

# COMMITTING TO DATA QUALITY REVIEW

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@l\_peer

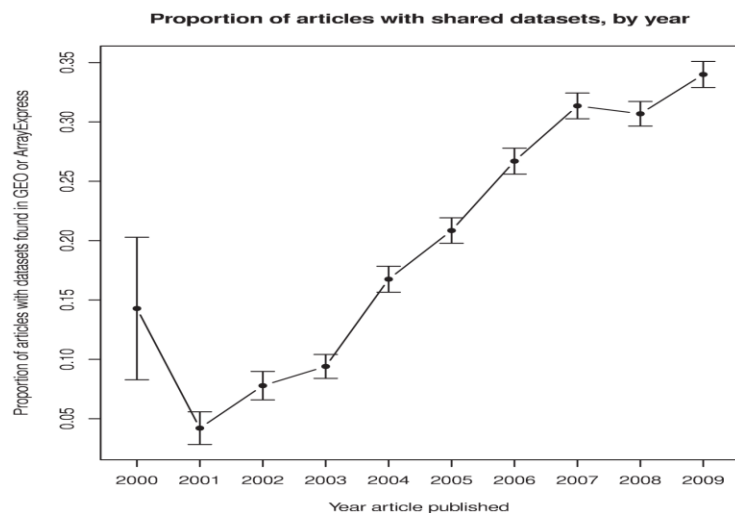
# More data are available in more ways

2

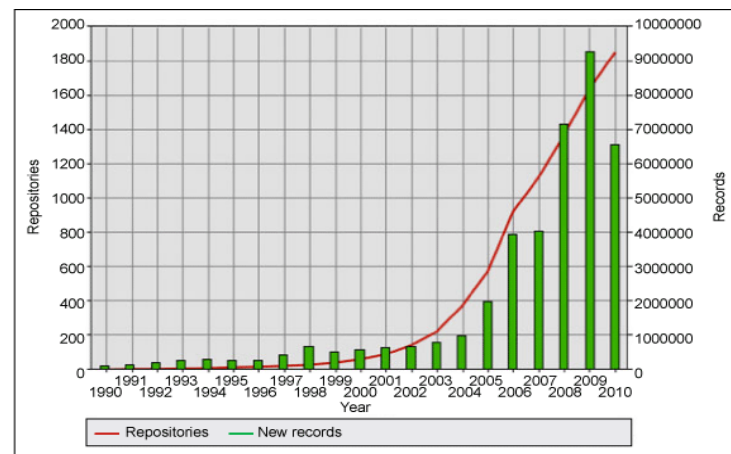


re3data.org  
REGISTRY OF RESEARCH DATA REPOSITORIES

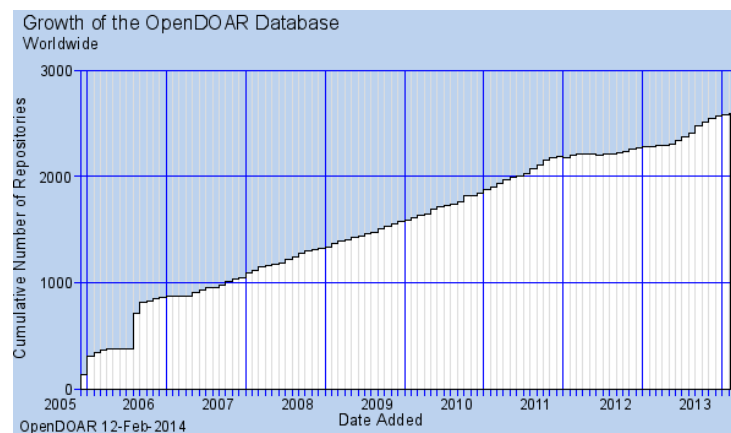
Over 600 data repositories in Databib and re3data (Feb 2014)



Source: Piwowar 2013



Source: ROAR



Source: OpenDOAR

# Data are made available

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## ...so they can be reused

**“It's important to allow readers and reviewers to see exactly how you arrive at your results. Publishing data and code allows your science to be reproducible.”**

-- [Amy Zanne](#), biologist, George Washington University

**“...we know from the Reinhart Rogoff case that we simply need one student to reuse the data in order to achieve a huge impact.”**

-- [David Osimo](#), open-evidence.com



Source: Nature (GARY WATERS/IKON IMAGES/CORBIS)

# Using other people's data...

4

Name	File modified	Type	Size
repdataMa	11/2012 10:38 AM	Stata Dataset	91 KB
repdataMa	11/2012 10:37 AM	Stata Do-file	6 KB

**Christie Bahlai** @cbahlai 21h  
Aaaannnd: unexplained missing data. Must consult with data creator before proceeding. Will write stats code while I wait.  
[#otherpeoplesdata](#)

**Lu Hugerth** @luhugerth  
You know you're in trouble with [#otherpeoplesdata](#) when there's spaces on the file name  
4:28 PM - 11 Dec 2013  
2 RETWEETS 1 FAVORITE

**Christie Bahlai** @cbahlai  
MERGED CELLS IN EXCEL SPREADSHEET NOOOOOOOO! [#otherpeoplesdata](#)  
11:10 AM - 6 Dec 2013  
4 RETWEETS 5 FAVORITES

**Ethan White** @ethanwhite 21h  
Excel spreadsheets w/ color coding has meaning but terrible for other people to understand.  
[#otherpeoplesdata](#)

**Ethan White** @ethanwhite  
[#otherpeoplesdata](#) by @cbahlai does an awesome job of capturing the difficulties and frustrations of working with poorly structured data.  
3:35 PM - 11 Dec 2013  
1 RETWEET

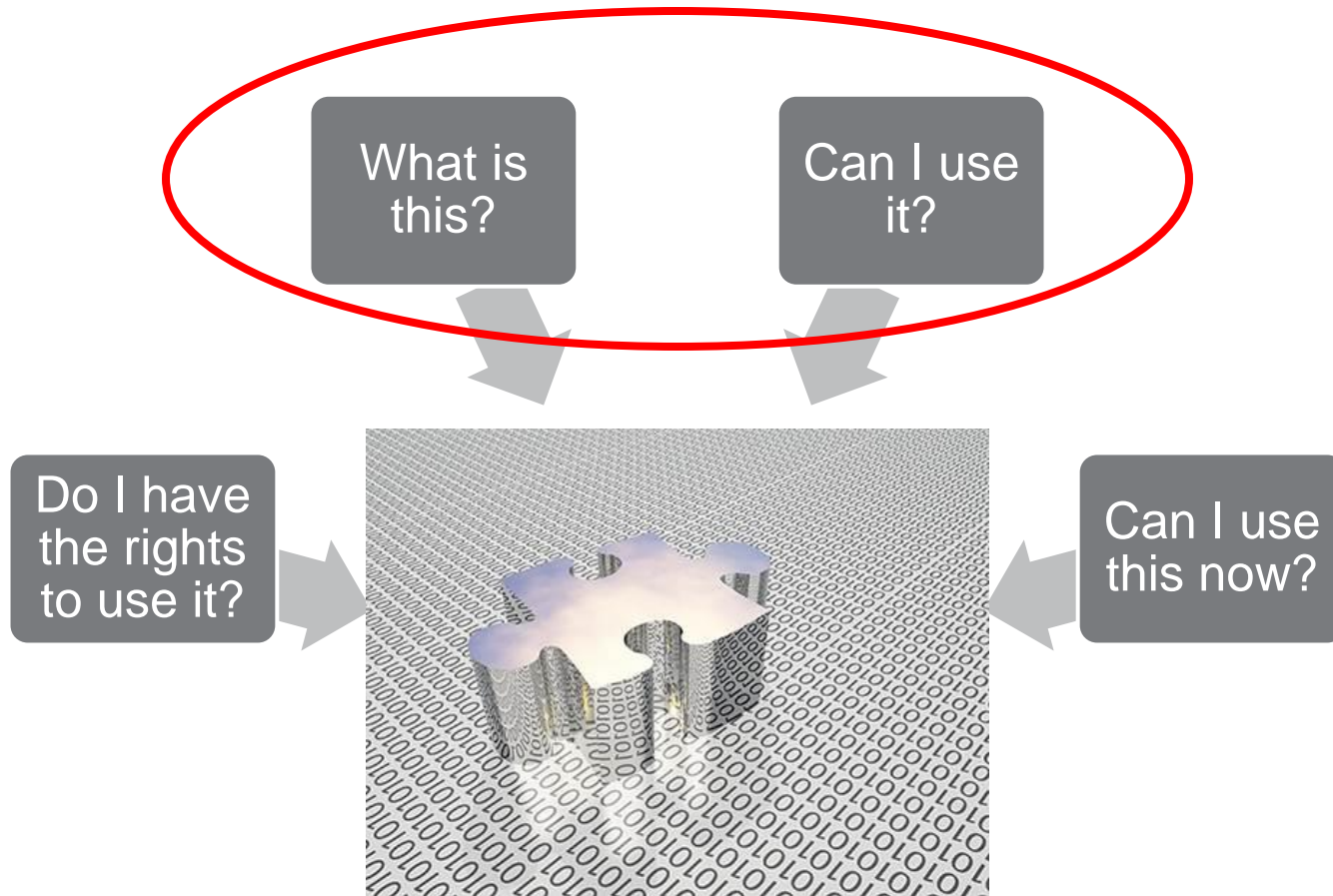
**“The most commonly reported problems associated with these datasets were the lack of documentation data and code.”**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp/2014/02/untapped-resources/>

Christie Bahlai retweeted  
**iBartomeus** @ibartomeus 1d  
Today [#otherpeoplesdata](#) problem is too many columns with derived values. Just trying to id which are raw values for now.

# Data reuse & the crisis of quality

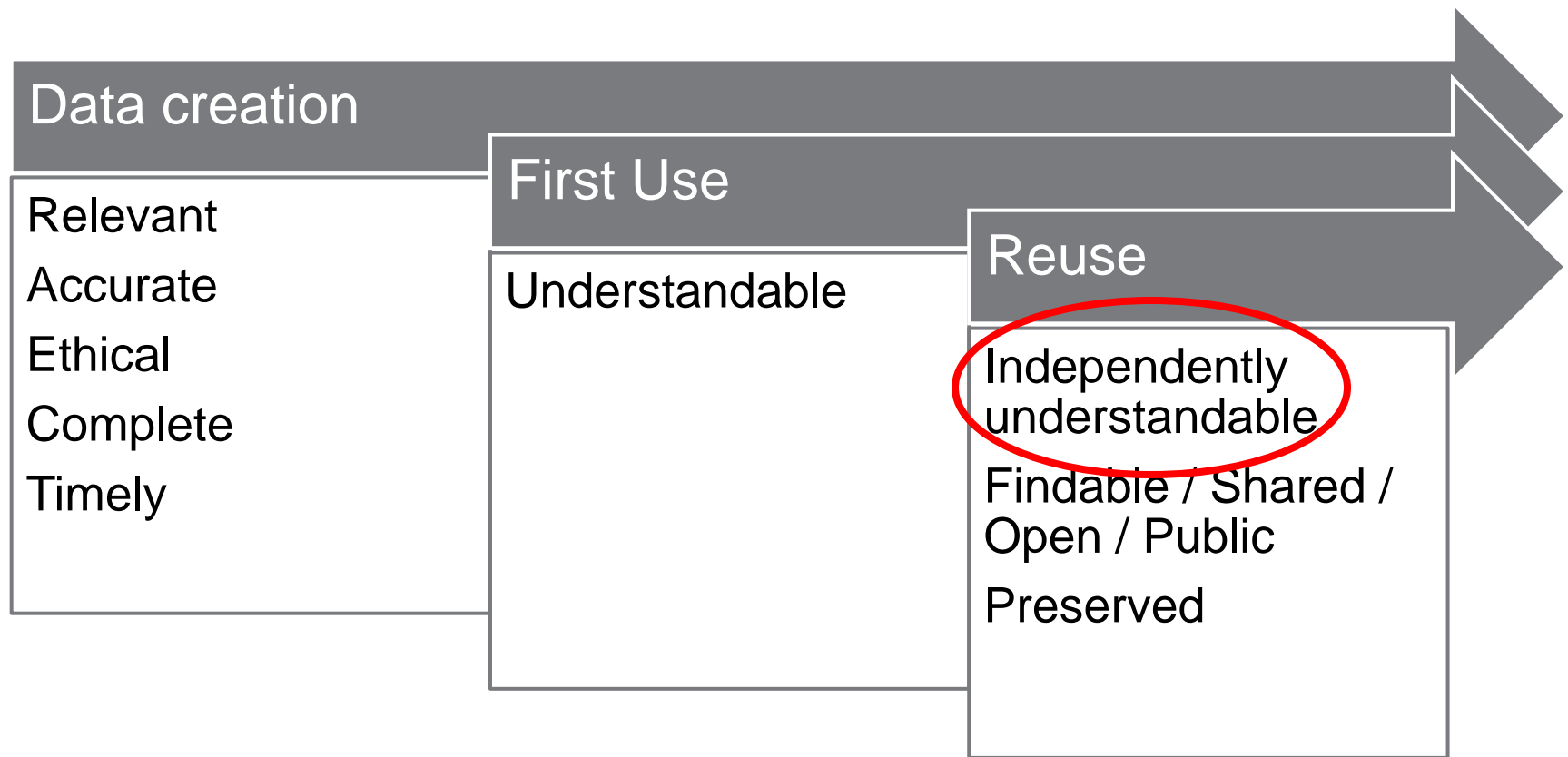
5



Source: fehrandpeers.com

# Aspects of data quality

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# Independently understandable data for informed reuse by a designated community

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Page: 22 of 135 150%

CCSDS 650.0-M-2 Page 1-11 June 2012

CCSDS RECOMMENDED PRACTICE FOR AN OAIS REFERENCE MODEL

**Global Community:** An extended Consumer community, in the context of Federated Archives, that accesses the holdings of several Archives via one or more common Finding Aids.

**Independently Understandable:** A characteristic of information that is sufficiently complete to allow it to be interpreted, understood and used by the Designated Community without having to resort to special resources not widely available, including named individuals.

**Information:** Any type of knowledge that can be exchanged. In an exchange, it is represented by data. An example is a string of bits (the data) accompanied by a description of how to interpret the string of bits as numbers representing temperature observations measured in degrees Celsius (the Representation Information).

**Information Object:** A Data Object together with its Representation Information.

**Information Package:** A logical container composed of optional Content Information and optional associated Preservation Description Information. Associated with this Information Package is Packaging Information used to delimit and identify the Content Information and

# Data Quality Review

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## REVIEW FILES



Assign persistent IDs \* Create a citation to the study and a study level metadata record \* Record file details (size, format, checksums) \* Check that all files are present \* Verify that content of files matches expected format \* Create non-proprietary versions of the files \* Implement migration strategy for file formats \* Monitor bits

## REVIEW DATA



Check for undocumented variable and value information or out of range codes \* Review data for confidentiality issues

## REVIEW DOCUMENTATION



Confirm comprehensive descriptive information for informed reuse including methodology and sampling information \* Link to other research products

## REVIEW CODE



Check and verify code for data analysis and replication





# Data archives committed to DQR

9



# File set before

10

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
 repdataMarinovDemocratization12	5/31/2012 10:38 AM	Stata Dataset	91 KB
 repdataMarinovDemocratization12	5/31/2012 10:37 AM	Stata Do-file	6 KB

# File set after

11

OWNER: [?](#) Author

OWNER CONTACT: isps(at)yale(dot)edu

TERMS OF USE: [?](#) Academic, non-commercial; see ISPS Terms of Use /data/data/login/isps-data-archive/

DISCIPLINE: Political Science

AREA OF STUDY: International Affairs  
Political Behavior

## DATA FILES [?](#)

DATA FILE NUMBER ▲	DESCRIPTION	FILE FORMAT	SIZE	FILE URL
D082F01	Data File	Stata (12.0) .dta	91 KB	<a href="#">Download file</a>
D082F02	Data File	MS Excel .csv	111 KB	<a href="#">Download file</a>
D082F03	Codebook	XML (1.1) .xml	60 KB	<a href="#">Download file</a>
D082F04	Program File	Stata (12.0) .do	6 KB	<a href="#">Download file</a>
D082F05	Program File	R	4 KB	<a href="#">Download file</a>
D082F06	Metadata record	Adobe Acrobat (8.1) .pdf	197 KB	<a href="#">Download file</a>

# Missing labels

12

The screenshot shows the Stata software interface. The Command window on the left contains the following text:

```
use "C:\Users\lm458\Documents\ISPS D...  
> pyright 1985-2011 St  
Statistics/Data Anal  
> ataCorp  
  
> 05 Lakeway Drive  
  
> 11ege Station, Texas  
  
> 0-STATA-PC ht  
  
> 9-696-4600 st  
  
> 9-696-4601 (fax)  
  
Single-user Stata perp  
Serial number:  
Licensed to:  
  
Notes:  
  
. use "C:\Users\lm458\  
> A ARCHIVE\Data Archi  
> ILES\Fried_WD_2012\m  
> .dta"
```

The Variables list on the right shows the following variables and labels:

Variable	Label
x6	X6
n	N.
uf	UF
municipio	
numpoor2009	
cadastrado2009	
recipients2009	
totalspent2009	
repasse	
popest2008	
popest2006	
numpoor2008	
recipients2008	
totalspent2008	
numpoor2007	
recipients2007	
totalspent2007	
recipients2004	
totalspent2004	
_merge	
mayorpty2004	mayorpty.2004
mayorpty2008	mayorpty.2008
_merge2	
ptpresvs	Avg. round 1 vs for PT in 2002 and 2006.
ptvs	Need to find out exactly what this is.
ptprefcanvs	Average support for pt in 2004 and 2008.
_merge3	

The Properties window at the bottom shows the following information:

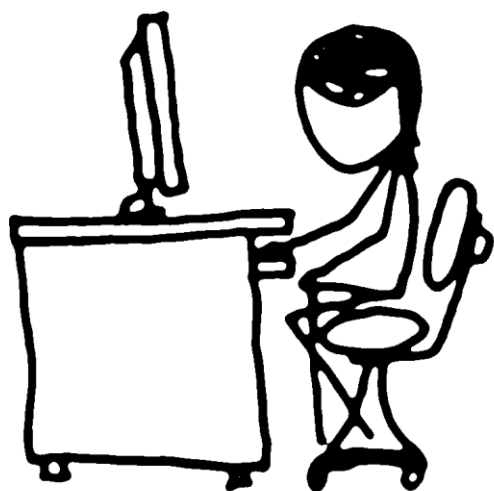
Variables	
Name	validdepfed1994
Label	valid.depded.1994
Type	long
Format	%10.0g
Value Label	
Notes	

Data	
Filename	mundata final merge.dta
Label	
Notes	
Variables	325
Observations	5,576
Size	9.16M

# Missing labels

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RA: “We are missing labels for the following variables:  
\_n1, \_n0, V1 and V0.”



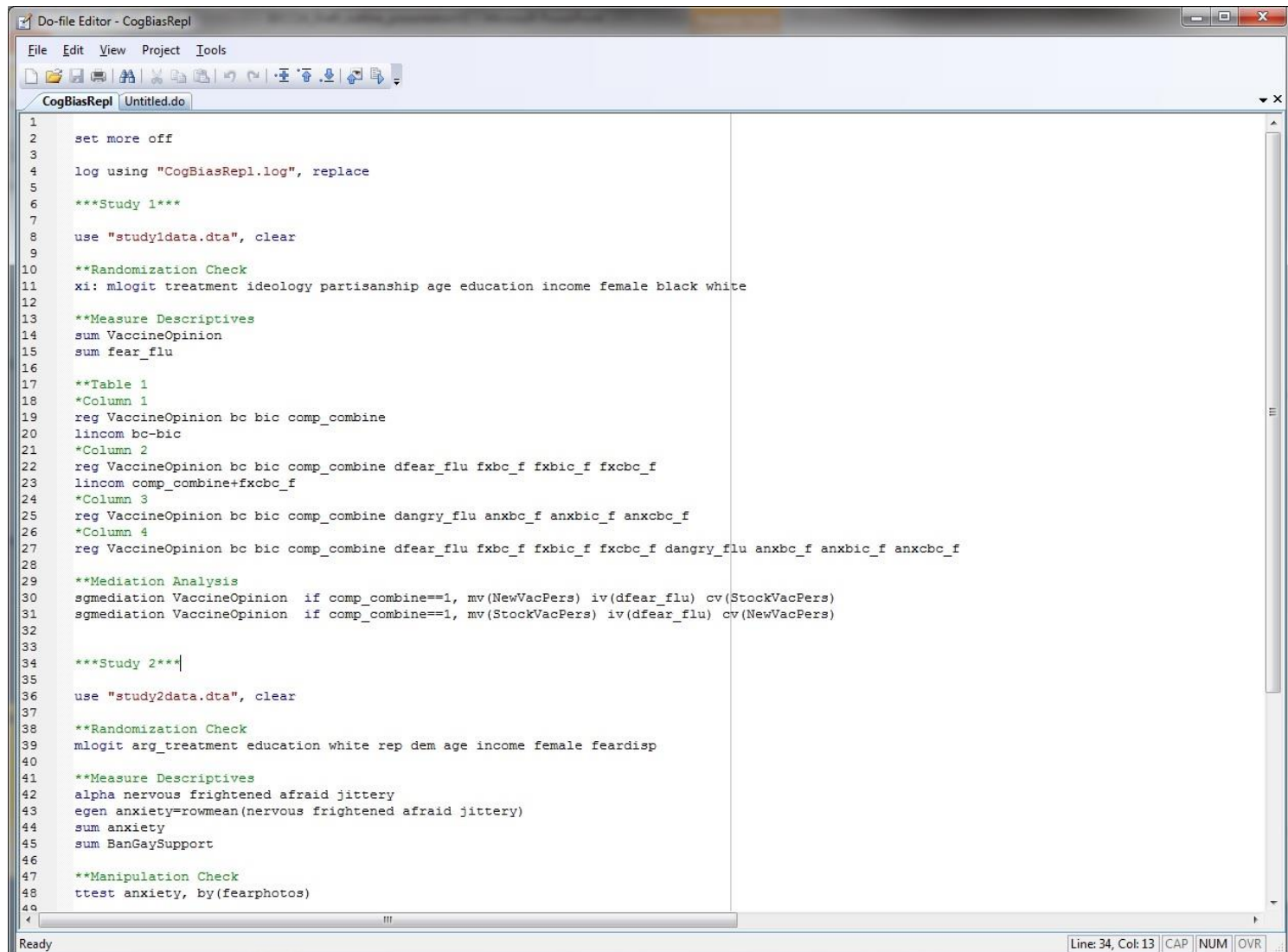
<http://xkcd.com/662/> Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial

Researcher: “Here are the labels:  
\_n1 is the number of observations in the treated strata before matching  
\_n0 is the number of observations in the comparison strata before matching  
v1 = turnout for treated observations  
v0 = turnout for comparison observations

... this reminds me that I needed to include the .ado code in the Matching Code folder. I just did that and updated the readme file. Boy, the things your forget about after not thinking about something for two years!”

# Code before

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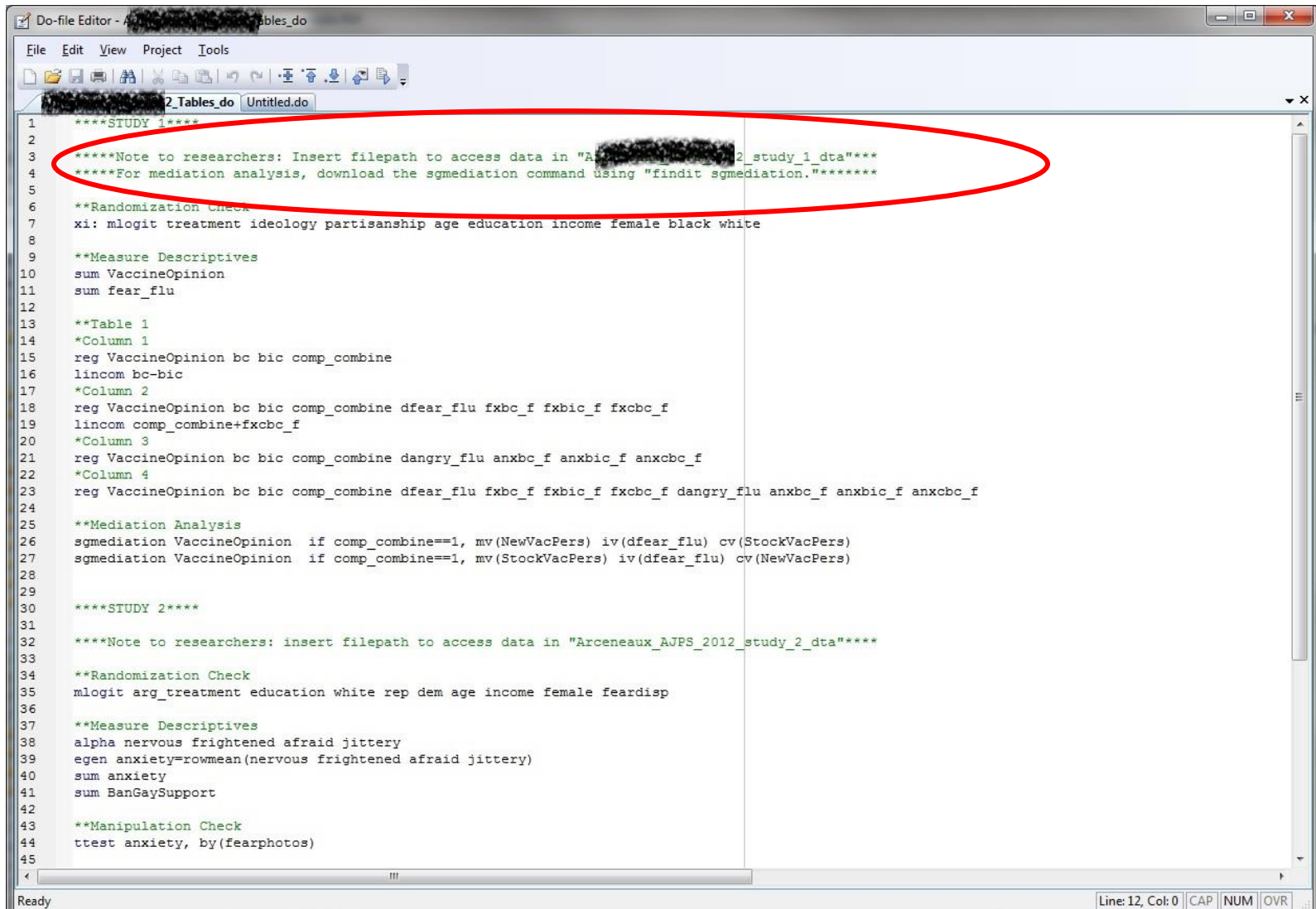
The screenshot shows a 'Do-file Editor - CogBiasRepl' window with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Project, Tools) and a toolbar. The code is as follows:

```
1
2   set more off
3
4   log using "CogBiasRepl.log", replace
5
6   ***Study 1***
7
8   use "study1data.dta", clear
9
10  **Randomization Check
11  xi: mlogit treatment ideology partisanship age education income female black white
12
13  **Measure Descriptives
14  sum VaccineOpinion
15  sum fear_flu
16
17  **Table 1
18  *Column 1
19  reg VaccineOpinion bc bic comp_combine
20  lincom bc-bic
21  *Column 2
22  reg VaccineOpinion bc bic comp_combine dfear_flu fxbc_f fxbic_f fxcbc_f
23  lincom comp_combine+fxcbc_f
24  *Column 3
25  reg VaccineOpinion bc bic comp_combine dangry_flu anxbc_f anxbic_f anxcbc_f
26  *Column 4
27  reg VaccineOpinion bc bic comp_combine dfear_flu fxbc_f fxbic_f fxcbc_f dangry_flu anxbc_f anxbic_f anxcbc_f
28
29  **Mediation Analysis
30  sgmediation VaccineOpinion if comp_combine==1, mv(NewVacPers) iv(dfear_flu) cv(StockVacPers)
31  sgmediation VaccineOpinion if comp_combine==1, mv(StockVacPers) iv(dfear_flu) cv(NewVacPers)
32
33
34  ***Study 2***
35
36  use "study2data.dta", clear
37
38  **Randomization Check
39  mlogit arg_treatment education white rep dem age income female feardisp
40
41  **Measure Descriptives
42  alpha nervous frightened afraid jittery
43  egen anxiety=rowmean(nervous frightened afraid jittery)
44  sum anxiety
45  sum BanGaySupport
46
47  **Manipulation Check
48  ttest anxiety, by(fearphotos)
```

The status bar at the bottom indicates 'Ready' and 'Line: 34, Col: 13'.

# Code after

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```
Do-file Editor - Arceneaux_AJPS_2012_tables.do
File Edit View Project Tools
2_Tables.do Untitled.do

1 ****STUDY 1****
2
3 ****Note to researchers: Insert filepath to access data in "Arceneaux_AJPS_2012_study_1_dta"****
4 ****For mediation analysis, download the sgmediation command using "findit sgmediation."****
5
6 **Randomization Check
7 xi: mlogit treatment ideology partisanship age education income female black white
8
9 **Measure Descriptives
10 sum VaccineOpinion
11 sum fear_flu
12
13 **Table 1
14 *Column 1
15 reg VaccineOpinion bc bic comp_combine
16 lincom bc-bic
17 *Column 2
18 reg VaccineOpinion bc bic comp_combine dfear_flu fxbc_f fxbic_f fxcbc_f
19 lincom comp_combine+fxcbc_f
20 *Column 3
21 reg VaccineOpinion bc bic comp_combine dangry_flu anxbc_f anxbic_f anxcbc_f
22 *Column 4
23 reg VaccineOpinion bc bic comp_combine dfear_flu fxbc_f fxbic_f fxcbc_f dangry_flu anxbc_f anxbic_f anxcbc_f
24
25 **Mediation Analysis
26 sgmediation VaccineOpinion if comp_combine==1, mv(NewVacPers) iv(dfear_flu) cv(StockVacPers)
27 sgmediation VaccineOpinion if comp_combine==1, mv(StockVacPers) iv(dfear_flu) cv(NewVacPers)
28
29
30 ****STUDY 2****
31
32 ****Note to researchers: insert filepath to access data in "Arceneaux_AJPS_2012_study_2_dta"****
33
34 **Randomization Check
35 mlogit arg_treatment education white rep dem age income female feardisp
36
37 **Measure Descriptives
38 alpha nervous frightened afraid jittery
39 egen anxiety=rowmean(nervous frightened afraid jittery)
40 sum anxiety
41 sum BanGaySupport
42
43 **Manipulation Check
44 ttest anxiety, by(fearphotos)
45



Ready Line: 12, Col: 0 CAP NUM OVR
```

# DQR process in other repositories

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<b>REVIEW FILES</b>
Create persistent ID
Record file sizes and formats
Create checksums
Check for completeness, confirm all files are present (data, and required documentation and code if available)
Create study-level metadata record including file information
Create citation
Create non-proprietary file formats for preservation
<b>REVIEW DOCUMENTATION</b>
Confirm comprehensive descriptive information
Confirm methodology and sampling information
Create documentation compliant with community standards, e.g., DDI XML
<b>REVIEW DATA</b>
Run frequencies and check for undocumented or out of range codes
Standardize missing values; check for consistency and skip patterns
Check and edit variable and value labels
Check and add question wording (surveys)
Review data for confidentiality issues; Recode variables to address confidentiality concerns
Generate multiple data formats for dissemination
<b>REVIEW CODE</b>
Check and verify replication code
<b>PUBLISH &amp; LINK</b>
Publish to access system
Link to other research products (e.g., publications, registries, grants)
<b>PRESERVE</b>
Migration strategy for file formats
Monitor bits





# DQR by researchers

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“No matter how invested in their own work, scientists appear to be “poor stewards” of their own work, the study concluded.”

– Kevin Fogarty, Slashdot

- Data management plans
- The research workflow



- Post-publication peer review



# DQR by journals

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Uneven oversight of data deposits and no DQR

- Stricter policies & guides by journals
- Replication audits
- Data journals



F1000Research



# DQR: A community commitment

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Reviewing the quality of the data is an obligation of *any* entity that assumes responsibility over the data.

It's in everyone's interest!

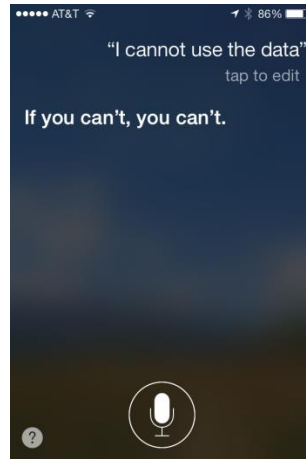
# Unusable data = lost data

20



Image: Shutterstock.com/Lightspring

# Thank you!



[limor.peer@yale.edu](mailto:limor.peer@yale.edu); @I\_peer  
[greenann@gmail.com](mailto:greenann@gmail.com); @annthegreen  
[libbie@ucla.com](mailto:libbie@ucla.com); @libbieatUCLA