Inspirational Keynote



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10 YEARS EUDAT

KEYNOTE · OPEN SCIENCE AND THE WORK BETWEEN THE SERVICES

”Could you just…”

The hidden workload of open science

Everything is connected. Usually by someone who had other plans.

This talk follows the work between the services and asks this room to account for it.
Because that’s why you are here.

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THE PROVOCATION

Every box can do its job. The day still gets worse.

THE SERVICE

Makes data easier to discover

...while creating more work for the person who produced it.

THE FUNDER

Improves accountability

...by asking for information three other organisations already hold.

THE RESEARCHER

Fulfils every responsibility

...and the working day gets worse.

We evaluate individual services readily. We almost never account for the work between them. That is your exercise today.

OPENING MOVE

Congratulations. You've finished the research.

THE PAPER

Accepted ✓

Reviewers answered ✓

Figures checked ✓

You have finally finished.

NOW MAKE THE RESULT AVAILABLE AND USABLE

- **Prepare the data deposit · Check the licences**
- **Document the code · Update the data management plan**
- **Enter outputs in the institutional system · Enter them in the funder's system**
- **Resolve the repository's validation error**

Who put that time in the project budget? And if nobody did, whose evening have we just committed?

Not every task is pointless. That is the trap.

ESSENTIAL SCIENTIFIC WORK

Explaining a measurement. Recording a software dependency.

This is what makes the result reusable.

REPEATED ENTRY

The same information, supplied again to the next system that asks.

Nobody reconciles the copies.

NOBODY'S BUDGET LINE

The coordination between the systems is unplanned and unpriced.

This is the work that lands on evenings.

The revealing question is who was given time to do it, and how often they are asked to do it again.

What researchers really need in climate science?

- Models made open source
  - Example: We have developed an open source model component. It relies on the host atmospheric model which is closed source, we need to make **a lot of effort to make the component usable for others**
  - Example: People don't understand license

- Making the making of open science and research available easy
  - Example: A partner in our Horizon EU project **removed the project acknowledgement in a scientific publication**

- People trained and dedicated to do open science and research in practice
  - Example: It takes a lot of time from me to do a data management plan for a project. I give our data management specialist owner rights to the data management plan, and the **job gets done in minutes**

THE EVIDENCE

Harri wants to share. That is why he has a problem.

01 · THE OPEN COMPONENT

Harri made a component open, something valuable, already done.

But it depends on a closed host. Sharing it creates further work.

02 · THE SPECIALIST

A specialist is needed to finish the plan.

[That's me, and I don't like this!]

03 · THE PARTNER

A partner found sharing too complicated… and stopped.

[Real case from CERTAINTY project]

A technically successful repository can preserve and expose the component while the original authors remain responsible for making it usable.

Follow one output past the end of the transaction

THE SERVICE'S VIEW ENDS HERE

THE RESEARCHER'S RESPONSIBILITY CONTINUES

DEPOSIT COMPLETE

Preserved. Exposed. Discoverable.

The service counts a success.

USABILITY STILL OWED

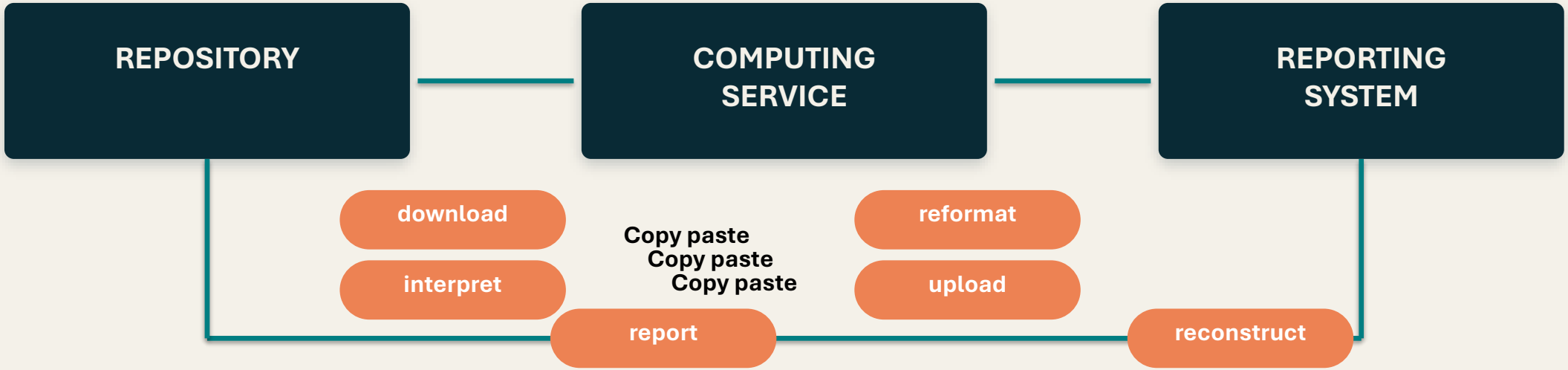
Dependencies resolved. Context explained. Questions answered.

Someone still has to be on the hook for all of it.

Does that unresolved work appear anywhere in the service's account of success?

Your service works. My working day doesn't.

HARRI, OUR RESEARCHER · every action is his



"Every line in this diagram has a labour cost. Which ones are in your budget?"

Who got the time saving?

A BENEFIT

Time saved for one participant

creates

WORK SHIFTED

Tasks landed on another person

SOMEONE'S

evening

Now add AI: an assistant that finds open components and brings them many more users.

If the component still depends on unavailable software, demand for the authors' help rises.
The discovery service has achieved its purpose. Someone else has inherited the next task.

“If we need AI to complete our reporting requirements, have we made the reporting reasonable?”

1. CAPTURE AUTOMATICALLY

Which information should the system collect without asking anyone?

2. PRESERVE JUDGMENT

Which entries require scientific judgment, and whose?

3. DELETE

Which requirement can be removed altogether?

Some automation will be valuable. This is the decision to make before buying it.

THE DELETE EXERCISE

What would you delete?

PROVIDERS

Remove one demand on researchers before introducing another.

[NAME THE DEMAND]

INSTITUTIONS

Remove one requirement before adding the next system.

[NAME THE REQUIREMENT]

FUNDERS

Retire one field of reporting before collecting new information.

[NAME THE FIELD]

One removal before every addition. The rule applies to everyone in this room.

Give researchers the right to say “This makes it worse.”

1. DESIGN

Researchers hold authority while the thing is being shaped, not after.

2. ACCEPTANCE

Communities can decline what does not work for them.

3. RENEWAL

Continued funding depends on what the service did for researchers.

Researcher involvement becomes meaningful when it can change the design.

What could a researcher do with the time we give back?

We can give them the afternoon.

Four proposals I would defend

1 Count the workload

The researcher's workload published alongside the service's benefits: preparation, onboarding, repeated entry, support, maintenance, including work shifted to authors, stewards and colleagues.

2 Own the whole handoff

Someone is responsible for the whole handoff. A researcher knows who resolves a problem that crosses services. Providers get the agreements and funding to do that.

3 Power to reject or redirect

Research communities can reject a development proposal or redirect its budget. Consultation becomes meaningful when it can change the purchase order.

4 Renewal on evidence

Renewal depends partly on completed scientific tasks and user effort: what people accomplished, what help they needed, what remained manual.

Show me the work you took away.

BEFORE YOU APPROVE, WRITE DOWN...

What a researcher will have to do to use it

- the preparation
- the help they will need
- the work that lands on somebody else's desk
- the ritual sacrifice of a goat

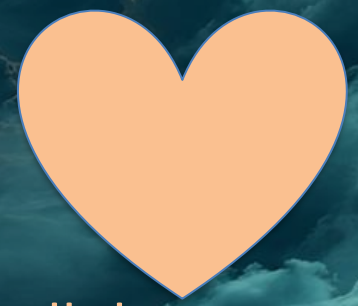


THEN WRITE DOWN...

What they will be able to stop doing

If the first list is longer, you may still have a good reason to proceed. Perhaps the work preserves something important. Explain that reason and fund the work. Name who will maintain each connection.

“You won’t need to do that anymore.”

THANK YOU 

(Questions? Please submit them through all three portals)