators as datasets were prepared for deposit in the national archives.

Used the Data Value Map as an *organising frame* to figure out when the challenges arose.



...what challenges were encountered...

- Variable definition and naming
- File versions
- Missing data
- Anonymisation
- Consent and ethics



Sorted the challenges across the research lifecycle

Many challenges occurred when the data was first collected and processed.

Safeguards to ensure confidentiality and other legal and ethical issues are necessary at the design stage if data are to be accessible.

Key finding

Many evaluation studies in our analysis didn't have a **data management plan** at the beginning and most of the biggest challenges in archiving the data were a result of this.

The visual map brought to light the journey from data creator to data user and the wider life of data.

Data management

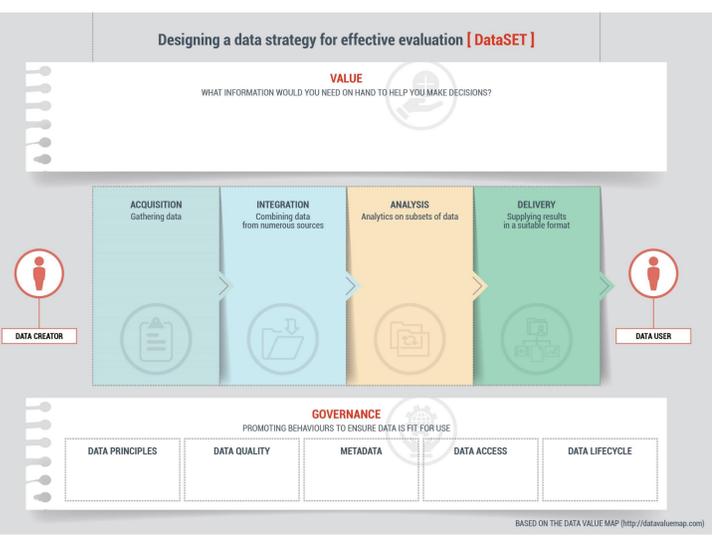
Data management plans and subsequent access to data is increasingly required by funders.

Yet the terminology and the topics that should be covered in a plan lack consistency with an emphasis on post-publication data sharing as opposed to all the operations to be carried out on data from the outset.

The Data Value Map is a useful resolve.

It helps to make sense of the components of data management: how data is **gathered; stored; analysed and shared** and the **value** the data will bring.

Data **governance** issues such as access, data quality and metadata are included.



Designing a data strategy for effective evaluation [DataSET]

VALUE
WHAT INFORMATION WOULD YOU NEED ON HAND TO HELP YOU MAKE DECISIONS?

ACQUISITION (Gathering data)
INTEGRATION (Combining data from numerous sources)
ANALYSIS (Analytics on subsets of data)
DELIVERY (Supplying results in a suitable format)

GOVERNANCE
PROMOTING BEHAVIOURS TO ENSURE DATA IS FIT FOR USE

DATA PRINCIPLES | DATA QUALITY | METADATA | DATA ACCESS | DATA LIFECYCLE

BASED ON THE DATA VALUE MAP (<http://datavaluemap.com>)

Key takeaway

There is significant cost associated with going back to 'fix' data for re-use. Data management plans can save time, energy and resources.

Data is an important output of philanthropic investment and this study demonstrates how it's possible to leverage it and facilitate reuse, additional analyses and broader learning more generally through sharing it.

The Data Value Map is being used to inform data management in a global Covid19 study.