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Big Data and Open Access: on track for collision of cosmic proportions?

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Big Data is an opportunity in science, health, and social well being to bring together information in ways that creates new insight. Much of the opportunity is growth in the predictive and real time aspects of data, marked by an increase in velocity of information due to growing real time sources of information. As the value of data to social well being grows, so do concerns about ensuring that data becomes an entrenched part of our scholarly record, for today but more importantly, for future generations of citizens and scientists who do not have a voice at the table today. Recent open access directives across the world in part address this.

We discuss the exciting dual forces: Big Data and Open Access, forces that without due attention to the dual sided nature of the forces will result in a collision of cosmic proportions. To give concreteness to solutions, both technological and organizational, we discuss technical developments drawn from examples of researcher in the Data To Insight Center at Indiana University and elsewhere in provenance, data preservation, and text analytics; and policy level developments, specifically the Research Data Alliance.

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