The FAIR Forever Study
Overview of Key Findings and Recommendations

Amy Currie

18th March 2021
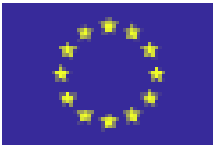
EOSC, FAIR, and 'FAIR Forever?'

- Need to develop, monitor and maintain EOSC's capability in the preservation of digital materials

- Assess current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the preservation of research data across EOSC

- Look at how the open science community might benefit from and align development with the knowledge and experience of the wider digital preservation community

- Desk-based assessment of documents, interviews with stakeholders, focus groups
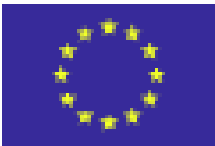
Key findings (and challenges)

1: Digital Preservation is not explicit

There were implicit meanings and assumptions about digital preservation—and data—in the EOSC vision and among stakeholders.

We know you know this, but that's more than backup or storage

By digital preservation, we mean "the series of managed activities necessary to ensure continued access to digital materials for as long as necessary"

2: Roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities are unclear
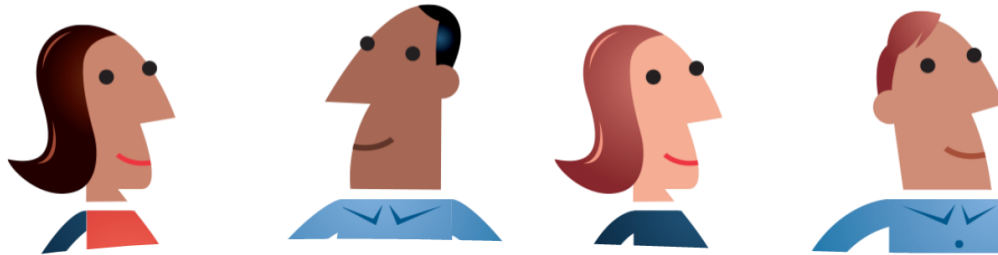
Not just what they do: also how they report to each other …

ICT-Specific	Data RI support professional	Data scientist
LIS-Specific	Research software engineer	Software developer
Discipline Specific	Data Sci. data analytics	Technical director
General Public	Educator/Trainer	Training coordinator
Resource Provider	Data steward	Data preservation coordinator
Service Provider	Data curator	Digital preservation manager
Research Funders	Policy maker	Digital preservation specialist
	Researcher	Research data manager
	Citizen	Programme/project manager
	EOSC Enabler	Information specialist
		Librarian
		Digital archivist

3: Risks to data, reputation, and sustainability

"Digital materials are listed Critically Endangered when they face material technical challenges to preservation, there are no agencies responsible for them or those agencies are unwilling or unable to meet preservation needs"

DPC Global List of Digitally Endangered Species (The BitList 2020),
http://doi.org/10.7207/DPCBitList20-01

Solutions for a sustainable EOSC

A FAIR Lady (olim Iron Lady) report from the EOSC Sustainability Working Group

https://doi.org/10.2777/870770
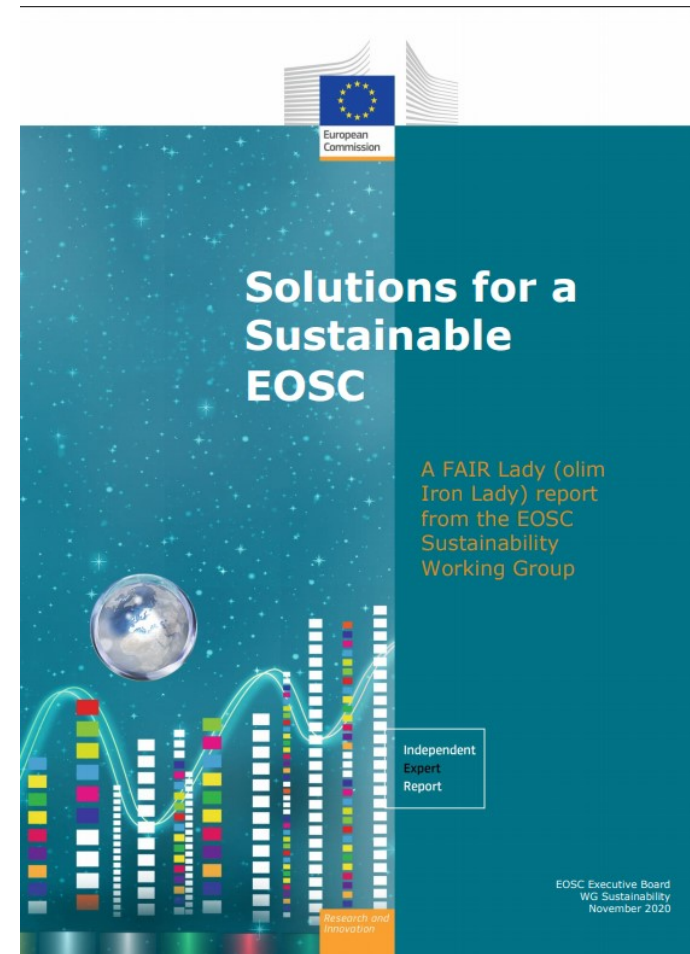
The Final Report

FAIR Forever?
Long Term Data
Preservation Roles and
Responsibilities

https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4574234

DigitalPreservationCoalition

FAIR Forever?

**Long Term Data Preservation Roles and
Responsibilities, Final Report**

February 2021 (V.7)

Dr Amy Currie and Dr William Kilbride

19 Recommendations for Action

For the EOSC Secretariat	**Recommendation One:** of urgent priority, establish a working party or task group, reporting directly to the EOSC Association Board with respect to digital preservation.
	Recommendation Two: of high priority, formalize terms of reference and host an initial meeting of a digital preservation task group to establish an iterative work plan.
	Recommendation Three: of medium priority, establish an operational basis for partnership to deliver the candidate model services proposed in this report
	Recommendation Eleven: of medium priority, establish a mechanism to align EOSC implementation and interpretation of 'FAIR' with the path dependent and continuous quality improvement cycles of digital preservation.
	Recommendation Thirteen: of medium priority, establish and verify business models for preservation services.
	Recommendation Sixteen: of high priority, establish an ongoing basis for partnership in the digital preservation community, including beyond the research data community.
For the EOSC Association Board	**Recommendation Five:** of urgent priority, designate a Senior Digital Preservation Rapporteur on behalf of the Board to directly communicate and liaison with a Digital Preservation Task Group, to monitor and oversee EOSC's responses to digital preservation risks.
	Recommendation Eighteen: of high priority, obtain strategic control of digital preservation risks to EOSC.
	Recommendation Nineteen: of medium priority, establish a strategic trajectory for management of digital preservation risks, embedding these within reviews and enhancements.

For Funders	**Recommendation Six:** of urgent priority, articulate to all grant holders the clear view that adherence to FAIR principles requires preservation actions to be monitored and managed over the entire life of a project not simply at the point of completion.
	Recommendation Seven: of high priority, audit preservation pathways for all research outputs to identify critically endangered content.
	Recommendation Eight: of high priority, initiate a process to establish accountabilities and obligations with respect to implementation of data management plans.
	Recommendation Nine: of medium priority, establish mechanisms to engage expert communities of practice in the validation of data management plans.
	Recommendation Fifteen: of medium priority, identify costs of action versus inaction with respect to high value, critically endangered content.
	Recommendation Seventeen: of medium priority, establish more sustained digital preservation training for researchers and repository managers.
For Research Repositories	**Recommendation Four:** of urgent priority, adapt workplans to include quality improvement mechanisms where these do not already exist, including DPC Rapid Assessment Model, establishing thereby a strategic framework to achieve baseline certification for primary preservation services, or identifying preservation pathways for data.
	Recommendation Ten: of medium priority, provide strategic framework for audit of data management plans.
	Recommendation Fourteen: of medium priority, identify costs of action versus inaction with respect to high value, critically endangered content.
For the DP Community	**Recommendation Twelve:** of urgent priority, provide a place for EOSC to share lessons and articulate emerging requirements outwith the research data 'bubble'.

Where do you see your role?

- ☐ EOSC Secretariat
- ☐ EOSC Association
- ☐ Research Funder
- ☐ Research Repository
- ☐ Digital Preservation community

- ☐ Policy Maker
- ☐ Researcher
- ☐ Technician
- ☐ Practitioner
- ☐ Manager

- ☐ Data RI support professional
- ☐ Research software engineer
- ☐ Data Sci. data analytics
- ☐ Educator/Trainer
- ☐ Data steward
- ☐ Data curator
- ☐ …

and responsibilities for the preservation of FAIR data?

As Research Repositories	**Recommendation Four**: of urgent priority, adapt workplans to include quality improvement mechanisms where these do not already exist, including DPC Rapid Assessment Model, establishing thereby a strategic framework to achieve baseline certification for primary preservation services, or identifying preservation pathways for data.
	Recommendation Ten: of medium priority, provide strategic framework for audit of data management plans.
	Recommendation Fourteen: of medium priority, identify costs of action versus inaction with respect to high value, critically endangered content.
As part of the Digital Preservation Community	**Recommendation Twelve**: of urgent priority, provide a place for EOSC to share lessons and articulate emerging requirements outwith the research data 'bubble'.