

A study on data curation perceptions and practices in France

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What do you hear when I say data curators? A study on data curation perceptions and practices in France.

Alina Danciu, Nicolas Sauger

EDDI19 – 11th Annual European DDI Users Conference
Tampere, Finland
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The rise of the data curator?

***Curation, traditionally**: collections of artifacts in a museum and works of art in a gallery*

***Data curators** prepare and enrich research data to make them findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR)**

https://datacurationnetwork.org/

Data curation

- ***Data curation*** *is the active and on-going management of data through its lifecycle of interest and usefulness to scholarship, science, and education*
- ***Curation activities*** *enable data discovery and retrieval, maintain quality, add value, and provide for re-use over time**

- The Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) website marks **1962 as the date of their first Survey Data Archive**.

**(Cragin, Melissa; Heidorn, P. Bryan; Palmer, Carole L.; Smith, Linda C. (2007). "An Educational Program on Data Curation". ALA Science & Technology Section Conference. Retrieved 7 October 2013.)*

Data curation in France

- **Legislative context** evolves in France (Vidal National Plan for Open Science, GDPR)
- Incitation to **publish research data**
- Different professionals: archivists, data curators, librarians, DPOs, researchers....
- Some have a *traditional* role, others are newer to this field
- Different statuses in France



Let’s take a closer look!

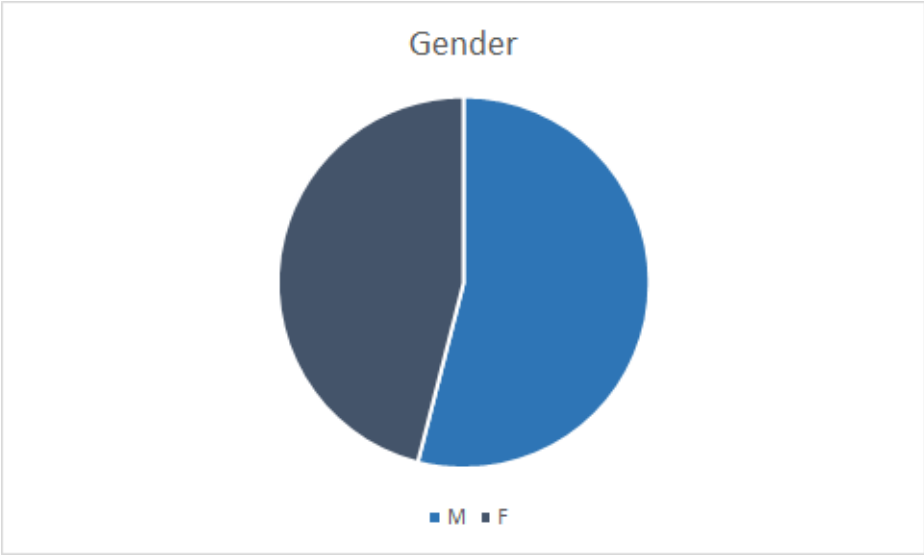
- **Online survey** sent to all the mailing lists of the engineers/research officers of the French National Centre for Scientific Research + RDA France
- Also published on **Twitter** (Impressions: 2849 | Engagements: 102)
- **Fieldwork**: 2019 November, 12 - 2019 November, 27
- 215 responses

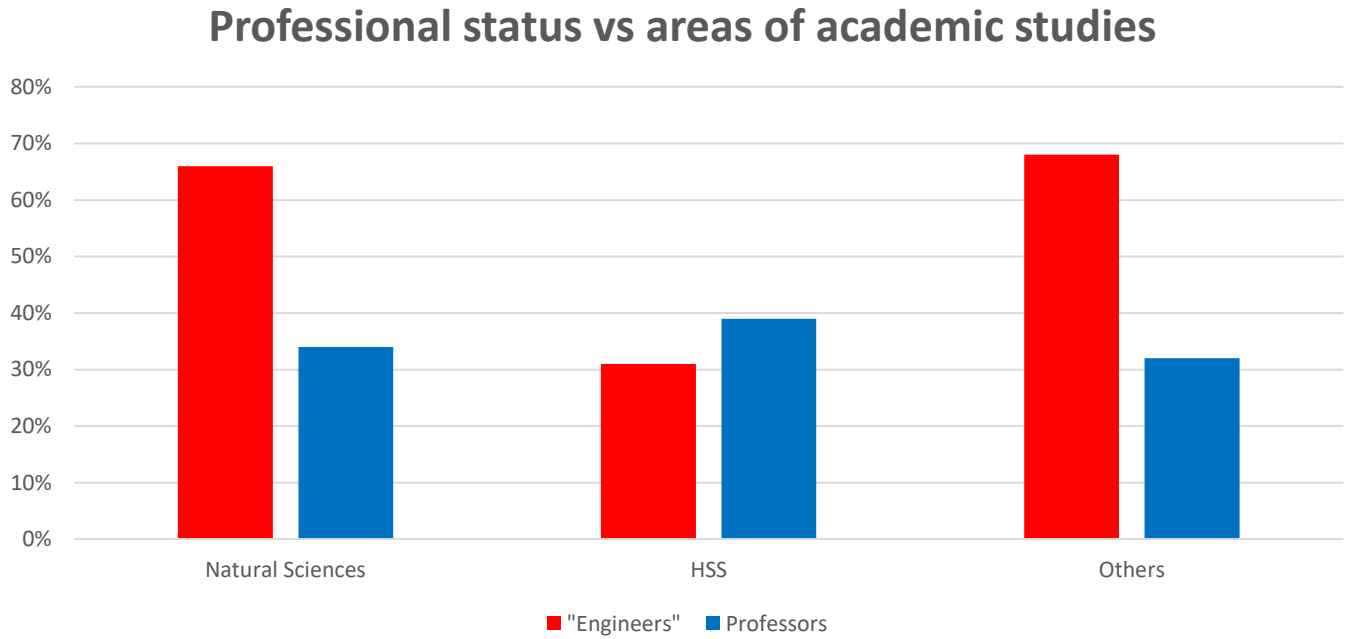
WHO ANSWERED

PROFESSION	%	Count
Archivist	1.86%	4
Librarian	0.93%	2
Chercheur-se ou enseignant-chercheur-se	32.09%	69
Documentalist	3.72%	8
Engineers	46.98%	101
Post-doctoral researcher	4.19%	9
Technician or Assistant Engineer	4.19%	9
Others	6.05%	13
Total	100%	215

Who answered: age and gender

AGE	%
18 - 29 years old	8.45%
30 - 49 years old	68.08%
50 - 64 years old	22.07%
65 years and more	1.41%





Nota bene: differences not statistically significant

Amount of time dedicated to "data activities" in comparison to other activities by status

	Engineers	Professors
Data collection	17.5%	14%
Data management	**26.6%**	17.2%
Data analysis for publication	12.5%	16.3%
Other activities	43.3 %	**52.4 %**

Amount of time dedicated to "data activities" in comparison to other activities by data domain

	Natural sciences	HSS	Others
Data collection	16.8%	16.9%	12.8%
Data management	**25.7%**	22%	20.2%
Data analysis for publication	11.1%	**16.8%**	11.8%
Other activities	46.3%	44.3%	55.2%

Standards

- **105 people declared using a standard when documenting their data**
- **Research officers more likely to** use standards to document their data: **52% use at least one**
- In **natural sciences**, people are more likely to use a standard
- From 81 people who cited at least one standard: **8 cited** DDI DATA DOCUMENTATION INITIATIVE
- Other standards used by people using DDI: DC, EAD, Isa-TAB, METS, SEDA

	Natural sciences	HSS	Others
Yes	59.8%	32.0%	63.3%
No	40.2%	68.0%	36.7%

Have you already…

Published data on a repository?

	Natural sciences	HSS	Others
Yes	**56.1**	44.1	53.3
No	43.9	55.9	46.7

How often do you perform these activities?

Data documentation : 89,6% of the engineers declare to have already done it (professors: 76,6%)
Data integration in information systems: 74,8% of the engineers (professors: 61,1%)

Data integration in information systems	Natural sciences	HSS
Regularly	49.4%	31.4%
Sometimes	13.6%	14.7%
Rarely	12.3%	17.6%
Never	24.7%	36.3%

Long-term archiving	Natural sciences	HSS
Regularly	42.0	19.6
Sometimes	19.7	20.6
Rarely	17.3	25.5
Never	21.0	34.3

Have you already payed to:

- **Have access to an article: 37.9%**
- Publish an article: 26.7%
- Have access to data: 28.4%
- **Publish data: 5.7%**

What’s next?

- **Data will be published** after an embargo period
- We intend to take a closer look at the data
- **Get in touch** with us in case you would like to replicate this study in your country!
- We can help with the survey tools

THANK YOU!

Get in touch!

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