Four dimensions of data curation on electronic theses and dissertations in Taiwan

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Introduction

Data curation, which refers to an emerging issue where the research data should be well deposited and reused, has become popular for librarians, especially in the academic library in need of reusing data, cost down, and saving more time for users. Data curation has already played an important roles in developing the relationships between the library and academic community. Due to the former description about status quo of data curation, data curation seems to become an important part in the academic research due to the benefit it may bring. But there are lots of issues raised by data curation that may become problematic for librarians.

This poster attempts to analyze the four dimensions, which are decomposed from the advantage, weakness, opportunity, and threat, of data curation on electronic theses and dissertations in Taiwan.

Methods

The methodology of this poster is interview. Before interviewing 20 postgraduate students in Taiwan, this poster has done the literature review to better build the interview outline regarding data curation.

Outcomes

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Strengths:

1. Reuse data
   The main concept of data curation is to offer the research data a chance to be reused again.
2. Save time
   Beyond reusing the research data, data curation could also save a researcher's time to recapture the same data.
3. Reduce cost
   Through data curation, a researcher could reduce the cost of collecting research data.

Weaknesses:

1. Lack of standardization
   Most researchers are not willing to open access their research data due to lack of standardization focused on data curation and data citation. Even more, there is no standard procedure to collect, manage, and share the research data.
2. Lack of promotion
   Data curation is still a new idea to most of the researchers. researcher won't take the risk unless they understand what it worth.

Opportunities:

1. Promote the author's reputation
   While the research data is open access to everyone, it also promotes and increase the author's reputation.
2. Reexamine the result of the research
   By reusing the same research data, the result of the original research would be reexamined again.
3. Community engagement
   Data curation makes academic community engage and participate.

Threats:

1. Privacy issues
   Before the interview, researchers may sign a non-disclosure or confidentiality agreement which is that the interview draft will only be accessed by the researcher. There is a limitation of reusing the private data.
2. Infrastructure issues
   The environment and infrastructure of data curation should be designed to be scalable and high compatibility with variety of data types.