



**HAL**  
open science

# A study on data curation perceptions and practices in France

Alina Danciu, Nicolas Sauger

► **To cite this version:**

Alina Danciu, Nicolas Sauger. A study on data curation perceptions and practices in France. European DDI Users Conference (EDDI19), Dec 2019, Tampere University (FSD), Tampere, Finland. hal-02470555

**HAL Id: hal-02470555**

**<https://sciencespo.hal.science/hal-02470555>**

Submitted on 15 Dec 2022

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

---

## 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

December 3, 2019 – December 4, 2019

---

# 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)\**

---

# 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

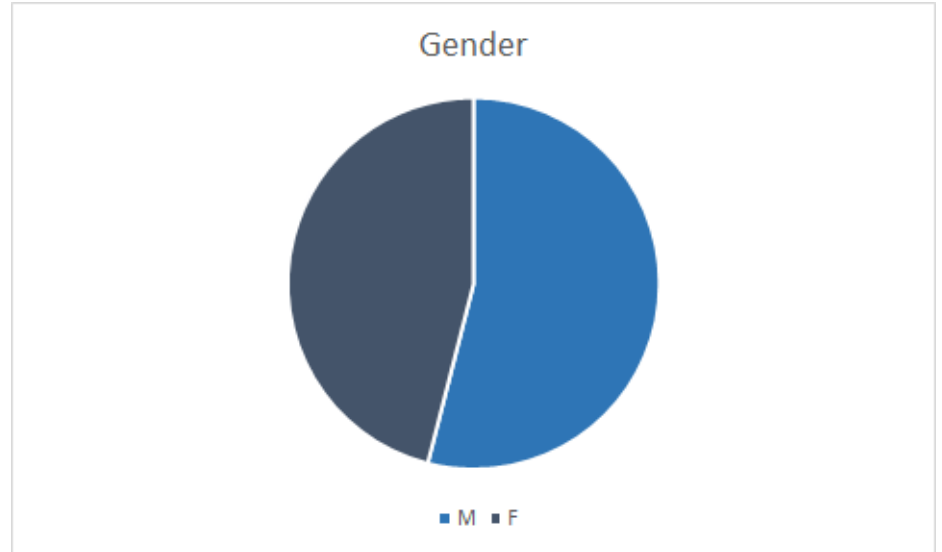
W  
H  
O  
A  
N  
S  
W  
E  
R  
E  
D

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

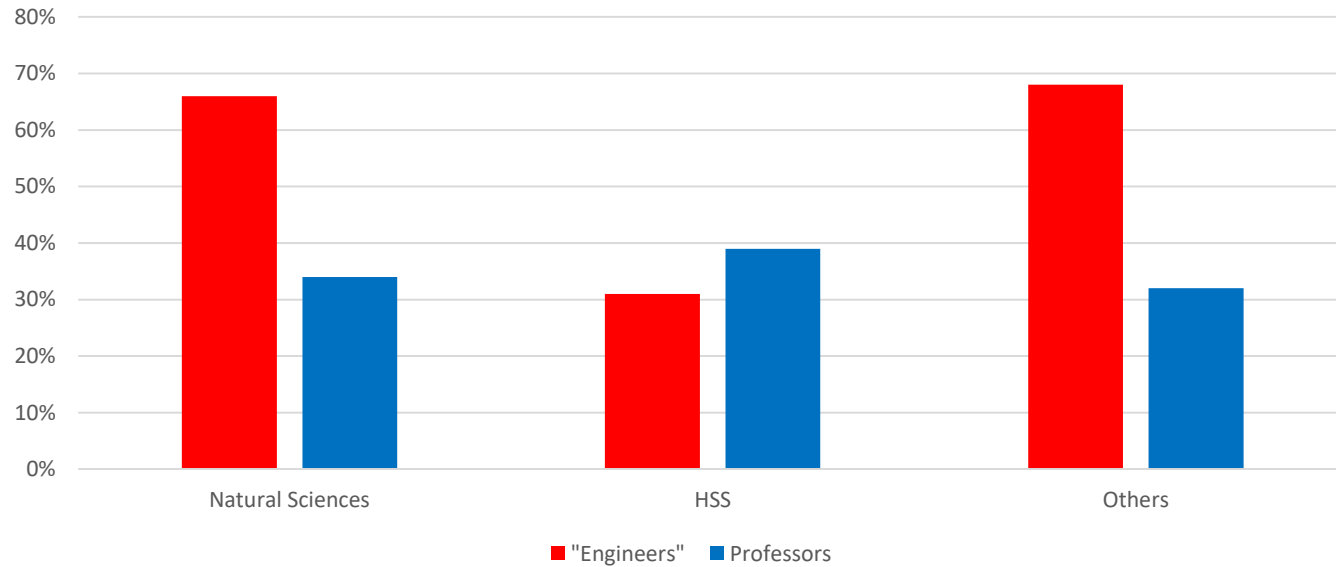
AGE	%
18 - 29 years old	8.45%
30 - 49 years old	68.08%
50 - 64 years old	22.07%
65 years and more	1.41%





---

## Professional status vs areas of academic studies



*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	<b>26.6%</b>	17.2%
Data analysis for publication	12.5%	16.3%
Other activities	43.3 %	<b>52.4 %</b>


---

## 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	<b>25.7%</b>	22%	20.2%
Data analysis for publication	11.1%	<b>16.8%</b>	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  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!

[alina.danciu@sciencespo.fr](mailto:alina.danciu@sciencespo.fr)  
[nicolas.sauger@sciencespo.fr](mailto:nicolas.sauger@sciencespo.fr)



**Follow us on Twitter!**

**@cdsp\_ScPo**  
**@alina\_danciu\_**  
**@saugerscpo**