

Building Bridges through Trust – Data Trusteeship as a Key Enabler for Science-Industry Data Sharing

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Collaborations between academia and industry are essential to address complex societal challenges—but they often fail due to a lack of trust in data sharing. While intra-academic data sharing is increasingly supported by established infrastructures and norms, researchers remain reluctant to share data with commercial actors. Concerns about data misuse, loss of control, or legal liability create real barriers.

The proposed poster introduces the concept of data trusteeship as a trust-based solution to this dilemma. Envisioned in the EU's Data Governance Act, data trustees act as neutral intermediaries who mediate data access or analysis without pursuing their own interest in the data. Their key role is to ensure that the conditions and terms of data use respect the intentions of both sides—thus making sensitive or strategically valuable data more shareable, especially in contexts where science and industry collaborate across institutional boundaries.

Rather than presenting a ready-made use case, this poster advocates for an integration of the trusteeship idea into ongoing aspirations in Research Data Management. It aims to stimulate reflection within the RDM community: Rooted in trust, data trusteeship may be the institutional innovation we need to bridge the gap between science and industry—enabling data sharing beyond science while upholding autonomy, compliance, and research integrity.

Abstract

Poster

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